

[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Wallasey Local Board / U.D.C. / County Borough.

Contributors

Wallasey (England). Local Board.

Publication/Creation

1909

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/u73xfy2j>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

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



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

REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Urban District of Wallasey,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909,

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.

TURNER & DUNNETT, PRINTERS, FENWICK STREET, LIVERPOOL.

1910.



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

Health, Hospital and Cemetery Committee.

Chairman :

T. C. HURWORTH-ROBINSON, Esq., B.A., LL.B.

Vice-Chairman :

DR. A. BANKS.

Councillors :

J. BOUGHEY, Esq.

T. V. BURROWS, Esq.

T. HOLDSWORTH, Esq.

J. JOYCE, Esq., J.P.

DR. A. W. MONTGOMERY.

W. H. ROBINSON, Esq., J.P.

Chairman of Council.

C. J. WOODROFFE, Esq.

Vice-Chairman of Council.

OFFICIALS OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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.

*HERBERT CLAUDIUS BASCOMBE,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

CHARLES HORSFALL SCOTT,
*Meat Inspector, and Inspector under the Contagious Diseases
(Animals) Acts, 1885 and 1886.*

*JAMES MANSEL DAWKIN,
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

*JOHN BERNARD SMITH,
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

*ALBERT HENRY ORMESHER,
Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

*THOMAS NICHOLSON CLEATOR,
Shop Hours and Workshop Inspector.

*MISS ISABELLA BIRRELL,
Lady Sanitary Inspector.

JOHN McNALLY,
Chief Clerk.

CHARLES A. HOLLAND,
Assistant Clerk.

RICHARD C. THOMSON,
Junior Clerk.

HENRY WOODROOFE,
Foreman and Timekeeper.

JAMES STEWART, JOSEPH RATHBONE,
REECE WILLIAMS,
Disinfectors and Vanmen.

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

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE
Ashpit Abolition	52	Insanitary Property :—	
Ashpits, use of, and disposal of Refuse	53 & 93	Victoria Grove	54
Bakehouses	71 & 82	Wallasey Road	54
Births	12	Wallasey Village	54
Camps	77	Wheatland Lane	54
Canal Boat Inspection	80	L.G.B. Tables, 1 to 5	88
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	72 & 82	Measles	34
Deaths	14	Meat Inspection.. .. .	74 & 84
Do. Street List	112	Meteorological Reports	51
Diarrhoea	38	Midwives	47
Diphtheria	32	Mussel Gathering	52
Disinfection	86	Offensive Trades	76
Drain Re-construction	66	Phthisis	39
Early Closing Order	72 & 83	Physical Features of the District ..	6
Factory and Workshop Inspection	67 & 82	Population	11
Flies, Nuisances caused by	77	“Return” Cases, Scarlet Fever ..	28
Food and Drugs Inspection	75	Sanitary Work, Details of	78
Hospital, Cases treated in	49	Scarlet Fever	23 & 27
Houses, Inhabited	12	Smallpox	22
Housing of Working Classes	56 & 94	Schools, Notifications from	36
Infant Mortality	17	Do. Closed	35
Infectious Diseases	22	Sewer Re-construction.. .. .	65
Do. Suspected at School	37	Streets List (Deaths)	112
Insanitary Property :—		Sub-let Houses	56 & 81
Back Sutton Cottages	55	Statistical Summary	7
Birkenhead Road	54	Seats for Shop Assistants	72 & 83
Elm Grove	54	Stable Yard Inspections	77
Garden Cottages	54	Townships, Statistics <i>re</i>	8
Higher Seacombe	54	Typhoid	33
Hope Place	54	Vaccination Returns	50
Mersey Street	54	Water Statistics	76
“Rose Cottage,” Poulton	54	Whooping Cough	36
School Lane	54	Workmen’s Dwellings	56 & 94
Shore Cottages	54	Zymotic Diseases	21

Information required by the Local Government Board in Annual Reports of Medical 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 200 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, 320 to 900 feet deep, reinforced by a supply of 500,000 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.

There remain at present 1,207 single ashpits and 1,715 double ashpits. These are emptied on an average every six weeks by the employés of the Council. Their number is being steadily reduced. 322 ashpits have been abolished during the past year and bins substituted. Bins are now required in all new property. These are emptied once a week, and the total number of bins is now 11,343.

AREAS AND STATISTICS OF TOWNSHIPS.

1909.

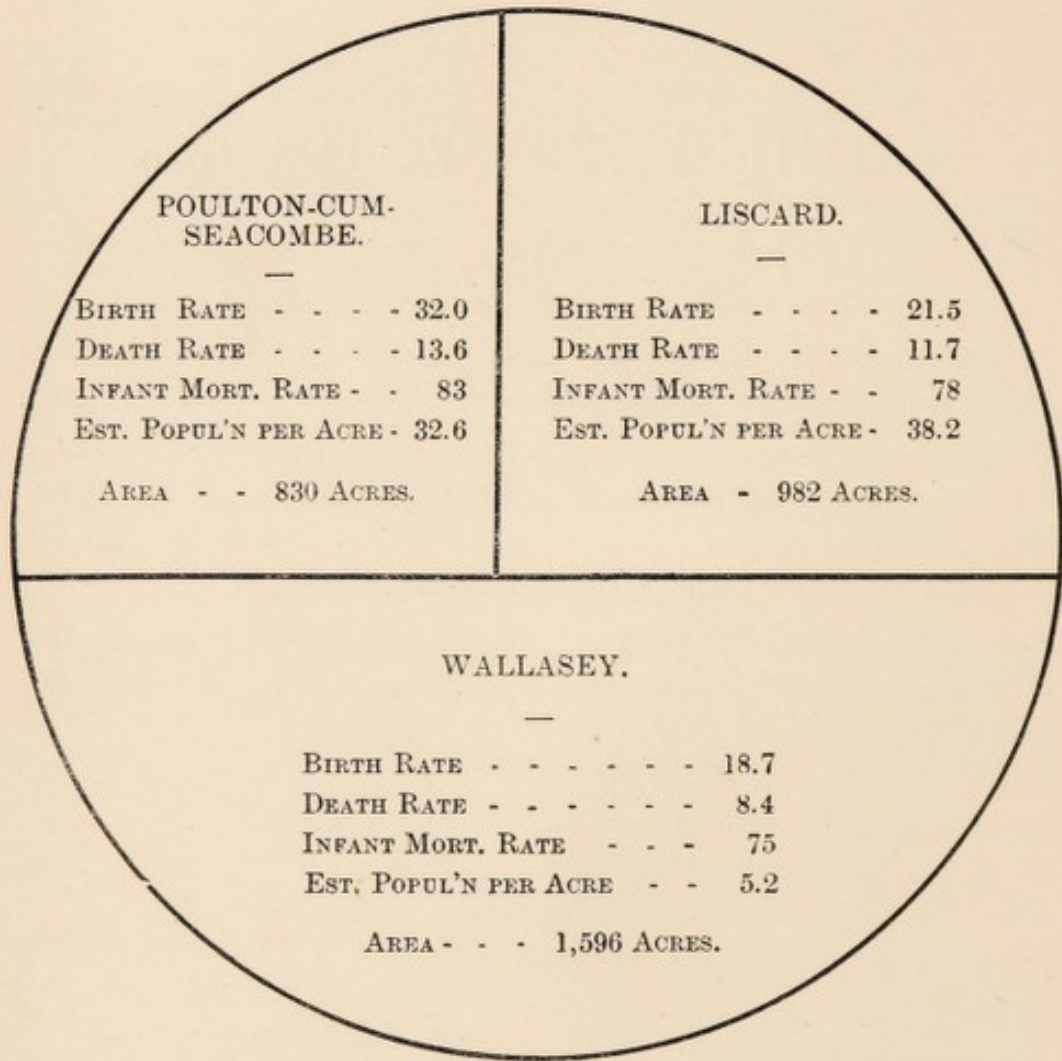


DIAGRAM SHEWING BIRTH RATE AND DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION, INFANTILE MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS, AND ESTIMATED POPULATION PER ACRE.

WHOLE DISTRICT.	}	BIRTH-RATE	25.1
		DEATH-RATE	12.0
		INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	80
		ESTIMATED POPULATION PER ACRE..	21.4

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

April 12th, 1910.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my second 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 several of the rates are the lowest on record, including the General Death Rate and the Infantile Mortality Rate. The latter shows a very remarkable drop, which, it is hoped, will prove permanent.

The facts set out in the pages which follow provide a sufficient answer to the paragraphs which occasionally appear in the press with startling headings, from which the public are asked to infer that the healthiness of this district is not as it should be.

In a year when the work of the Department has often been exceedingly heavy, it is a great pleasure to me to acknowledge the assistance which the various members of my Staff have accorded to me, and the willingness with which they have met the exceptional demands upon them. It is almost invidious to particularise where all have done well, but I should like to mention the Chief Sanitary Inspector,

whose lengthy local knowledge has proved of great service to me on many occasions, and my Chief Clerk, without whose valuable aid in the preparation of statistics the presentation of the facts set out in this Report 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.

I have to repeat what I wrote last year with regard to the difficulty of accurately estimating the population of a rapidly growing district such as Wallasey, and the extreme importance of having an accurate estimate of population, since nearly all mortality rates are calculated per thousand of population. The Census will, in the ordinary course of events, be taken next year, and after that there is good reason to hope that there will be a modified quinquennial census.

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 Registrar-General in his estimate of the population presumes that the population is increasing at the same rate as it did between 1891 and 1901. He, of course, cannot possibly take into account local conditions. I have continued to employ the method which was found to give so strikingly an accurate forecast at the time of the last census, namely, of multiplying the number of inhabited houses as supplied from the rate books by the number of inhabitants per house as shown in the last census. The population per house varies very slightly from census to census. At the 1891 census it was 5.2, and at the 1901 census, 4.97. I have thought it advisable to reduce this last figure still further, namely, to 4.75, so as to minimise the chances of over-estimating the population. There are several reasons for thinking that the population of this district is under rather than over-estimated. For instance, at the time of the last census the population was just over seven times the number of children on the rolls of the

Public Elementary Schools. If we take the number at present on the rolls of the Elementary Schools and multiply it by seven we get a figure in excess of the population as estimated and used for compiling the vital statistics of 1909.

The following Table shows the number of INHABITED HOUSES for the past four 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
1909	5,840	7,991	1,852	15,683	459

The population at the end of 1908 was estimated at 72,314. The number of inhabited houses multiplied by 4.75 would give a population at the end of 1909 of 74,494, an increase, therefore, of 2,180 in the year. Subtracting half that estimated annual increase from the population at the end of the year gives as population for the middle of the year, 73,404, or roughly, 73,000, and it is on this figure that all the rates are calculated.

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

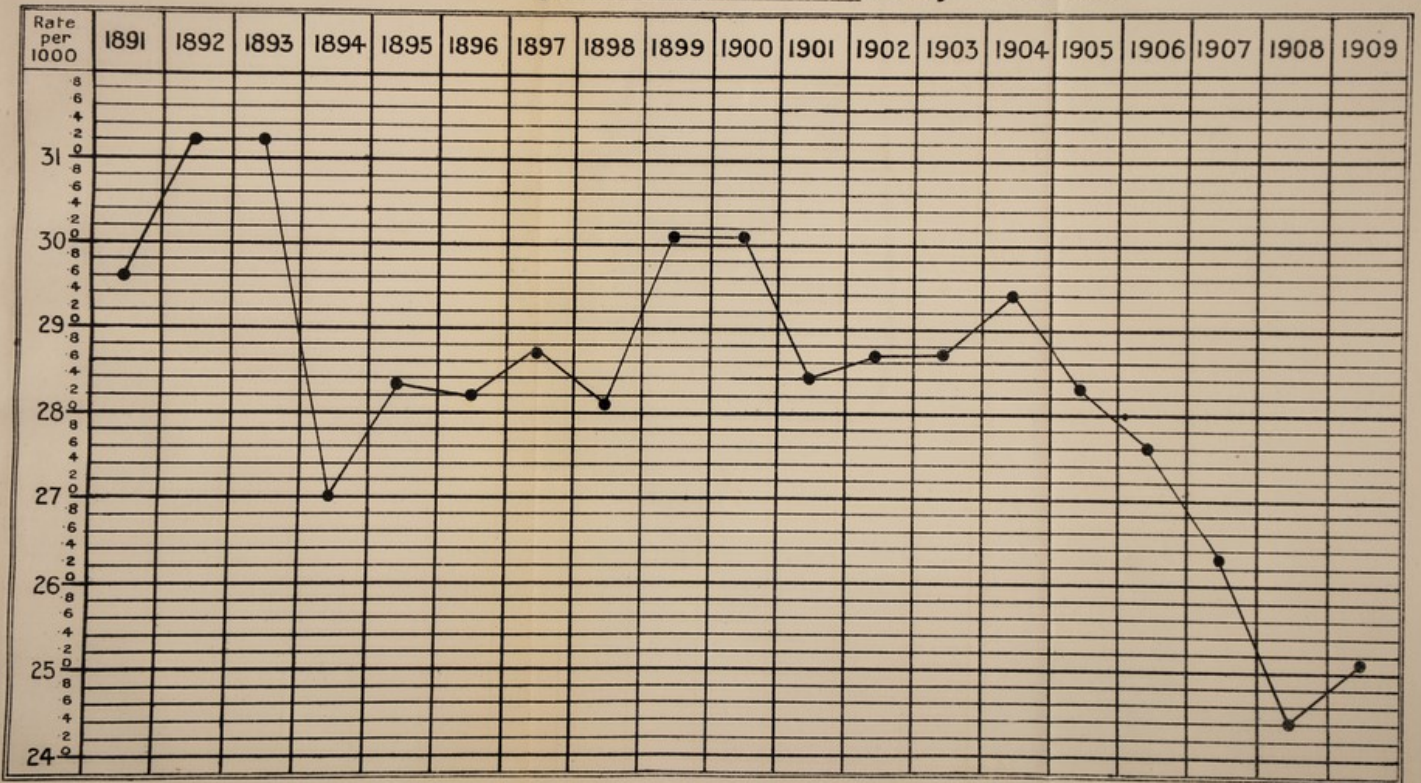
1904	...	...	...	259
1905	...	...	...	432
1906	...	...	...	614
1907	...	...	...	706
1908	...	...	...	604
1909	...	...	...	630

Births.

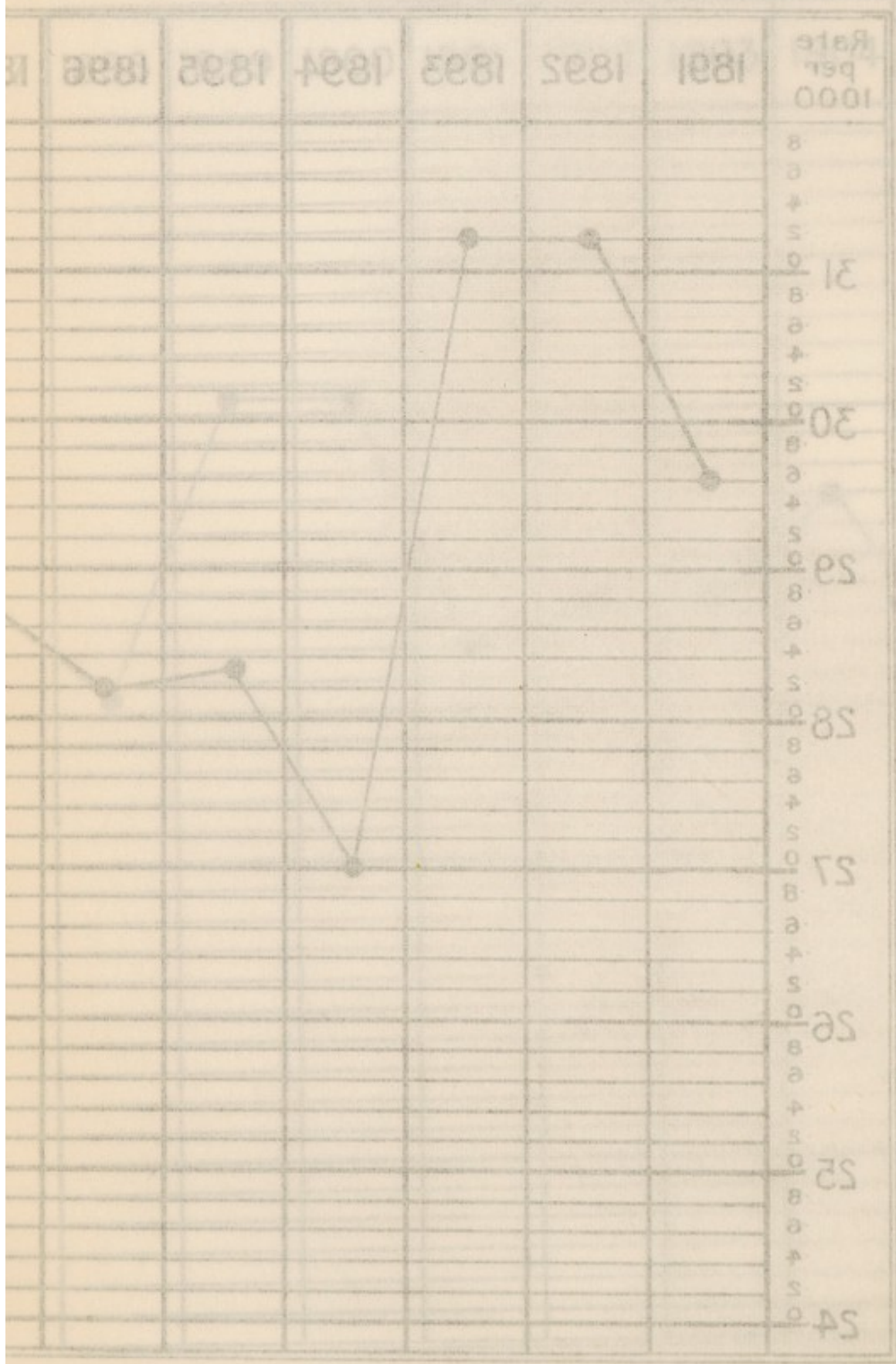
The Births during the year numbered 1,838 (936 males and 902 females), giving a Birth-Rate of 25.1 per 1,000, compared with 25.6 for the whole of England and Wales. The Births were distributed as follows :—

	Poulton-cum-Seacombe.	Liscard.	Wallasey.
	867	811	160
<i>Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population</i>	32.0	21.5	18.7

Chart showing BIRTH-RATES of Wallasey since 1891.



WORTH RATE of Wallasey since



There were 71 Still-births reported during the year, 54 of which were certified by doctors, and 17 by midwives.

The Illegitimate Births numbered 53, or 2.8 per cent. of the total number of births. 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 make the percentage 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 are, after a time, taken to the homes of the mothers; others are sent out to be nursed. By the Children Act, 1908, where a person undertakes for reward the nursing and maintenance of one or more infants under the age of seven, apart from their parents, or having no parents, he shall within forty-eight hours give notice in writing to the Local Authority. The Local Authority in this instance means the Guardians. The Birkenhead Guardians have lately appointed a lady as Inspector under this Act, whose duty it is to supervise these nurse children within their area. The evidence submitted before the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws brought to light the fact that there was a large amount of overlapping in the duties of Boards of Guardians and progressive Health Authorities, and various methods for preventing this overlapping of duties have been advanced in both the Majority and Minority Reports of that Commission. Having in view the fact that in almost every place with over 50,000 inhabitants, and in a large number of places having less than that population, there are on the Sanitary Staff health visitors, one of whose principal duties it is to visit all births which come to the knowledge of the Local Authority, either by means of the Registrar's returns or, more quickly and directly, through the Notification of Births Act, that these health visitors are the first to come in contact with these children, and would probably, in the ordinary course of their duties, supervise these children for at least the first twelve months of their lives, it appears to me to be a mistake that the Local Authority under the Act should be the Guardians, and not the local Sanitary Authority. The task of supervising these nurse children would have entailed very

little extra work upon health visitors. It is work indeed which many of them were already performing (without any legal authority) before the passing of the Children Act, work which can be better performed by them than by anyone else, for the simple reason that their work lies wholly in the district in which the children are, whereas, to take our own community, for example, the Inspector appointed lives in Birkenhead, and has to supervise not only the nurse children of this district but also of Birkenhead, and it would, moreover, have obviated the necessity of appointing a lady specially to do the work, thereby lessening the cost to the ratepayers. It would appear also that some knowledge of sanitation on the part of the inspector is necessary, since by Section 3b, a nurse child must not be kept in premises which are insanitary. My experience is that the opinion of ladies without any special sanitary knowledge as to what ought to be considered sanitary or insanitary premises is not worth much.

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

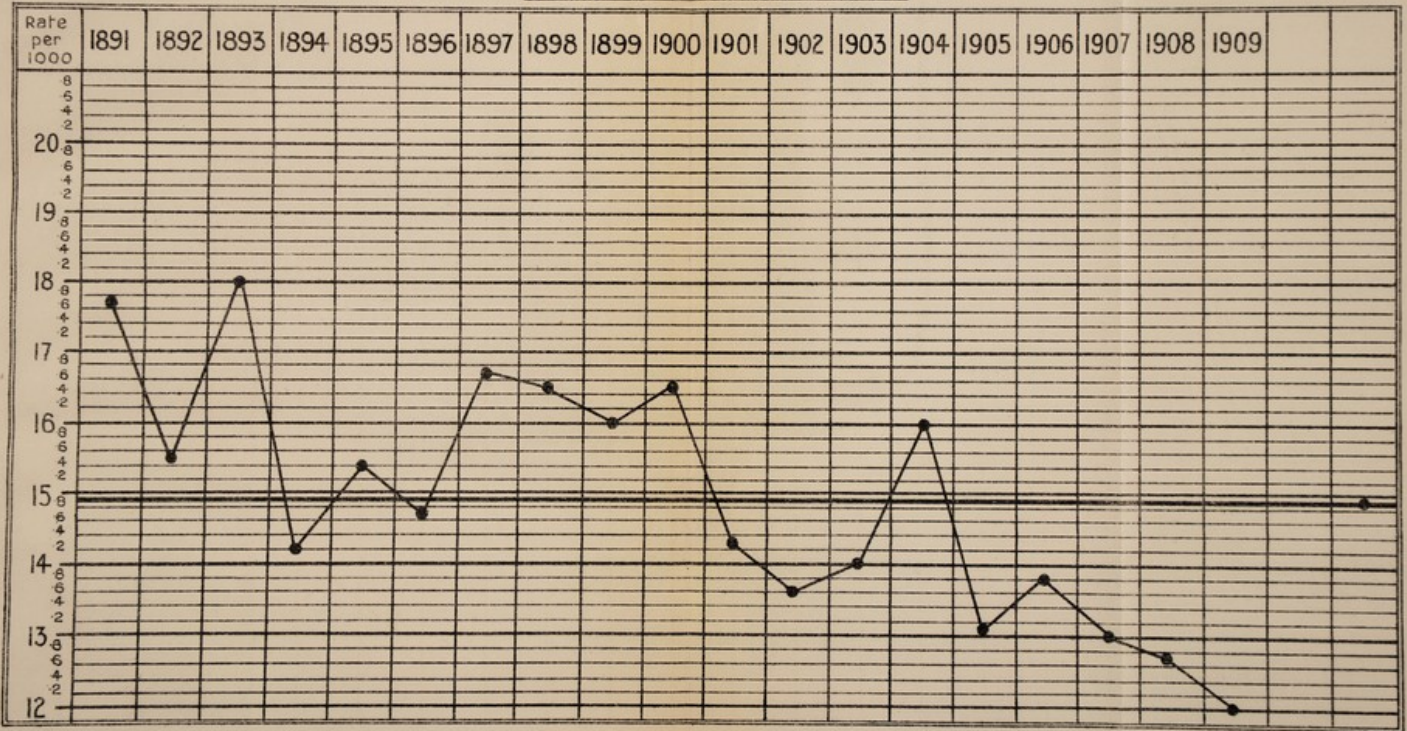
	Poulton-cum-Seacombe.		Liscard.		Wallasey	
Births	867	...	811	...	160
Deaths	370	...	443	...	72
Excess of Births over Deaths	497	...	368	...	88
				Total ...		953

Deaths.

The total number of deaths of residents in the district, including those dying in the Workhouse (42) and in Liverpool Hospitals (12), but excluding those of visitors (21), was 885, equal to a death-rate of 12.0, which is the lowest death-rate for the Wallasey district as far as records go. It is 0.7 lower than the death-rate of 1908, which then constituted a record.

Owing to the immigration of young adults from rural districts, town populations almost always contain a smaller proportion of

Chart showing DEATH-RATES of Wallasey since 1891.



persons at the extremes of life than is found in the country at large. A district containing a larger than average proportion of infants and aged people will almost necessarily have a higher rate than it would have if the average distribution prevailed. The Registrar-General has given factors for all the English large towns based upon the age and sex distribution as ascertained by the last census, the effect of which is to neutralise this disparity and to raise or lower the gross death-rate to what it would be if the local age and sex distribution were the same as for the country generally. The death-rate for Wallasey, corrected for age and sex distribution in accordance with this method, is 13.08.

In order to illustrate graphically what this gradual lowering of the death-rate means in lives saved, I may mention that the average death-rate for the decennium 1891-1900 was 16.1. If the death-rate of that decennium had prevailed last year 290 more deaths would have occurred in the district. This, no doubt, compensates to some extent for the lowering of the birth-rate, especially when one takes into consideration the decline in infant mortality. It will be seen on page 17 that the Infantile mortality for 1909 is only 80 per 1,000 births. The infantile mortality for the decennium above mentioned was 143. Continuing the comparison it will be seen that the decreased rate of infantile mortality means a saving of 115 infant lives in the year.

The deaths were distributed as follows in the townships :—

	Poulton-cum-Seacombe.	Liscard.	Wallasey.
	370	443	72
<i>Rate per 1,000 of estimated Population</i>	13.6	11.7	8.4

46 Inquests were held, 34 of these being on residents and 12 on non-residents.

14 of the deaths were those of illegitimate children, all under one year of age. Last year inquiries 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.

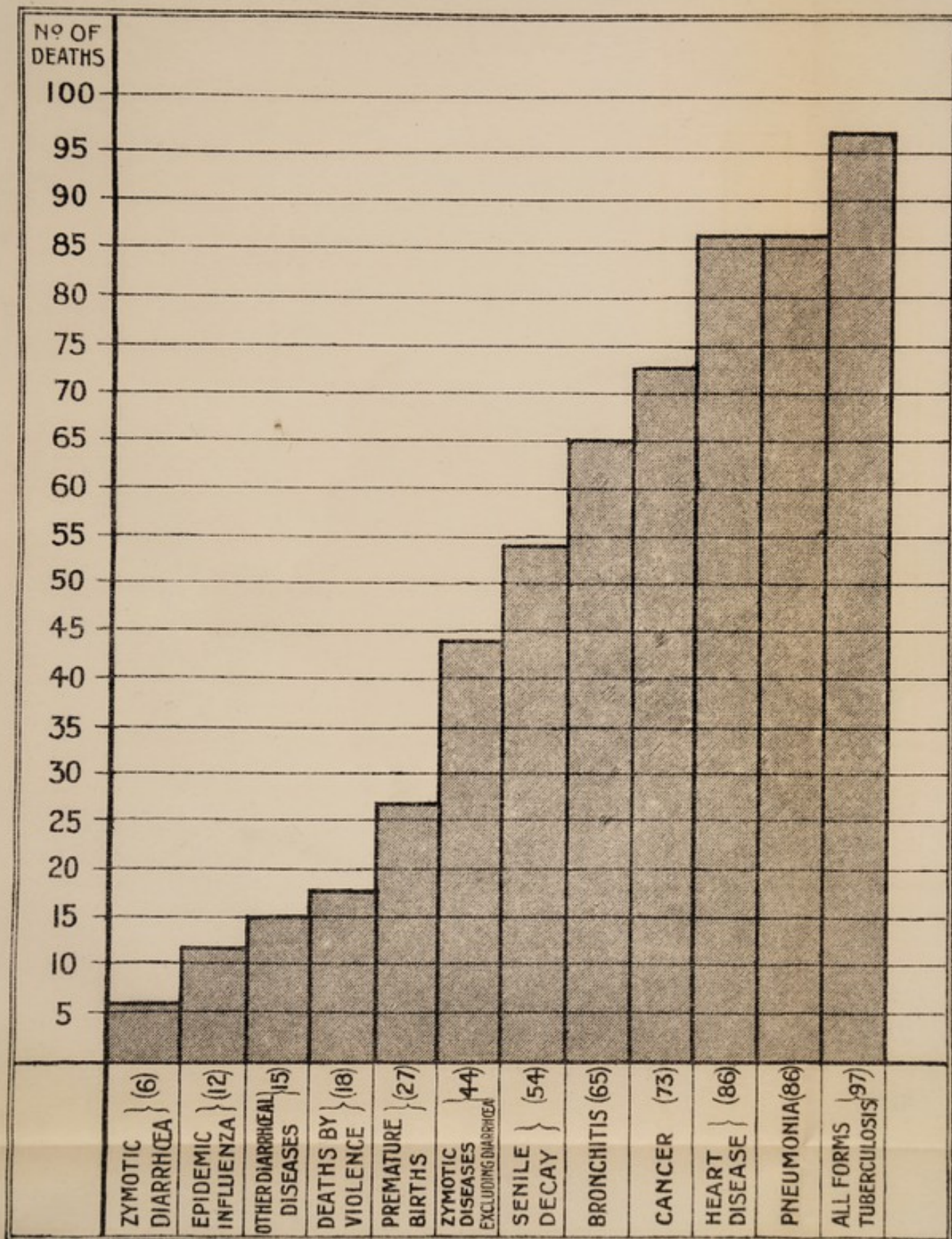
TABLE SHOWING COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF VARIOUS NEIGHBOURING
TOWNS WITH WALLASEY.

NAME OF TOWN.	Population.	Gross Death Rate 1909.	Death Rate corrected for Age and Sex Distribution.	Birth Rate 1909.	Infantile Deaths per 1,000 Births.	Phthisis Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.
BIRKENHEAD	120,955	15.9	.	30.8	122	1.1	1.4
BLACKBURN	136,135	17.1	16.4	23.0	127	0.9	1.5
BOLTON	187,824	15.3	17.3	25.2	126	1.15	1.2
BOOTLE	71,500	16.0	.	29.9	118	1.1	2.1
BURY	59,234	16.29	18.23	20.6	129	1.18	0.98
CREWE	48,584	11.9	11.9	23.0	104	0.6	0.4
LIVERPOOL	760,357	18.3	19.5	31.0	143	1.3	2.0
OLDHAM	143,301	19.0	.	27.4	119	1.4	1.1
SALFORD	241,950	18.2	18.0	28.0	141	1.5	2.4
ST. HELENS	95,161	17.9	18.5	32.05	149	1.02	3.5
STOCKPORT	103,706	16.95	17.96	26.33	132	1.39	1.73
WARRINGTON	73,008	17.4	16.9	30.9	129	1.79	2.9
WIGAN	93,263	18.28	.	30.67	169	0.72	2.47
WALLASEY	73,000	12.0	13.08	25.1	80	0.8	0.68

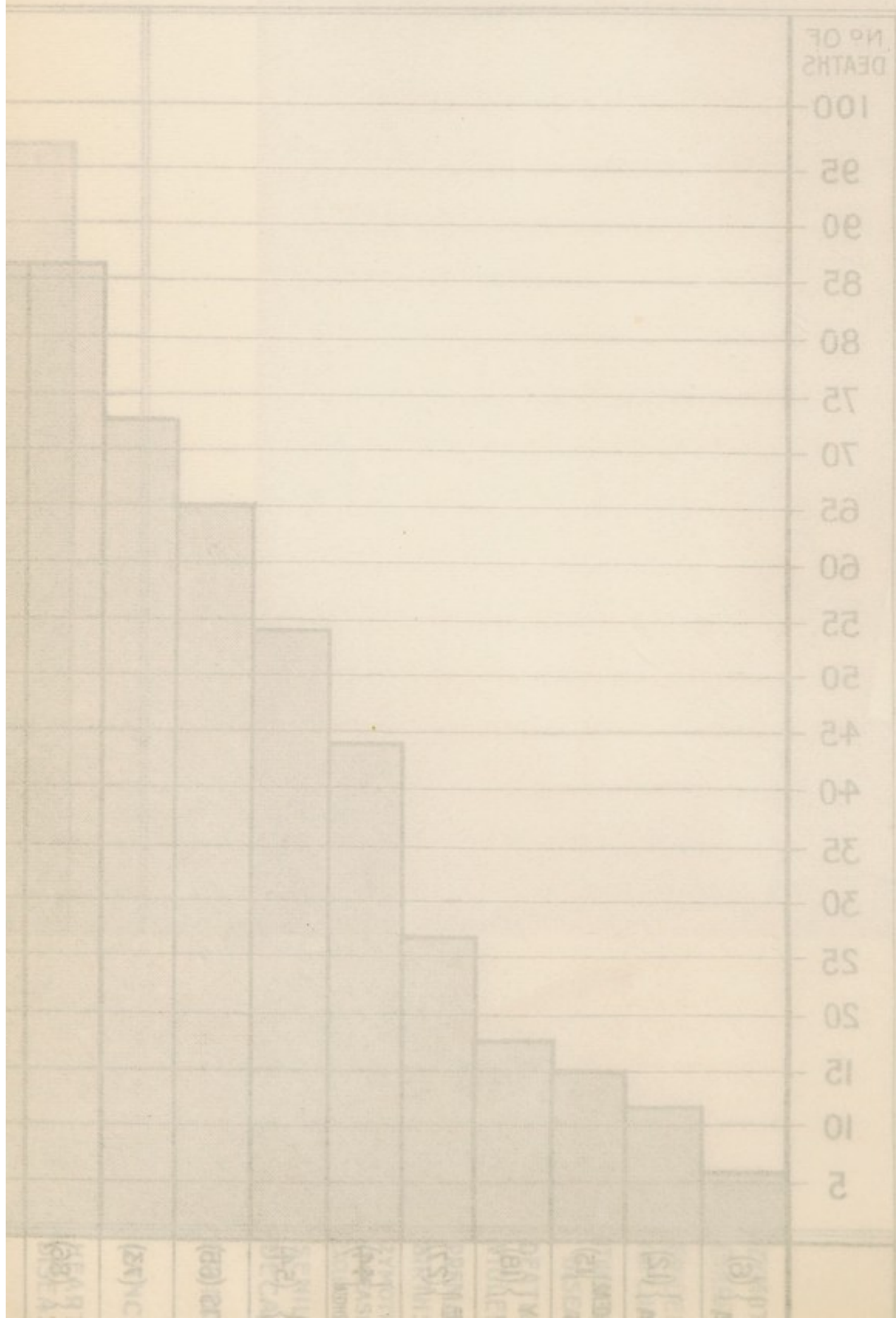
TABLE SHOWING COMPARISON OF WALLASEY RATES WITH THOSE FOR
ENGLAND AND WALES, AS A WHOLE, WITH THE 76 LARGE TOWNS
(AMONG WHICH WALLASEY IS INCLUDED), WITH THE 143 SMALLER
TOWNS, AND WITH ENGLAND AND WALES, LESS THE 219 TOWNS.

	Annual rate per 1,000 living.			Infantile Death rate per 1,000 Births.
	Birth rate.	Death rate.		
		Crude.	Corrected	
ENGLAND AND WALES	25.6	14.5	14.5	109
76 GREAT TOWNS	25.7	14.7	15.6	118
143 SMALLER TOWNS	24.8	13.9	14.5	111
ENGLAND AND WALES, LESS THE 219 TOWNS	25.6	14.5	13.6	98
WALLASEY	25.1	12.0	13.0	80

Comparative View of Twelve of the Principal Causes of Death in Wallasey during 1909.



Comparative View
 of Twelve of the Principal Causes of Death
 in Wallasey during 1909.



Infant Mortality.

During the year 1909 the deaths of 148 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 80 per 1,000 births.

As I have before stated, compared with the Infantile Mortality rate of the decennium 1891-1900, this means a saving of 115 infants per annum. This is a very remarkable drop in the rate, and I can find nothing approaching such a low rate in former records. It will be seen by a reference to the table on page 19 that only once in recent years has the Infant Mortality Rate fallen below 100, namely in 1905, when the rate was 98.

To what is this fall due, and is this low rate likely to continue? Let us examine the table relating to Infantile Mortality on page 92 and compare it with a similar table of last year.

	1908	1909
1.—Common Infectious Diseases caused	21 deaths.	4 deaths
2.—Diarrheal Diseases caused	23 ..	14 ..
3.—Wasting Diseases (including Premature Birth, Atrophy and Marasmus) caused	75 ..	56 ..
4.—Tuberculous Diseases caused	11 ..	13 ..
5.—And other causes, including Respiratory Diseases, Convulsions and Overlying caused	46 ..	61 ..

Under the heading of Wasting Diseases in 1908, 39 deaths were of children prematurely born. Deaths due to Atrophy and Marasmus numbered 25. In 1909 the numbers were 27 and 20 respectively.

It will be seen that there is a lessened mortality in the first three groups and an increased mortality in the last two. The decrease in Group 1 is mainly accounted for by the fact that whereas in 1908 there were 12 deaths from whooping-cough, and 19 from measles, in 1909 not a single death was attributed to whooping-cough, and only three from measles. While it is a pleasure to record the fact that fewer deaths from these two diseases took place last year than in the preceding year, it is only fair to state that these are the two infectious diseases which have shown themselves to be less amenable to administrative

control than any of the other infectious diseases ; and although a large number of cases of whooping-cough and measles are visited, and leaflets giving information concerning these diseases left at each house, which procedure may possibly have had some influence on the mortality, still I think it is a mere coincidence that the mortality from these diseases has been so low during the year, and one cannot hope with any degree of confidence for any continuation of this low mortality.

The decreased mortality in Group 2 (Diarrhœal Diseases) is satisfactory. The deaths in this group, generally speaking, may be said to be due to errors of feeding, and it is probable that the efforts of the Lady Inspector in encouraging breast-feeding and giving advice as to feeding where breast-feeding cannot be undertaken, have had some influence in causing this decline, although it must be stated that the weather conditions prevailing during the summer were not such as would be conducive to a high mortality from summer diarrhœa.

Group 3 (Wasting Diseases, including Premature Births, etc.), while to some extent preventable, are not causes of death which are likely to be influenced by present administrative measures. No doubt many premature births could be prevented in that they are due to ante-natal conditions in the mothers which admit of improvement, but not, I think, by any administrative measures at present coming within the purview of a Sanitary Authority. Still, the deaths ascribed to Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus may be due in part to ignorance and other conditions which the efforts of Health Visitors can greatly improve, and here I think again the decreased mortality may in part be due to the policy adopted in the district.

It should be pointed out, however, that, while the weather conditions were adverse to summer diarrhœa, they were certainly favourable to chest troubles, and whereas pneumonia and bronchitis were responsible for 21 deaths in 1908 they caused 27 deaths in 1909.

The following Table gives the rates of infant mortality from the year 1899. The rate for 1909 cannot be described as anything but

highly satisfactory, and, while hardly daring to hope that the rate will continue at its present low level, I think it can be fairly claimed that the fall in the infant mortality in recent years is to some extent due to the efforts of Sanitary Authorities in attempting to awaken a public health conscience, and to the officials who are engaged in the work.

Year.	No. of Deaths of Infants under one year.	Per cent. of Total 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
1909	148	16.7	80	227

It has been noted that there were 53 illegitimate births and 14 deaths of illegitimate children under one year of age, which is equal to an Infantile Mortality Rate among illegitimate infants of 264, $3\frac{1}{3}$ times greater than the infant mortality rate of the district.

Inquiries instituted last year as to the causes and circumstances attending the deaths of children under one year have been continued in 1909, and the results again bring into prominence how important it is that young children shall be breast-fed where possible. 1,230 births were visited. At the time of the first visit 75 per cent. were fed entirely on the breast; 14 per cent. were bottle-fed, 11 per cent. on breast and bottle. Of the deaths of children under one year (148 in number), 23 were breast-fed, 57 were bottle-fed, 7 were fed on breast and bottle, 11 were not fed at all, and particulars were not ascertained with regard to 14 of the deaths. It will thus be seen that although five and a half times more children are breast-fed than are bottle-fed; there are actually two and a half times more deaths of bottle-fed children. These figures are most striking. If it is necessary to offer any inducement to mothers anxious for the welfare of their children to feed them

from the breast where possible, these figures ought to supply that inducement, and I must repeat what I said last year that, not only is it in the first year of life that the advantages of breast-feeding are shown, but throughout life. There can be no doubt whatever, that breast-fed children have more stamina, and throw off diseases much more easily than artificially-fed children. Of the 14 illegitimate deaths all were artificially fed.

The infantile mortality rate in the districts is as under :—

Poulton-cum-Seacombe ..	83 per 1,000 births.
Liscard	78 ..
Wallasey	75 ..

It will be seen that there is no marked difference in the rate between any of the districts. Seacombe, of course, is a district where, perhaps, the preponderance of the poorer classes live, and where one would naturally expect a higher rate than in the more favoured districts.

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

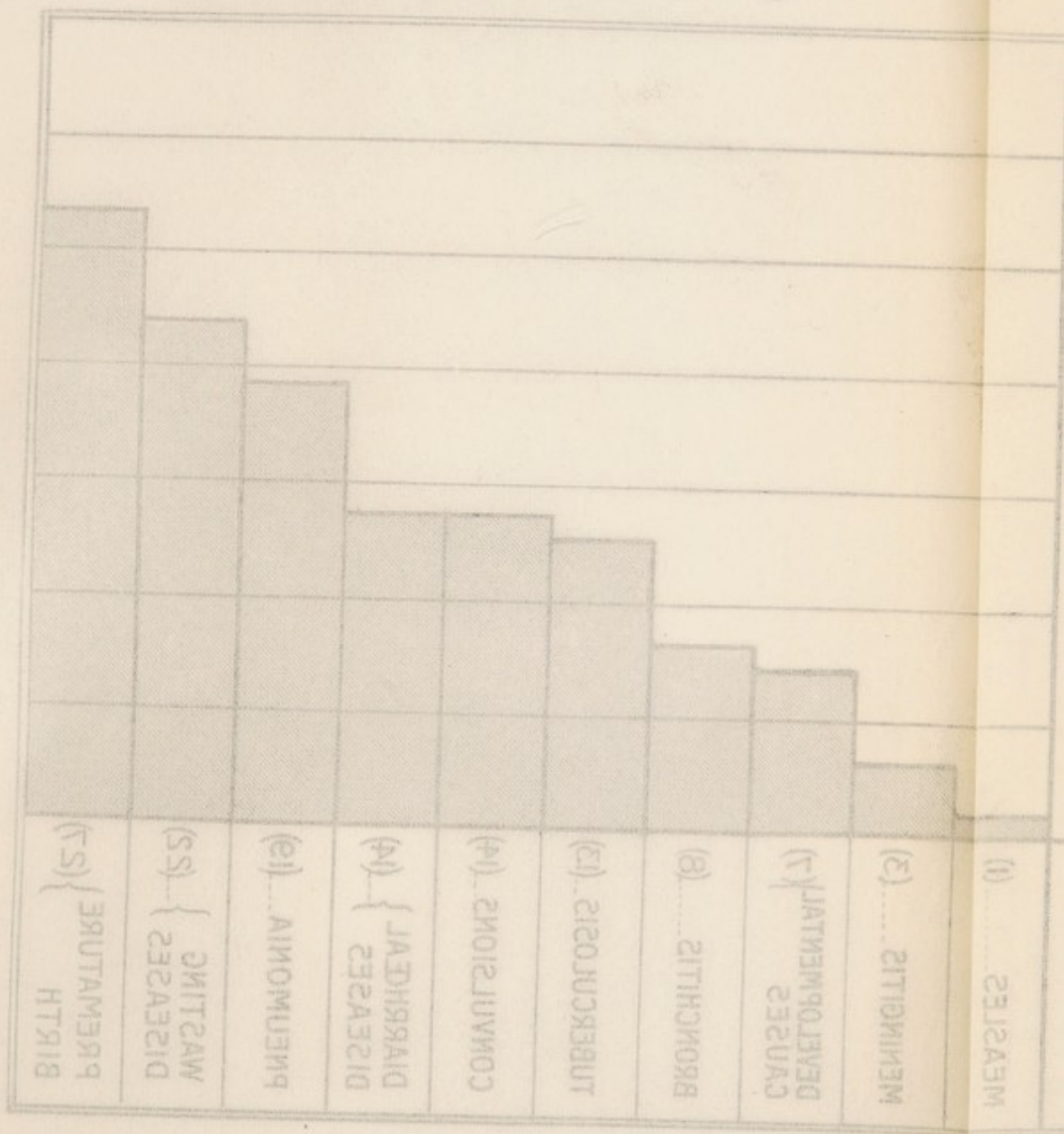
	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Diarrhoea	9	23	50	29	55	14	12	5
Convulsions	15	14	24	9	14	15	10	14
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	31	20	31	15	26	30	21	27
Enteritis	7	11	9	5	11*	11*	11	9
Premature Birth	26	24	32	29	17	36	39	27
Atrophy and Debility ...	35	38	44	21	21	26	25	20
Totals	123	130	190	108	145	132	118	102

*Includes Gastritis.

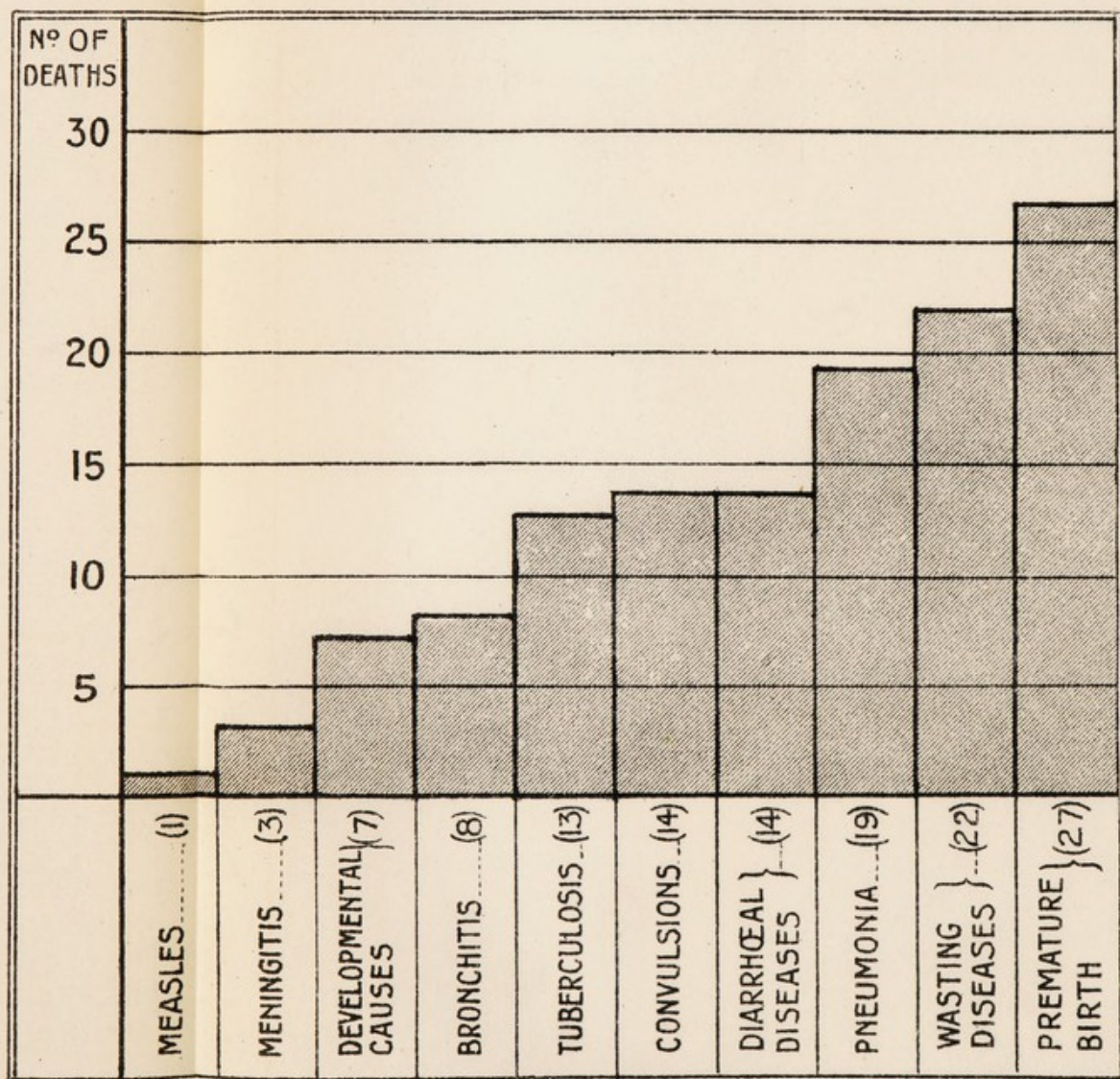
The Deaths of Children under one year in the four Quarters were as follows :—

First Quarter	38
Second Quarter	38
Third Quarter	32
Fourth Quarter	40

Comparative View of Ten of the
 Principal Causes of Infant Mortality (below
 5 Year of age) in Wallasey during 1909.



Comparative View of Ten of the Principal Causes of Infant Mortality (below One Year of age) in Wallasey during 1909.



There was very little Summer Diarrhoea 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 Diarrhoea, did not show the usual excess. In fact, the fewest deaths occurred in that quarter.

In view of the low Infantile Mortality Rate for this year, and having regard to the general character of the population of the district, I would not feel justified in recommending for the present the adoption of the Notification of Births Act. I think, however, the following fact on the opposite side should be noted, namely, that, of the births visited on receipt of the Registrar's Return, 58 were found to have died *before* the Lady Inspector's visit, and of these, 12 from causes which possibly a little advice and supervision might have prevented. There was also one death ascribed to diarrhoea, the result of improper feeding, whose birth was registered *only one week* before the death. This advice and supervision can thus, in many cases, only be given on receipt of an early notification of the birth. On the whole I think it will be advisable to leave the adoption of the Act open for another year.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

DISEASE	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
TOTALS	84	95	122	67	75	163	64	121	51	87	50
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	16	26	5	12	3	32	1	13	6	27	13
Scarlet Fever ...	5	4	5	5	18	8	6	6	6	10	20
Diphtheria and Croup	10	3	12	5	3	12	10	12	7	8	9
Whooping Cough	3	22	15	17	10	42	2	15	13	21	0
Fever (Typhoid)	11	17	31	12	5	7	8	5	3	4	2
Diarrhoea	39	23	54	16	35	62	37	70	16	17	6
<i>Rate per 1,000</i>											
<i>of population</i>	1.71	1.82	2.25	1.21	1.33	2.85	1.09	1.95	0.76	1.22	0.68
<i>English Rate do.</i>	2.21	2.00	2.05	1.64	1.46	1.94	1.52	1.73	1.26	1.29	1.12

Infectious Diseases.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1909 shows an increase of 434 compared with those notified in the previous year.

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

DISEASE	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Small-pox	—	—	1	40	26	6	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	34	25	52	40	38	52	64	57	92	72	57
Membranous Croup	5	3	3	—	2	3	1	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	35	34	31	35	41	39	53	28	45	32	32
Scarlatina	167	119	147	293	440	270	348	266	255	248	716
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	132	163	257	64	47	39	61	65	31	34	18
Puerperal Fever	1	4	2	4	2	4	6	2	4	3	2
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	93*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
TOTALS	374	348	493	569	596	413	533	419	427	391	825

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

Small-pox.

No cases of Small-pox occurred during the year. 27 contacts have been under supervision, all of whom had been in contact on board ships. Most of these had been re-vaccinated before leaving the vessels, and none developed the disease.

Cholera.

During the year I was notified by the Medical Officers of several Port Sanitary Authorities that 15 people had arrived in this district from Cholera-infected ports. These people were all visited, but none developed the disease.

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever has been greatly in excess of the average. In my last Annual Report I mentioned that in the autumn of 1908 a great increase in the incidence of the disease was apparent. This continued throughout the year. It was not until December, when the incidence of the disease is usually at its highest, that the number of cases showed any marked decline. Scarlet Fever is a disease which is characterised by two waves of prevalence; one wave in which the incidence of the disease for a number of years is below the average, and for a certain number of other years is considerably above the average. The other is a yearly wave, with its maximum incidence in December, falling to its lowest in April, May and June, and rising again to its highest in December; for instance, in the last 15 years in this district the notifications of Scarlet Fever in each Quarter have been as under:—

First Quarter	..	..	..	..	948
Second Quarter	..	..	..	..	740
Third Quarter	..	..	..	..	743
Fourth Quarter	..	..	..	..	1,120

In last year the usual lowered incidence in the spring and early summer months was altogether absent. The cases notified were:—

First Quarter	..	..	..	..	170
Second Quarter	..	..	..	..	211
Third Quarter	..	..	..	..	181
Fourth Quarter	..	..	..	..	154

The Quarter which usually has the lowest incidence had last year, as a matter of fact, the highest.

The disease in the early part of the epidemic was of a distinctly mild type. In 1908, when only 248 cases were notified, the death-rate per cent. of cases was 4, and of the 174 cases admitted to hospital 5 per cent. died. In 1909 the death-rate per cent. of cases fell to 2.7, and of the 507 cases admitted to hospital only 2.7 died.

In a Special Report on the incidence of this disease which I presented during the year to the Health Committee, I pointed out

(1) that no part of the district was specially infected; (2) that so far as could be ascertained there was no special cause at work, and that certainly a factor in the increased incidence of the disease was the number of unrecognised cases. I judged this from certain facts which came to my notice. (a) 12 cases admitted to the hospital, as Scarlet Fever presented no signs of the disease on admission. These cases were isolated, and after a short time were sent home, still presenting no signs of the disease; (b) 12 additional cases developed recurrent attacks in hospital, the inference I draw from that is that either the cases were of so mild a character as to afford no immunity when exposed to concentrated infection in the wards, or that the disease for which they were admitted in the first place was not Scarlet Fever, and that they subsequently developed the disease in hospital. There can be no doubt that these very mild cases are exceedingly difficult to diagnose, and no doubt many cases of this mild nature were never visited by a medical man, consequently they were never isolated, and were thus the cause of infection in others. (c) I was constantly invited by practitioners to consult with them as to the nature of mild illnesses suspected to be Scarlet Fever. The Lady Sanitary Inspector discovered several cases peeling, and through an anonymous letter, I myself found five patients in one house, all peeling freely, and all had mixed with other children.

A specially sharp look-out was kept on anything which would point to dissemination of the disease by means of milk, but in only one instance did there appear any reasonable ground for suspecting this as a source of infection. In the month of May a series of cases occurred in the round of a particular milkman. This milkman received his milk from a certain farm in Cheshire. I first visited the premises from which the milk was retailed, and on finding nothing which could cause infection there, I wrote to the Medical Officer of Health of the district from which the milk came, and learned from him that there had been a case of Scarlet Fever at the farm, but that the patient had been removed to hospital and all precautions taken against the spread of the disease. It is possible that for one or two days before the case was removed to hospital the milk was contaminated at the farm, and may have been the cause of a few of the cases here.

At all events the exaggerated number of cases in the round of this particular milkman which had been noted suddenly ceased, and the cessation corresponded in time with the removal of the child to hospital.

On four occasions, when the incidence of the disease appeared to be specially great amongst scholars attending various Public Elementary Schools, I visited the schools, examined the children in the various infected classes, and excluded several suspicious cases from attendance. I may specially mention one instance, namely, Vaughan Road Schools. The incidence amongst the scholars at that school was particularly well marked, and on two separate occasions I examined all the children in the Infants' Department, without any very satisfactory result. The incidence, however, still continuing, I obtained from the Head Teacher a list of all the absentees. I visited these, and found two cases peeling profusely. One of these I found had never been isolated and had constantly played for a fortnight with scholars attending the school, and I definitely traced nine cases to this particular lad. In fact, the special incidence from the scholars of that school ceased as soon as this boy was isolated.

The disease was also introduced into the district several times by visitors from Liverpool.

62 of the Scarlet Fever cases notified at houses where two or more cases occurred were removed to hospital at the following intervals :

8	cases at an interval of 1 day after admission of previous case.		
5	do.	2 days	do.
6	do.	3 days	do.
1	do.	4 days	do.
4	do.	5 days	do.
2	do.	6 days	do.
3	do.	7 days	do.
17	do.	7/14 days	do.
6	do.	14/21 days	do.
4	do.	21/28 days	do.
1	do.	28/35 days	do.
3	do.	35/42 days	do.
1	do.	49/56 days	do.
1	do.	56/63 days	do.

Previous patients still in hospital when subsequent cases occurred.

In 61 houses 2 cases occurred and were removed to hospital.

„ 19	„ 3	„	„	„	„	„	„
„ 11	„ 4	„	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1	„ 5	„	„	„	„	„	„
„ 1	„ 6	„	„	„	„	„	„

As will be noticed these particulars refer entirely to hospital-treated cases, and they suggest first, that a little care on the part of parents in isolating cases at the onset of the illness would have prevented many cases. It is quite a usual thing amongst the poorer people when a child is taken ill, for it to be removed to the kitchen, the living room, and if the disease happens to be Scarlet Fever, that of course means that every one in the house is exposed to infection. I have met several cases indeed, in which *after* the disease has been diagnosed as Scarlet Fever the parents have brought the child into the kitchen preparatory to its removal to hospital, and the other children in the house have been playing with it.

The majority of the first 29 cases in the above table, in other words those occurring within a week after the removal of the first case, could probably have been prevented if proper precautions had been taken. It is difficult to account for the occurrence of the others. They may possibly have been infected from an altogether different source, but they certainly afford grounds for the suspicion which I have held for a long time, viz., that the virus of Scarlet Fever can be harboured for a considerable time (just as in Diphtheria), and the infection will only manifest itself when the resisting power of the individual has been lowered from any cause.

The following table gives some very interesting information with regard to Scarlet Fever cases in this district since the year 1881 :—

Statistics re Scarlet Fever since 1881.

Year.	Estimated Population at Middle of Year.	Total Notifications.	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Percentage of Cases removed to Hospital.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate per cent. of Cases.	Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.	No. of Cases Admitted to Hospital.	No. of Deaths in Hospital.	Percentage of Deaths in Hospital to Admissions.
1881 ..	21,192 (Census)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1882 ..	22,743 ⁺	29	..	1.27	..	..	..
1883 ..	24,037 ⁺	21	..	0.87	..	..	..
1884 ..	25,228 ⁺	5	..	0.18	..	..	..
1885 ..	28,000	..	..	..	4	..	0.14	..	..	..
1886 ..	29,500	..	..	..	4	..	0.13	..	..	..
1887 ..	30,500	..	..	..	8	..	0.26	..*	..	..
1888 ..	31,500	..	..	..	1	..	0.03	10	..	..
1889 ..	32,500	†	..	..	15	..	0.43	25	3	12.0
1890 ..	34,000	116	3.4	14.6	12	10.3	0.35	17	2	11.8
1891 ..	33,500 (Census)	89	2.6	20.2	7	7.8	0.21	18	1	5.5
1892 ..	34,500	49	1.1	18.4	3	6.1	0.09	9	1	11.1
1893 ..	35,500	123	3.4	17.0	2	1.6	0.06	21	1	4.8
1894 ..	37,000	246	6.0	22.7	5	1.0	0.13	56	..	..
1895 ..	39,000	130	3.3	36.1	4	3.0	0.10	47	2	4.2
1896 ..	41,500	157	3.7	38.2	4	2.5	0.09	60	3	5.0
1897 ..	44,000	256	5.8	48.0	15	5.8	0.34	123	7	5.7
1898 ..	46,800	220	4.7	44.1	11	5.0	0.23	97	7	7.2
1899 ..	49,000	167	3.4	53.3	5	3.0	0.10	89	3	3.3
1900 ..	52,000	119	2.3	50.4	4	3.3	0.08	60	2	3.3
1901 ..	54,000 (Census)	147	2.7	45.5	5	3.4	0.09	68	4	5.9
1902 ..	55,000	293	5.3	67.9	5	1.7	0.09	199	4	2.0
1903 ..	56,000	440	7.8	70.2	18	4.1	0.32	309	11	3.5
1904 ..	57,000	270	4.7	62.9	8	3.0	0.14	170	7	4.1
1905 ..	58,500	348	5.9	62.0	6	1.7	0.10	227	3	1.3
1906 ..	62,000	266	4.3	66.9	6	2.2	0.09	178	6	3.3
1907 ..	67,000	255	3.8	73.7	6	2.3	0.08	188	6	3.2
1908 ..	71,000	248	3.5	70.1	10	4.0	0.14	174	9	5.1
1909 ..	73,000	716	9.8	70.8	20	2.7	0.27	507	14	2.7

* First Case in Hospital, October 28th, 1887 (7 to end of year).

† 1889 Notification Act adopted December 2nd, 1889. (30 Scarlet Fever Cases notified to end of year).

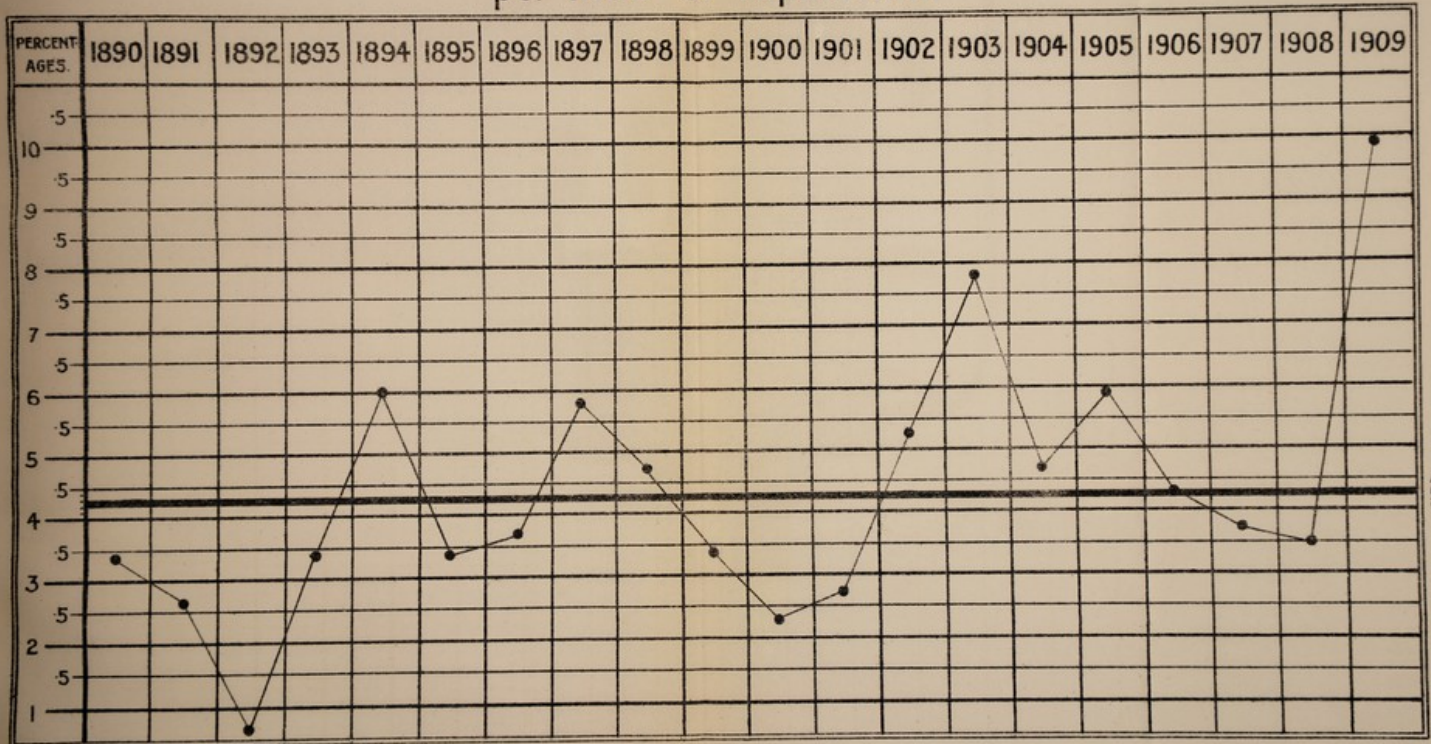
‡ These figures are for the end of the year.

Appended are two charts dealing with Scarlet Fever since 1890. No. 1 Chart shows the attack-rate per 1,000 of population, and No. 2 shows the percentage of cases removed to Mill Lane Hospital.

After my lengthy remarks on "Return" cases in last year's Annual Report I do not propose to discuss them at any length in the present Report.

The number of cases occurring in houses after the return of a case from hospital is 23, or 4.5 per cent., but of these I think 11 may fairly be struck out, for the cases which returned from hospital were all of them mild cases, had no complications whatever while in hospital, nor did any supervene afterwards, and one cannot imagine any of them as infecting agents. The omission of the above cases leaves the number of return cases as 12, giving a percentage of 2.3. In three of them, moreover, other more probable sources of infection were discovered, and in one, the second, or "return" case, was of a very doubtful nature. Particulars of these are shown in the following table:—

Chart Shewing SCARLET FEVER Attack-rate
per 1000 of Population.



AV. 4.5
FOR LAST
20 YEARS

Chart Showing SCAR
per 1000

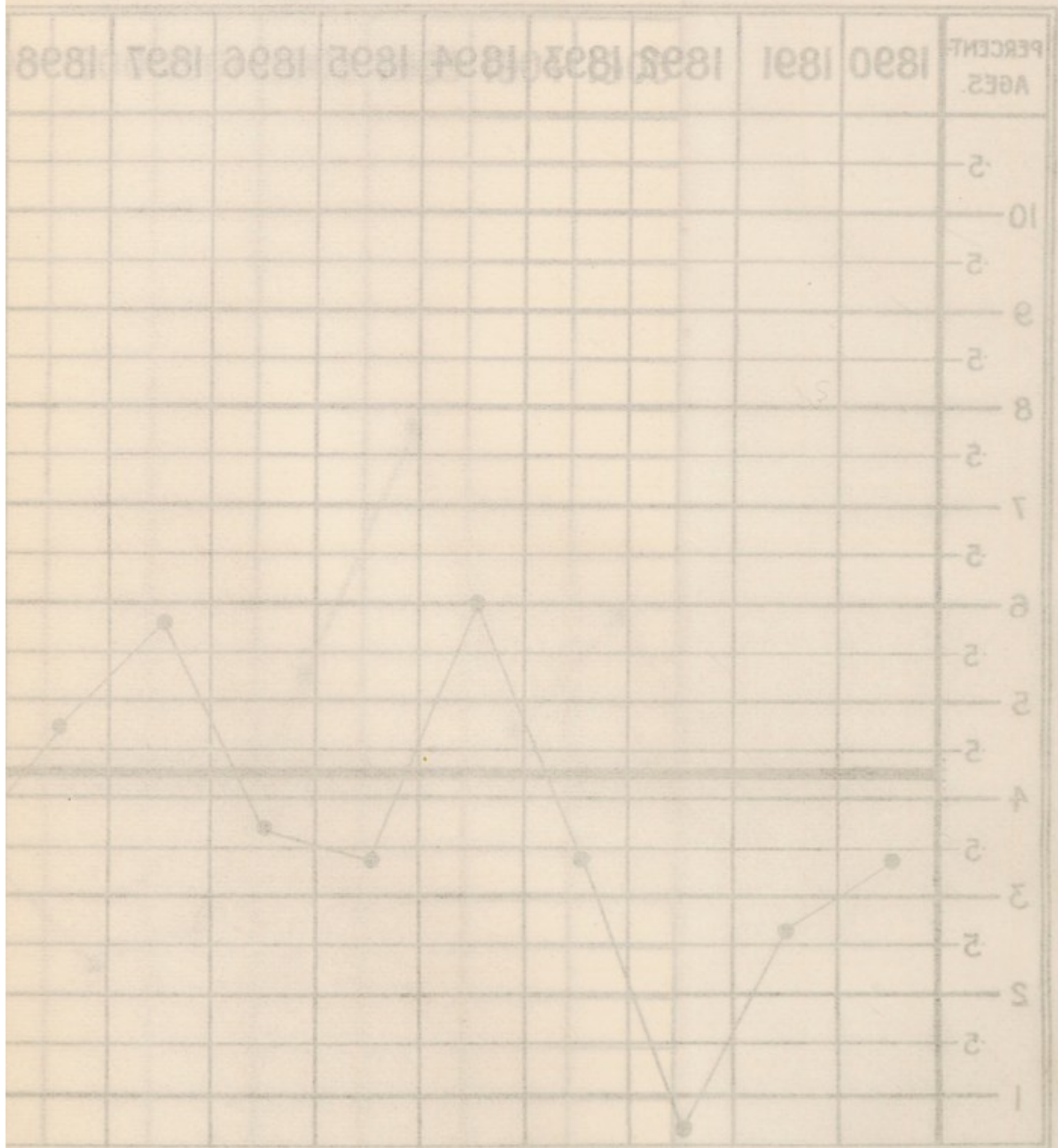
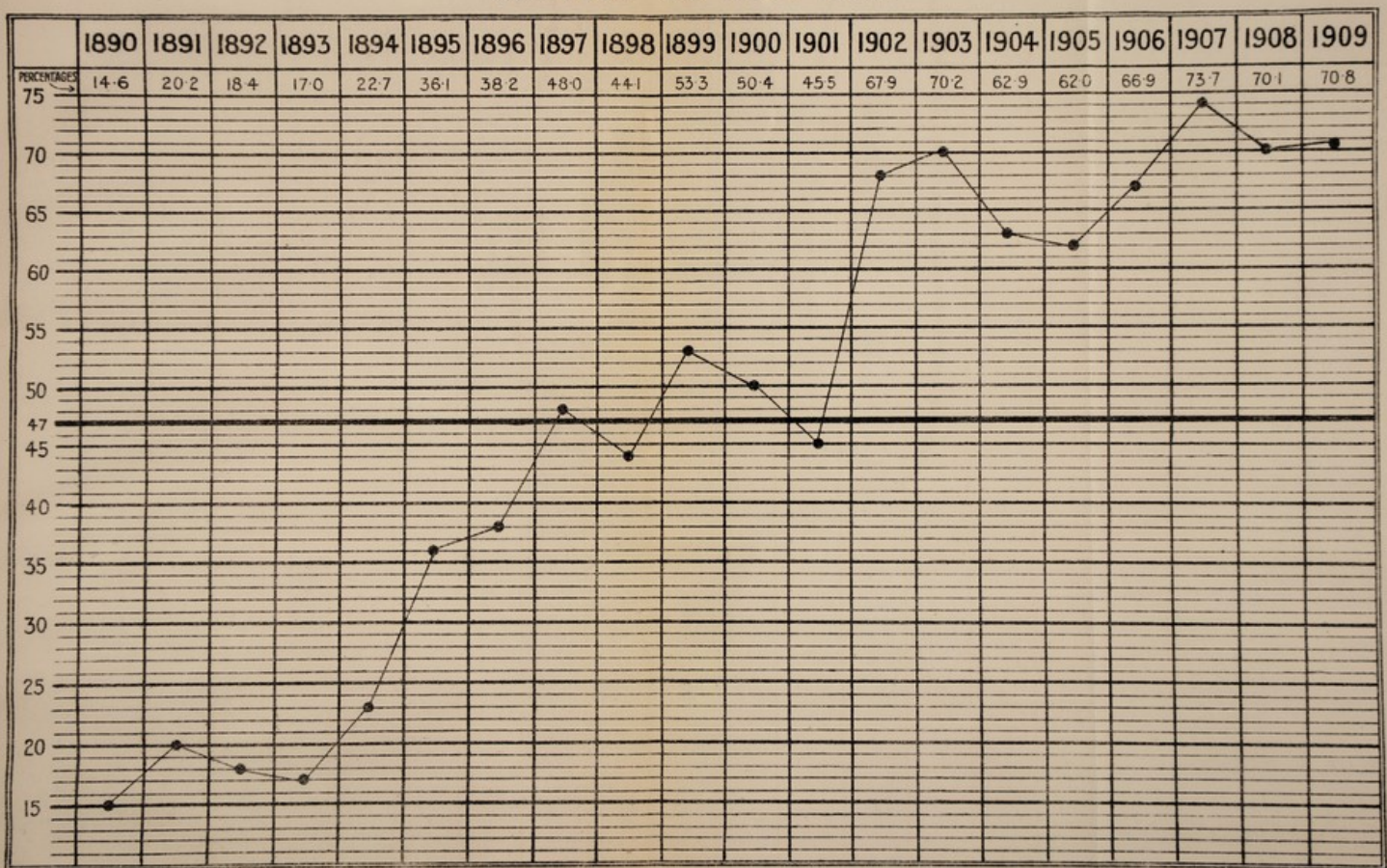
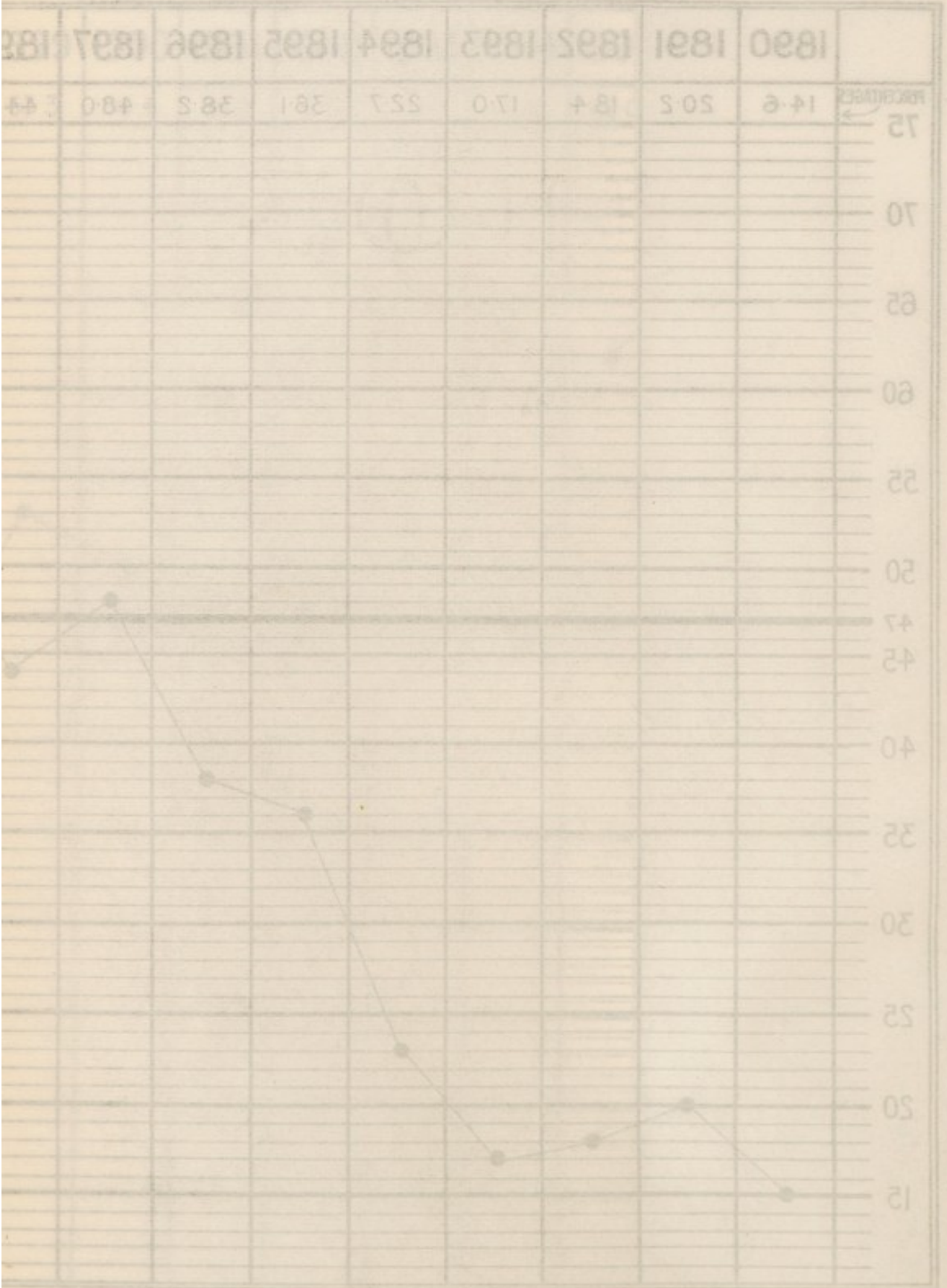


Chart shewing percentage of SCARLET FEVER Cases removed to HOSPITAL.



LATENT FEVER
 Cases showing percent
 removed



Details of "Return" Cases.

DOUBTFUL.			"RETURN" CASES.			HOME-TREATED "RETURN" CASES.		
Length of stay in Hospital of first case.	Interval between discharge of first case and onset of second.	Period from first onset of the disease.	Stay in Hospital of first case.	Interval between discharge of first and onset of second.	Period from first onset of the disease.	Length of isolation of first case.	Interval between discharge of first case and onset of second.	Period from first onset of the disease.
Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
56	9	65	55	3	58	39	3	42
47	12	59	40	3	43	35	8	43
42	16	58	†58	6	64	55	8	63
54	16	70	†42	7	49	†135	14	49
45	18	63	48	9	57	33	23	56
42	19	61	48	9	57	†65	37	102
53	20	73	*38	13	51	37	56	93
42	22	64	53	14	67			
46	22	70	54	16	70			
56	23	79	66	21	87			
50	26	76						
Average stay in Hospital 48.6 days.			*Ill at home several days, discovered by Medical Officer of Health peeling. Average stay in Hospital 55.5 days.			Average period of isolation, 42.7 days.		
			†These two cases had neither Rhinitis nor did they subsequently develop that or any other complications.			†These are doubtful return cases, the primary cases having suffered from no complications at any time, and in †1 other sources of infection were found. Two were discharged from isolation while still suffering from Otorrhoea. Two subsequently developed Rhinitis.		

Even in regard to the 12 which I have called genuine "return" cases no one could say positively that the infection arose from the first case. Four of the first cases were mild and had no complications while in hospital, but two of them subsequently developed rhinitis; eight suffered from Rhinitis and/or Rhinorrhœa while in hospital; two had adenoids and enlarged tonsils; nine developed Rhinitis at varying intervals *after arriving home*, but it is only fair to state that some of these recurrences were of an exceedingly mild character. One developed Otorrhœa.

At least two of these cases might, I think, be transferred to Class 1 (doubtful return cases). This has not been done, because the interval between the arrival home of the first and the onset of the second was so short, and no other probable source of infection could be discovered. It should be noticed that the average stay in hospital of the first class was 48.6 days, while all those which we will definitely call "return" cases were a week longer in hospital, namely, 55.5 days. It is interesting to compare these results with the cases which occurred at home after the release from isolation of the first case,—in other words, the "home return." These were five in number, but I think two might be excluded in that the primary cases were both exceedingly mild, had no complications, and did not develop any, and moreover, the interval between the discharge of the first and the onset of the second was considerable. Excluding those two, the percentage of "return" cases works out at exactly the same as amongst what we will call the genuine "return" hospital cases, viz. : 2.3. As a matter of fact no one can state positively when a case of Scarlet Fever is free from infection, and it would appear to be quite possible, nay, probable, that any case of Scarlet Fever with or without primary complications is capable of transmitting the disease, even after a lengthened period of isolation, especially if certain conditions supervene, *e.g.*, sore throat or slight coryza.

With regard to the home treated cases two were discharged whilst suffering from Otorrhœa, and 2 subsequently developed Rhinitis.

There is no evidence that the prevalence of Scarlet Fever has any relation whatever to the sanitary condition of a district. It is a contact-spread disease kept alive by missed or unrecognised cases. The part which infected clothing and infected premises play in the spread of the disease has been, in my experience, very much exaggerated. My experience leads me to believe that infected clothing is but rarely the means of conveying infection. By infected clothing I would include only the clothing worn by one actually suffering. The amount of infection capable of being carried on clothes by reason of entering infected rooms is, I think, negligible. I judge of this from the experience of medical men. They are constantly in and out of infected rooms, and if the disease were at all commonly spread in the manner just indicated there must be evidence of it nearly every day. I have made special enquiries in over 500 consecutive cases of Scarlet Fever with a view to finding out whether it was possible that the doctor had conveyed infection to the house, and in only four instances had the doctor been in attendance at the house *before* the outbreak of the disease, and in each of these four it was *extremely unlikely*, to put it mildly, that the doctor had been the means of conveying the infection, much more probable sources being discovered in each case.

During the year, although the hospital was working at its utmost capacity, it was on rare occasions that we had to refuse admittance to suitable cases, and then only for a day or so.

There is a distinct tendency in these days for parents to shelve their responsibilities whenever possible. This is seen in regard to the isolation of Scarlet Fever patients in hospital. This isolation is not needed for the children of persons in good circumstances. The sufferers do as well, or better, at home, especially cases of a mild type. Indeed, I will go farther and say that in my opinion it is a mistake to send mild uncomplicated cases of Scarlet Fever to hospital where reasonable isolation can be provided at home. Mild cases in hospital are prone to get exacerbation of throat symptoms and to develop Rhinitis; some develop a second attack of the disease of greater intensity even than the first.

In the Appendix will be found a sample Chart, on which are placed the number of daily notifications, the milk supplies, and the schools attended, which enables me to see at a glance whether any of these causes are influencing the spread of the disease.

Diphtheria.

In 1909 the number of cases of Diphtheria notified was 57 (of which number 9 died), compared with 72 notifications in 1908 and 92 in 1907. The percentage of deaths to cases was 15.7. The distribution of the cases was as follows:—

Poulton-cum-Seacombe	19
Liscard	28
Wallasey	10

Although the number of cases notified was 15 less than in 1908 the number is still 5 above the average for the last ten years.

31 cases were admitted to Hospital, of which four died (12.9%).

There was no special incidence of the disease in any particular part or in any particular school. The cases were sporadic and scattered.

Of the 31 cases admitted to hospital as Diphtheria 6 were found on examination not to be Diphtheria. Of these 6 1 died.

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.

My experience is that, outside hospitals, the tendency is to give too small a dose.

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.

The following table gives some very useful information with respect to Diphtheria and Croup in this district since 1890.

Year.	Estimated Population Middle of Year.	Total No. of Cases Diphtheria and Croup.	No. of Deaths Registered Diphtheria and Croup.	Fatality per cent. of Cases.	No. of Cases treated in Hospital.	Attack Rate per 1,000 Population.	Percentage of Cases Removed to Hospital.	Mortality per 1,000 Population.
1890	34,000	...	3	...	...	...	...	0.09
1891	33,229 census	38	1	28.9	2	1.1	5.2	0.33
1892	34,500	34		17.6	3	1.0	8.8	0.16
1893	35,500	39	9	23.0	4	0.9	10.2	0.20
1894	37,000	35	9	25.6	10	0.9	28.5	0.24
1895	39,000	25	9	36.0	10	0.6	40.0	0.23
1896	41,500	35	6	17.1	8	0.8	22.8	0.14
1897	44,000	12	3	25.0	4	0.2	33.4	0.08
1898	46,800	32	5	15.1	12	0.6	37.5	0.10
1899	49,000	39	10	25.6	21	0.8	53.8	0.20
1900	52,000	28	3	10.7	8	0.5	28.5	0.06
1901	53,579 census	55	12	21.8	22	1.0	40.0	0.22
1902	55,000	40	5	12.5	20	0.7	50.0	0.09
1903	56,000	40	3	7.5	27	0.7	67.5	0.05
1904	57,000	55	12	21.8	33	0.9	54.5	0.21
1905	58,500	65	10	15.3	45	1.1	69.2	0.17
1906	62,000	58	12	20.7	30	0.9	51.7	0.19
1907	67,000	92	7	7.6	61	1.3	66.3	0.10
1908	71,000	72	8	11.0	50	1.0	69.4	0.11
1909	73,000	57	9	15.7	31	0.7	54.4	0.12

Typhoid.

The number of cases of Typhoid notified was 18, compared with 34 last year. The drop in the number of cases is quite remarkable, and a glance at the table which follows shows that 18 is by far the

smallest number of cases of Typhoid in any single year on record. This small number even gives a wrong view of the situation, since of the 13 cases that went to hospital notified as Typhoid, 5 were subsequently found not to be so suffering, and of those nursed at home, 2 at least contracted the disease outside the district, 1 of whom was a visitor.

There was a history of shellfish (oysters) having been eaten in one case, but whether the oysters were infected or came from a polluted source, it was not possible to ascertain.

No deaths occurred amongst those treated in hospital, and 2 only amongst those treated at home.

Deaths from Typhoid since 1887, with Rates.

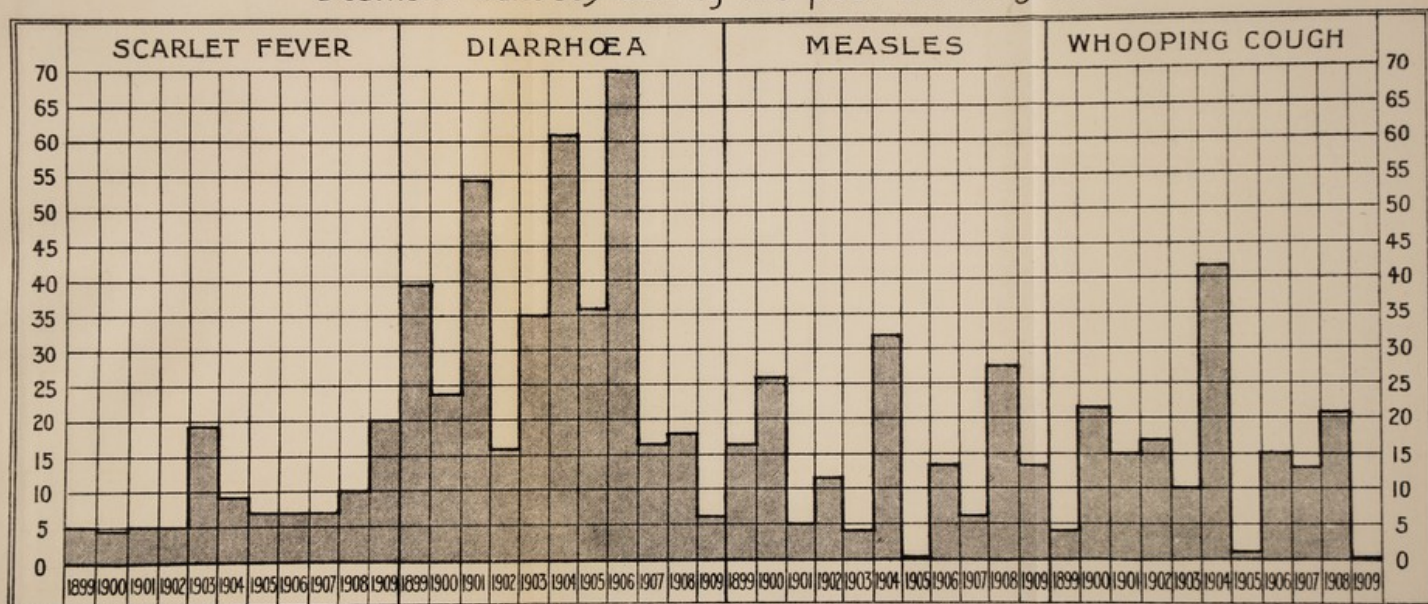
Year.	Deaths.	Wallasey Rate per 1,000.	Notified Cases.	English Rate.
1887	11	0.45	—	0.21
1888	9	0.28	—	0.19
1889	12	0.36	—	(Act passed in 1889) 0.19
1890	9	0.26	42	0.19
1891	20	0.59	77	0.18
1892	20	0.57	62	0.14
1893	23	0.64	132	0.24
1894	13	0.35	89	0.16
1895	8	0.20	67	0.17
1896	10	0.24	112	0.17
1897	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
1909	2	0.02	18	0.06

Measles.

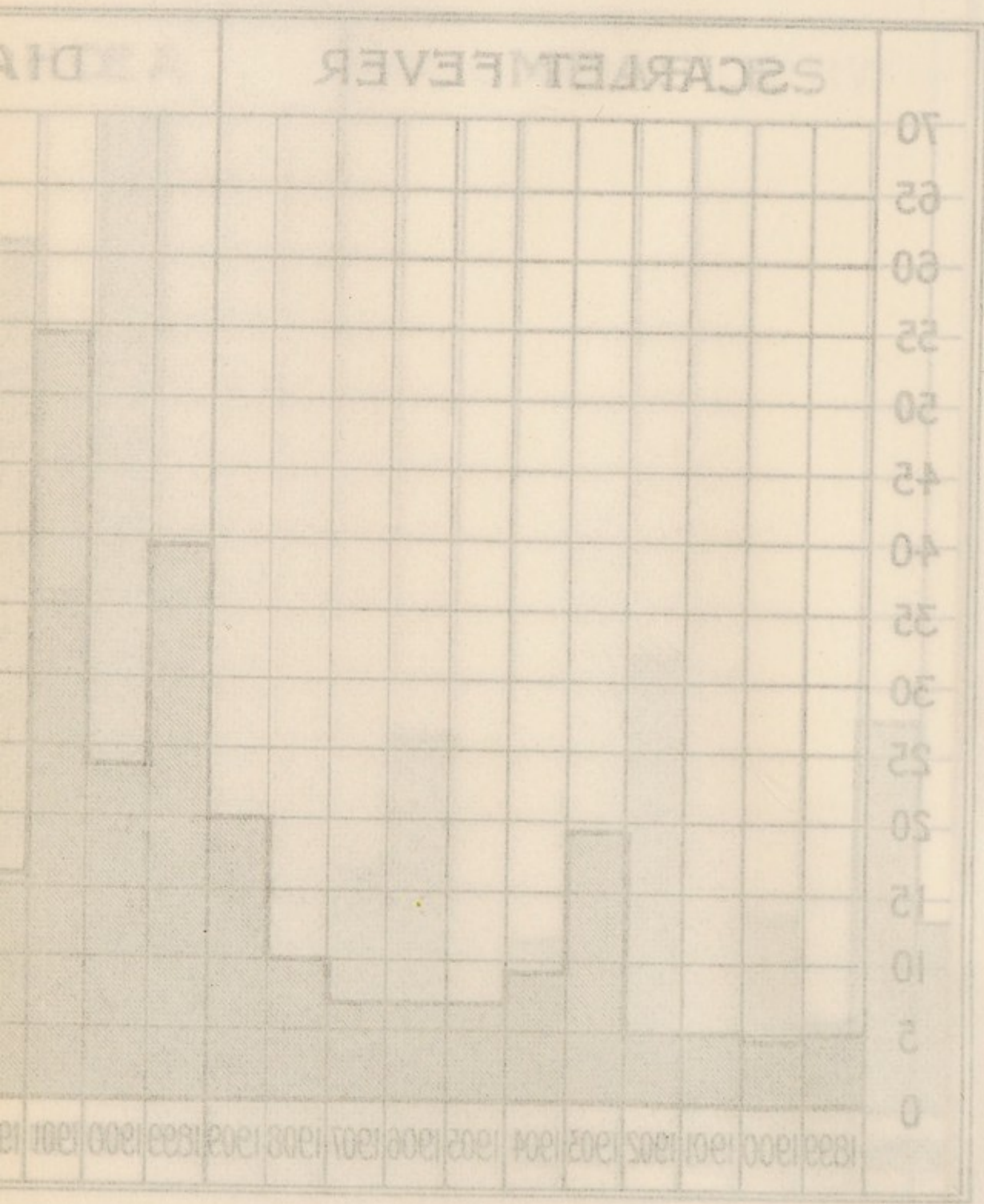
During the year 13 deaths occurred from Measles, equal to a rate per 1,000 living of 0.17.

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

Deaths in Wallasey during the past Eleven years.



W... the past Eleven y



Just before the summer holidays Measles was very prevalent in Poulton. In the autumn the disease also became very prevalent in Seacombe and Liscard, and between October and December it was found necessary to close the Infants' Departments of the following Schools owing to the incidence of the disease among the scholars :—

Riverside Council Schools.
 Manor Road Council Schools.
 St. Paul's Schools.
 Rock Schools, Magazine Lane.
 Somerville Council Schools.

Measles is looked upon by the public as a disease of no importance, and often no attempt is made to isolate a patient suffering therefrom, and, moreover, no care is taken of the patient. A disease cannot be looked upon as trifling which annually causes more deaths than Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid put together. Still, it will be agreed that, with proper care of those suffering, many deaths would be saved. While I am of opinion that with our present knowledge very little can be done to limit the spread of this disease, I am also of opinion that the majority of the deaths are preventable. I am pursuing enquiries into all deaths from Measles, and so far as I have gone they tend to show that home conditions are the determining factor in deciding the issue of the attack in the majority of instances. It is not common to find a death from Measles in houses of the better class.

Practically all the deaths from Measles occur below the age of five years. From a public health point of view it is an exceedingly unsatisfactory disease to deal with. Some Local Authorities advise notification, disinfection, and even part isolation in hospital, but on the other hand several towns that have had long experience in all these matters have given them up after a lengthened trial as having no effect on the incidence of the disease.

As many of the cases coming to my knowledge as possible are visited by the Lady Inspector, who advises according to circumstances, and leaves a leaflet giving instructions as to isolation, etc., a copy of which leaflet was bound with my last year's Report.

Whooping-Cough.

Not a single death from Whooping-Cough occurred during the year. This is an unique experience.

Only 13 cases were brought to my notice by the School Authorities during the year.

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, 1909.

School.	Measles.	Chicken-pox.	Whooping Cough.	Other Diseases.	Total.	Totals under "Other Diseases."					
						Mumps.	Scarlet.	Diphtheria.	Sore Throat.	German Measles.	Suspicious Sickness.
St. Paul's	11	9	—	16	36	12	4	—	—	—	—
St. Joseph's	6	7	—	12	25	6	6	—	—	—	—
Riverside	40	3	—	24	67	6	13	2	2	1	—
Wesleyan	1	—	—	11	12	2	9	—	—	—	—
Somerville	19	5	3	32	59	12	18	2	—	—	—
Poulton	13	4	1	5	23	—	5	—	—	—	—
St. Mary's	7	9	1	20	37	14	5	1	—	—	—
St. Alban's	2	6	—	7	15	1	6	—	—	—	—
Manor Road	33	7	1	53	94	27	25	—	—	1	—
Rake Lane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Magazine Lane	1	4	—	1	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
Egerton Street	3	7	—	2	12	—	2	—	—	—	—
S.S. Peter and Paul	—	2	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Vaughan Road	29	10	—	27	66	3	21	—	—	3	—
Wallasey	6	2	—	3	11	1	—	—	—	2	—
Total	171	75	6	214	466	84	116	5	2	7	—
DISTRICT TOTALS—											
Poulton-cum-Seacombe ...	90	28	4	100	222	38	55	4	2	1	—
Liscard	43	26	2	81	152	42	37	1	—	1	—
New Brighton	32	19	—	30	81	3	24	—	—	3	—
Wallasey	6	2	—	3	11	1	—	—	—	2	—
Total	171	75	6	214	466	84	116	5	2	7	—

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, 1909.

School.	Measles.	Chicken-pox.	Whooping Cough.	Other Diseases.	Total.	Totals under "Other Diseases."					
						Mumps.	Scarlet.	Diphtheria.	Sore Throat.	German Measles.	Suspicious Sickness.
St. Paul's	49	—	1	36	86	6	—	—	1	—	29
St. Joseph's	9	3	—	10	22	8	1	—	—	1	—
Riverside	16	2	—	64	82	43	19	—	1	—	1
Wesleyan	—	—	—	7	7	4	3	—	—	—	—
Somerville	51	—	—	52	103	37	8	—	5	—	2
Poulton	46	5	1	34	86	21	2	—	7	—	4
St. Mary's	7	1	4	26	38	26	—	—	—	—	—
St. Alban's	3	1	—	4	8	3	1	—	—	—	—
Manor Road	52	1	—	66	119	66	—	—	—	—	—
Rake Lane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Magazine Lane	28	3	—	7	38	3	1	—	1	—	2
Egerton Street	1	20	—	5	26	5	—	—	—	—	—
S.S. Peter and Paul	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vaughan Road	12	1	1	17	31	13	2	—	—	—	2
Wallasey	—	1	—	4	5	3	1	—	—	—	—
Total	274	38	7	332	651	238	38	—	15	1	40
DISTRICT TOTALS —											
Poulton-cum-Seacombe ...	171	10	2	203	386	119	33	—	14	1	36
Liscard	90	6	4	103	203	98	2	—	1	—	2
New Brighton	13	21	1	22	57	18	2	—	—	—	2
Wallasey	—	1	—	4	5	3	1	—	—	—	—
Total	274	38	7	332	651	238	38	—	15	1	40

TABLE III.
CASES VISITED.

	Total number visited.	Number found not suffering as reported.
Mumps	238	116
Measles	274	81
Chicken-Pox	38	5
Whooping Cough	7	2
Other Diseases	94	23
TOTAL	651	227

Schools.

The medical inspection of School Children in this district is not carried out under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, but the latter Officer and the School Medical Officer are in frequent consultation, and co-operate cordially.

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 summer of 1909 there was practically no Diarrhœa until the end of August, and after that date, in comparison with former years, the number of cases was exceedingly small. Six deaths in all were returned as being due to Diarrhœa, five of which were under the age of one year, viz. :—

1 between 2 and 3 months old.

3 between 3 and 4 months old.

1 between 5 and 6 months old.

All of these five were artificially fed.

In two houses where there were twin births one of the infants died in each case. In another case the mother asserted that the child had not had Diarrhœa, but that it had died from Pneumonia.

There can be no doubt that the meteorological conditions prevailing last summer have been the principal factor in limiting the mortality from Summer Diarrhœa, but it also should be borne in mind that, while last summer was by no means the only summer of recent years which has been cold and wet, and I am not aware that it was even the coldest and wettest, there still remains the gratifying fact that, in spite of the rapid increase in population, the number of deaths from Diarrhœa has never been so low. This would seem to show that the efforts made to encourage breast feeding, and to educate the people as to proper methods of feeding when breast feeding is impossible, and further, that the education of the public in the value of fresh air and in other elementary facts of hygiene, are having their due effect. I may repeat that the Lady Sanitary Inspector visits as many as possible of the births notified by the Registrar, encourages breast feeding, and gives advice where necessary on the feeding and management of children.

One constantly hears Summer Diarrhœa and Insanitation linked together as being interdependent wholly or in part.

I do not think the number of deaths from Summer Diarrhœa is any indication whatever as to the sanitary condition of a town, but rather is an indication as to the care and attention which mothers bestow upon their children, particularly with regard to the feeding of those children unable to be fed on the breast, either out of necessity, or unwillingness on the part of the mother.

Phthisis.

The deaths from Phthisis number 63, equal to a death-rate of 0.8 per 1,000 of the population, a rate much below that of the whole country. It should be noted, however, that low as this rate is, if the Phthisis rate is taken as affording any indication of the healthiness

of this particular district, it is a misleading figure, because, as a matter of fact, the good reputation of this district attracts people suffering from Phthisis to come and live here, in the hope of improving or curing their condition. Of the 63 deaths above referred to no less than 21, or exactly one-third of the deaths, occurred among people who had been resident in the place twelve months and under, and who had come to the district specially for the sake of their health. Three other deaths occurred amongst people similarly placed but who had been in the district two years and under.

Excluding these 24, our rate per 1,000 of population would be 0.5.

I may mention that these people came to the district from various parts of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Cheshire, but in that they did not die in public institutions their deaths have to be included amongst those belonging to this district. Of the total number of deaths, four died in the Workhouse Hospital.

Beyond the notification of cases coming under the cognizance of the Poor Law Authority no system of notification obtains in this district.

From the Union Infirmary we received 21 notifications (12 males and 9 females), and from the Local Poor Law Medical Officers 8 (4 males and 4 females). Of these, 1 has been notified by the Medical Officer of the Union twice, and another has been notified by both the Parish Doctor and the Medical Officer of the Infirmary. This leaves 27 cases notified (15 males and 12 females). In addition there have been 8 notifications of changes of address.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The following Table shows the number of notifications of Phthisis received during 1909, the sexes and the ages.

CASES NOTIFIED BY			SEXES.	Total Notifications.	AGE PERIODS.														
Union Infirmary M.O.	Local Poor Law M.O's.				Under													Over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	70
M.	F.		M.	F.	..	1	1	1	..	1	1	4	3	..	..	2	1	..	..
11	8		4	4	..	..	3	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	1	1
19*			8	27*	..	1	4	1	..	2	2	6	4	..	1	3	1	1	1

(* In addition 2 persons were notified twice.)

DEATHS

Table showing the number of deaths from Phthisis of residents and non-residents in the district and in the Union Infirmary, and showing also the sexes and the ages.

DEATHS OF WALLASEY RESIDENTS IN			SEXES.	DEATHS OF NON-RESIDENTS IN	AGE PERIODS.														
Wallasey.	Tranmere Hospital.				Under													Over	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	70
M.	F.		M.	F.	..	..	..	1	4	3	5	2	3	3	3	5	1	2	2
21	15		2	2	..	..	1	2	..	4	9	4	2	2	2	1	2	..	..
36			4	23	..	..	1	3	4	7	14	6	5	5	5	6	3	2	2

In 6 instances it was found that their last address as given by the patients on admission to the Workhouse Hospital was incorrect. These occurred mostly in the beginning of the year, and probably are accounted for by the fact that the people referred to had been in the hospital for some considerable time.

The cases notified included two brothers. Four deaths subsequently occurred amongst those notified from the Workhouse Hospital.

Formerly disinfection in this district was carried out only after death on the request of the medical attendant. Latterly it has been the practice to disinfect after every death which has been registered. The method of disinfection is as follows: The infected rooms are sprayed with a strong solution of formalin, and the bedding and clothing taken away to be disinfected by steam. Permission is asked from the landlord to strip the paper from the walls of the infected room. 62 houses or parts of houses were during 1909 disinfected, and 23 rooms stripped. Bedding, etc., was disinfected in 35 instances, other bedding was destroyed in 5 instances, and in 24 instances the disinfection could not be carried out, or was not considered necessary because of the short time in which the patient had lived in the house (sometimes only a single night).

Perhaps I might refer here to a difficulty in regard to the disinfection of some houses where Phthisis patients have lived. It is a well known fact that the poor frequently change their houses. When the poor person happens to be afflicted with Phthisis and constantly changes his address, as has been found to be the case in several instances here, he rarely or never notifies the Sanitary Authority of his change of address. The consequence is that on a re-visit being made to his house, the patient is found to have gone, leaving no address, and possibly there is a new tenant in the house. The latter will, naturally, object to have the house disinfected without any reason being assigned for the disinfection, especially if some little time has elapsed since his entry into the house; and if the reason

be given, it is quite possible that the tenant will become frightened and leave, thereby injuring the landlord.

I may mention that in this district two Registers are kept with regard to Phthisis. One is a House Register, in which it is noted whether or not disinfection and cleansing are carried out at a house after the occurrence of a case there, and the other is a Case Register giving certain particulars regarding the case, patient's changes of address, and so forth. The fact may not be of great value, owing to the small number of enquiries yet made, but it is perhaps worth noting, that up to date I have not come across an instance in which two cases belonging to different families have occurred in one house, in other words, in which a possibly infected house may have given rise to the disease.

RESULT OF ENQUIRIES—FAMILY HISTORY.

In 57 instances no previous history of Phthisis among actual members of the family could be ascertained.

„ 13	„	one member of the family had died of Phthisis.
„ 8	„	two members „ „ „ „
„ 3	„	three members „ „ „ „
„ 2	„	five members „ „ „ „
„ 1	„	eleven members „ „ „ „
„ 1	„	thirteen members „ „ „ „
„ 3	„	a grandparent was said to have died of Phthisis.

These figures show that a history of a previous death in a family from Phthisis occurred in 35.2 per cent. of the cases.

The foregoing Table has reference to 88 persons, and includes notifications as well as deaths of Phthisis patients.

Enquiries also showed that in 12 instances other members of the family were at present suffering, or supposed to be suffering, from Phthisis. This is equal to 13.6 per cent. of the cases.

In the following instances a very probable source of infection was discovered.

One patient traced her illness to nursing and sleeping with a friend who died from Phthisis, and in another instance a patient who died was found to have nursed for several months a brother-in-law who had died from Phthisis two years previously. In the third instance the patient had been in service with a consumptive lady two years prior to onset.

COMMENCEMENT OF ILLNESS.

Enquiries have also been made with a view to ascertaining the probable date of onset of the disease.

In 13 instances the illness *was said* to have commenced less than a year prior to notification or death.

„ 16	„	between 12 and 18 months	„	„	„	„
„ 3	„	between 18 months and 2 years	„	„	„	„
„ 13	„	between 2 and 3 years	„	„	„	„
„ 13	„	between 3 and 4 years	„	„	„	„
„ 4	„	between 4 and 5 years	„	„	„	„
„ 6	„	between 5 and 6 years	„	„	„	„
„ 3	„	between 6 and 7 years	„	„	„	„
„ 3	„	between 7 and 8 years	„	„	„	„
„ 3	„	between 8 and 9 years	„	„	„	„
„ 1	„	between 10 and 11 years	„	„	„	„

In the remaining instances the date of commencement of illness could not be ascertained.

ALCOHOL.

The enquiries with respect to the use or abuse of alcohol in each case gave the following results:—

Intemperate, or heavy drinkers	.. .. .	31
Moderate drinkers	.. .. .	32
Abstainers	.. .. .	18
Not ascertainable	.. .. .	4

HABITS.

Enquiries were made in each case as to the “tubercular” habits of the patient, viz., whether the sputum was burnt, and whether due precautions were being taken to prevent the infection of others. In 13 instances the patients were said to be of dirty habits, in five fairly

clean, in two careless, whilst in the remaining 70 cases, so far as could be ascertained, the patients took every precaution.

The sanitary conditions prevailing were as follows. The points particularly noted were, whether the houses or rooms were dark, damp or dirty.

In 11 instances the houses were damp or dark, or both, and in two instances were dirty only. In one instance the house was built on a damp site.

The following table shows the occupations, so far as could be ascertained, of the Phthisis cases, notified or fatal, that occurred during 1909.

General labourers	..	..	..	..	6
Scavenger	..	..	..	..	1
Warehouse labourers	..	..	..	..	2
Quarryman	..	..	..	..	1
Gardener	..	..	..	..	1
Night watchman	..	..	..	..	1
Plumber	..	..	..	..	1
Cooper	..	..	..	..	1
Bootmaker	..	..	..	..	1
Upholsterer	..	..	..	..	1
Apprentice	..	..	..	..	1
Shop Assistants	..	..	..	..	5
Clerks, etc.	..	..	..	..	7
Sailors	..	..	..	..	2
Canal pilot	..	..	..	..	1
Railway porter	..	..	..	..	1
Hotel employees	..	..	..	..	4
Vanmen, drivers, etc.	..	..	..	..	2
Travellers, etc.	..	..	..	..	2
Domestic Servants	..	..	..	..	3
Charwomen	..	..	..	..	2
Laundrywomen	..	..	..	..	2
Wives	..	..	..	..	24
School Children	..	..	..	..	6
Midwife	..	..	..	..	1
Clerk in Holy Orders	..	..	..	..	1
Mineral Sampler	..	..	..	..	1
Independent means or no occupation	..	..	..	..	6

Deaths from Phthisis in Wallasey since 1901.

YEAR.	M	F	Under 1		1 to 5.		5 to 15.		15 to 25.		25 to 65.		65 & over.		Poulton-cum-Seacombe	Liscard.	Wallasey.	Deaths in Work-house.	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				M	F
1901..	33	26	-	-	2	7	48	2	29	27	3	6							
1902..	36	33	-	1	1	12	55	-	33	28	8	7							
1903..	29	29	-	-	2	7	46	3	19	37	2	6							
1904..	30	28	-	1	5	10	38	4	24	26	8	7							
1905..	24	19	-	3	2	8	29	1	22	19	2	3							
1906..	45	24	2	7	2	11	45	2	31	31	7	12							
1907..	34	25	1	1	2	10	45	-	23	33	3	5 | 1							
1908..	36	22	-	-	2	4	49	3	24	28	6	7 | 4							
1909..	34	29	-	-	0 | 1	5 | 2	25 | 26	4 | 0	28	28	7	2 | 2							

Deaths from "Other Tuberculous Diseases" in Wallasey since 1901.

YEAR.	M	F	Under 1.		1 to 5.		5 to 15.		15 to 25.		25 to 65.		65 & over.		Poulton-cum-Seacombe	Liscard.	Wallasey.	Deaths in Work-house.	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F					
1901..	7	2	2	2	1	1	3	-	7	1	1	1							
1902..	8	4	-	3	1	2	5	1	6	4	2	1							
1903..	10	7	6	3	2	2	4	-	3	9	5	1							
1904..	9	8	5	3	4	1	4	-	6	9	2	-							
1905..	7	6	3	4	2	1	3	-	7	6	-	1							
1906..	12	8	3	8	4	2	3	-	10	7	3	-							
1907..	27	8	11	6	6	3	8	1	18	17	-	2							
1908..	35		10	8	4	4	8	1	18	16	1	1							
1909..	34		13	13	-	6	2	-	14	17	3	2							

The value of the above particulars in throwing light on the local incidence of Phthisis will be much enhanced when in future years the total number of cases enquired into is large enough to found definite opinions upon. The Order of the Local Government Board enjoining the notification of all cases coming under the cognizance of the Poor Law to Sanitary Authorities is, in my opinion, a very excellent measure, and one which in many districts will, for practical administrative purposes, provide all the information which is necessary. I have always thought that the general practitioner was the person in whose power it lay principally to give the necessary instructions to people whereby they are enabled to prevent themselves from becoming a

source of danger to their neighbours. No doubt this is always done to the better classes—in short, the people who would resent the interference of the Sanitary Authority. The poorer classes are those to whom suitable advice is, perhaps, not always given, and this is the class amongst which the efforts of the Sanitary Authority will largely lie. This Order, to my mind, removes the question as to the desirability of adopting the voluntary notification of Phthisis. My previous experience of that procedure has not impressed me favourably. In the County Borough where I had six years experience of its working, in the first half year 22 cases were notified; in the following twelve months 22 cases, and a decreasing number each year until in the last year only eight cases were notified. Many of these cases were notified after death, a quite useless procedure so far as I was concerned, because, the information would have been conveyed to me within a few days in the ordinary course of events through the death returns; and, as a matter of fact, was so sometimes conveyed before I received the notification. Moreover, the cases which were notified were just those which are now notified through the Poor Law, not the better class patients—these were sometimes notified *after death*, simply for disinfection to be carried out. I think the fear of the general practitioner that the notification of Phthisis puts a patient under a ban is a very real one. I did not think so at one time, but several cases which have come under my personal observation have convinced me that my first impression was wrong. The Compulsory Notification of Phthisis may be necessary in some manufacturing towns, but now that the cases coming to the knowledge of the Poor Law officials are notified, I do not think its general adoption is advisable or necessary.

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 regularly visited.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK DONE UNDER THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

Routine Visits paid to Midwives' Houses, Inspection of Bags, Cases, Books, etc.	205
Enquiries <i>re</i> Still-born Children	22
Other Enquiries	33
<hr/>	
Total Visits paid under the Midwives' Act	260

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

Records of sending for Medical Help (<i>See Table below</i>)	56
Notifications of Still-births	22
Death of Children before Attendance of a Medical Practitioner	4
Cases of Puerperal Fever attended by Midwives ..	1
Cases of other Infectious Diseases notified by Midwives	0

The following is a list of the causes for which Medical Help was sought in the 56 cases mentioned above :—

Protracted Labour	8
Retained Placenta	7
Instrumental aid	8
Prematurity	6
Rise of Temperature	4
Post-partum Hæmorrhage	3
Laceration of Perineum	3
Placenta prævia	3
Inflamed Eyelids	2
Abnormal Presentation	5
Convulsions in Infant	2
Various	5
<hr/>	
Total	56

Under Section 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	—
Change of Address	14
Death of Midwives	—
Notice of intention to cease practice ..	—

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

There are 48 Midwives on the Roll, two of whom cannot write. Their registers are on the whole kept well.

The total number of cases attended by Midwives was 940.

It was not found necessary to report a Midwife to the Local Supervising Authority for any breach of the rules during the year. In 11 instances, however, I interviewed and warned Midwives for slight irregularities which did not appear to me to be gross enough to warrant reporting them; for instance, the reason for one warning was that the Midwife had assisted in laying out the dead—a practice which she undertook to discontinue for the future.

Mill Lane Hospital.

SUMMARY OF CASES TREATED IN 1909.

Disease.	Remain- ing at end of 1908.	Admitted during 1909.	Discharged during 1909.	Died during 1909.	Remaining at end of 1909.	Average resi- dence in days.
SCARLET FEVER	38	495	479	14	40	47.6
Cases admitted to Hospital as, but sub- sequently found not to be, Scarlet Fever.. <small>See note below.</small>	...	12	12	...	...	...
DIPHTHERIA	3	25	21	4	3	24.4
Cases admitted to Hospital as, but sub- sequently found not to be, Diphtheria ..	...	6	5	1	...	...
ENTERIC FEVER	2	7	8	...	1	42.9
Cases admitted to Hospital as, but sub- sequently found not to be, Enteric Fever	...	6	5	...	1	...
ERYSIPELAS .. ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
OTHER ADMISSIONS ..	...	7	6	1	...	9.7
TOTAL	43	558	536	20	45	...

NOTE.—These 12 cases were isolated and no harm resulted. In addition there were 12 cases which developed definite secondary attacks in hospital. This presumes that the disease for which they were admitted was a primary attack and not some other disease, which in some instances was, to say the least, doubtful.

For the purpose of comparison the following table shows the number of admissions of patients notified as suffering from the various diseases during the years 1902 to 1909:—

Disease.	Cases admitted during the year							
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Small Pox	127	25	5	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	99	309	170	227	178	188	174	507
Diphtheria	20	27	33	45	30	61	49	31
Enteric Fever.....	46	31	24	48	48	24	25	13
Erysipelas	1	3	3	5	3	3	—	—
Membranous Croup	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
Other Diseases	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	7
Totals.....	294	397	239	328	263	279	253	558

The Hospital has worked at high pressure throughout the year, and the Matron and Staff deserve the highest commendation for the way in which they have met the demands upon them.

Vaccination Return for Wallasey from the 1st July, 1908 to the 30th June, 1909.

(Supplied by the Vaccination Officer.)

Successfully Vaccinated	1,433
Died before Vaccination	118
Insusceptible	17
Conscientious Objections.. .. .	70
Postponed by Medical Certificate.. .. .	42
Removed, Traced, and Vaccination Officers notified	30
Not found, or removed to places unknown	57
Not Vaccinated or otherwise accounted for	45
Total Number of Births Registered	1,812

The number of Certificates and Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection received during 1909 is 66, compared with 77 during 1908.

Meteorological Table.

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

1909.	Mean Barometer. in.	TEMPERATURE.		RAINFALL.	
		Mean. of 20 years. °	Difference from Mean °	Amount. in.	Difference from Mean for 40 years. in.
January ..	30.103	39.1	-0.1	1.414	- 0.780
February ..	30.133	38.4	-2.9	0.514	- 1.207
March ..	29.506	39.3	-2.9	2.402	+ 0.644
April ..	29.923	48.3	+1.0	2.096	+ 0.485
May ..	30.079	52.4	+0.6	1.242	- 0.673
June ..	29.985	53.6	-3.8	2.538	+ 0.508
July ..	29.886	58.5	-2.2	3.122	+ 0.436
August ..	29.979	59.1	-1.4	2.450	- 0.538
September ..	30.040	54.3	-1.9	2.430	- 0.476
October ..	29.720	51.0	+1.4	3.367	- 0.221
November ..	30.023	42.7	-0.5	0.884	- 1.745
December ..	29.610	40.5	+0.6	5.988	+ 3.414
		48.1	-1.0	28.447	- 0.153

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 1909.

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	1.91	.28	14th
February .. ..	.84	.35	9th
March	2.39	.54	24th
April	2.95	.40	24th
May	1.26	.34	24th
June	2.37	.54	22nd
July	3.86	.66	15th
August	2.54	.67	17th
September	3.04	1.06	28th
October	4.96	.75	4th
November	1.04	.16	29th
December	6.08	1.30	3rd
Total	33.24		203

During the year some meteorological instruments were fixed in the Marine Park, New Brighton, namely, a rain gauge, maximum and minimum thermometers, and a sunshine recorder. In next year's Report will be incorporated a summary of our own observations.

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.

Ashpit Abolition.

A special effort has been made during the year to deal with nuisances arising from defective and offensive ashpits. A large number of notices have been issued requiring the abolition of insanitary pits and the substitution therefor of galvanized iron ashbins, in accordance with Section 77 of the Wallasey Tramways and Improvements Act, 1906.

²³⁴ 322 pits have been dealt with this year, giving an increase of ~~88~~ as compared with those abolished last year.

In two instances only the agents objected to carry out the work, and in these cases it was necessary to issue fourteen informations. Before the hearing, however, the respective owners agreed to carry out the necessary works, and the summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse.

On Page 6 of this Report is set out the number of ashpits and ashbins there are in this district.

It was formerly the practice in this district for the nightsoil men to be supplied with a so-called disinfectant powder, a handful of which was thrown into the pits or bins after emptying the contents into the cart. This process was called "disinfecting the bin!" At the same time it was the custom when gullies were cleaned, for a handful of the same substance to be cast over and into the gully, most of it, I am afraid, into the channel. This also was supposed to have some disinfecting action. After a report from me both practices were discontinued. I have been the recipient of many letters from members of the public asking why the disinfection (save the mark!) of the bins has been discontinued. Others have asked that the bins should be washed instead of disinfected. I have pointed out to several that the condition of the ashpit or ashbin depends on the method of use, and if an ashbin smells it is due to the fact that unsuitable material is put into it. I have also pointed out that an ashbin properly used does not require disinfection or even a deodorant. In the appendix will be found a copy of a handbill which is left at each house in the district with regard to the manner of use of ashpits and ashbins. With regard to the washing of the bins it appears to me that people might with equal reason ask the Sanitary Authority to undertake the washing of children's faces. It has more than once been prophesied that the stopping of the practice of throwing this disinfectant powder promiscuously about would have very serious effects on the public health. These prophesies as you will have found on reading the preceding pages have altogether been falsified. The public are so inundated with advertisements of disinfectants, as to what they will do (there is nothing they will not do), that the practice of disinfection is in danger of falling into disrepute. The usefulness of disinfectants is strictly limited, and when they take the place of soap and water and cleanliness, as I fear there is danger of their doing, their use is fraught with grave danger. Disinfectants in the hands of ignorant people are quack remedies. Many of them are themselves useless, while others, which may be good, are rendered useless by their manner of use.

Part 2.—GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Insanitary Property.

A large amount of work has been done during the year to improve the housing conditions prevailing in some parts of 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, 31 in number, viz. :—

1 to 5, and 6, 7 and 8, Hope Place, Wallasey Road.
5 Houses, Marine Parade, Birkenhead Road.
1 and 2, Shore Cottages, Magazine Lane.
4, 6 and 8, Wallasey Road.
225, Wallasey Village.
1, 2 and 3, Garden Cottages, Wallasey Village.
1, 2 and 3, Elm Grove.
191a, 191b and 192, Wheatland Lane.
20, School Lane.
2, Higher Seacombe.
“ Rose Cottage,” Poulton.

10 Closing Orders were obtained during the year in respect of the following, viz. :—

5 Houses, Marine Parade, Birkenhead Road.
6, 7 and 8, Victoria Grove.
27 and 29, Mersey Street.

Of the above 31 houses, 10 have been demolished, namely :—

- 1, 2 and 3, Elm Grove.
- 5 houses, Marine Parade, Birkenhead Road.
- 27 and 29, Mersey Street
- (27 Mersey Street was demolished by the Council.)

In addition there have been 4 demolitions of houses that were represented in 1908, namely, 49 to 55, Mersey Street. These were all demolished by the Council.

The owner of the two houses, 191a and 191b, Wheatland Lane, is under an agreement to demolish by the end of March. No. 192 is to be made habitable.

The following houses have been permanently closed :—

- No. 1, Higher Seacombe.
- “ Rose Cottage,” Poulton.
- 20, School Lane, Wallasey.

In addition five houses represented in 1908, which were under an agreement to close at the end of March last, have been so closed, viz. :—

- Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, Back Sutton Cottages.

Nos. 6, 7 and 8, Hope Place have been converted into workshops.

The owners of the following houses are under agreement to close at the end of March, 1910, viz. :—

- 1 to 5, Hope Place.
- 1 and 3, Shore Cottages, Magazine Lane.
- 4, 6 and 8, Wallasey Road.
- 225, Wallasey Village.
- 1, 2 and 3, Garden Cottages, Wallasey Village.

The houses 6, 7 and 8, Victoria Grove have undergone very extensive repair. The tenants were turned out and the houses thoroughly gutted. Increased yard space, separate w.c.'s and washing boilers for each house have now been provided in addition.

It will be noticed that a large proportion of this work has been done by agreement. In only three instances, relating to ten houses,

has it been found necessary to appear at the Police Court. Beyond the expense of demolishing five houses the work has not entailed any cost whatever upon the ratepayers.

In the work in regard to insanitary property there has always been kept in view the fact that any work of demolition must not be done too rapidly, so that hardships may not be inflicted on tenants by their being unable to find suitable houses in the time at their disposal.

The following photographs show samples of old houses which have been condemned in various parts of the district during 1909, and which I hope will serve the double purpose (1) of illustrating the peculiar structures which were allowed to be occupied as dwellings in days gone by, and (2) of being available for future reference.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

A Special Report on the advisability of erecting workmen's dwellings was presented by me to the Health Committee in the early part of the year, a copy of which is included in the Appendix of this Report.

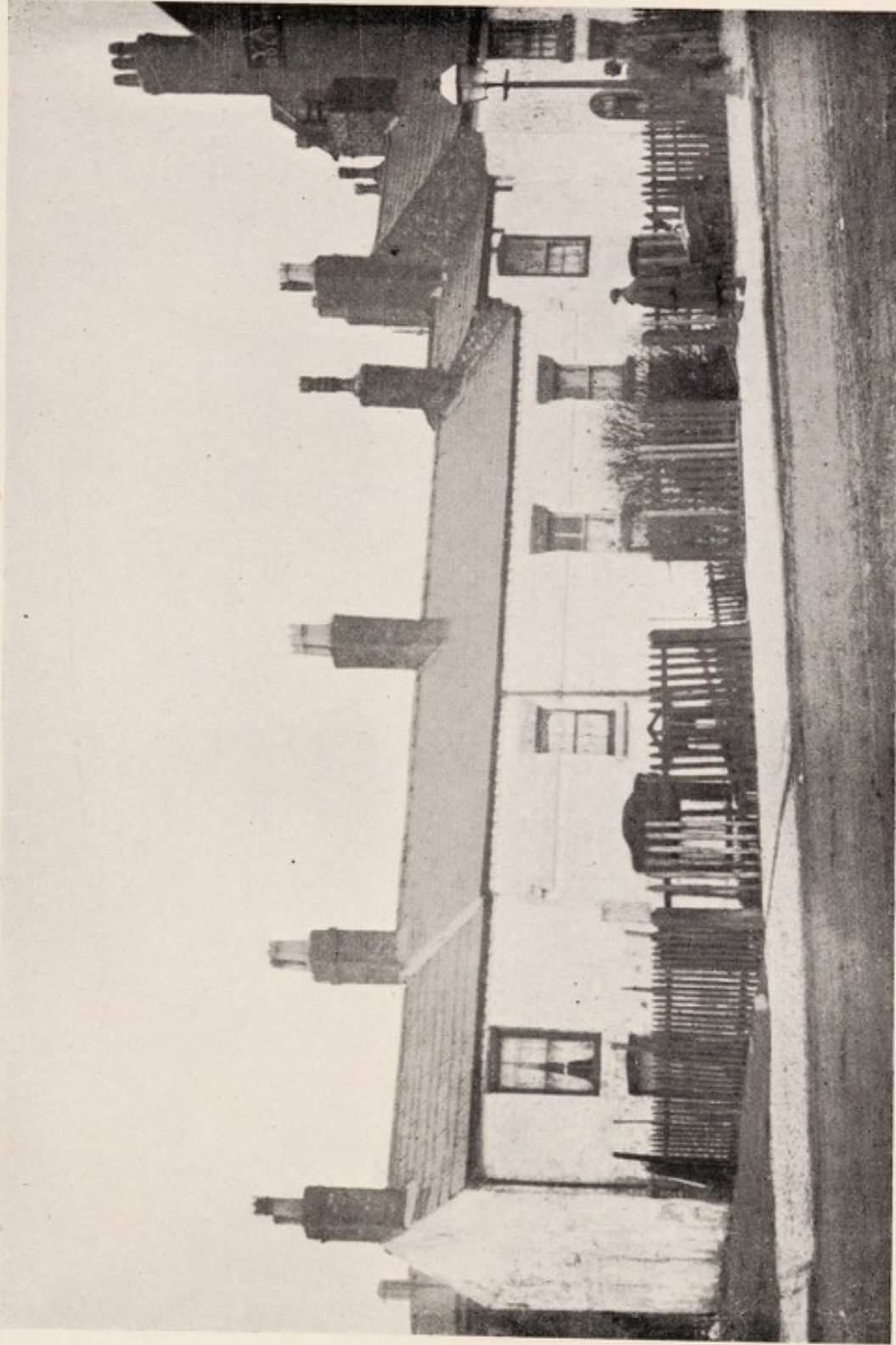
Sub-Let Houses.

There are 52 sub-let houses on the Register. These houses have been regularly supervised throughout the year.

809 visits have been paid by the Inspectors.

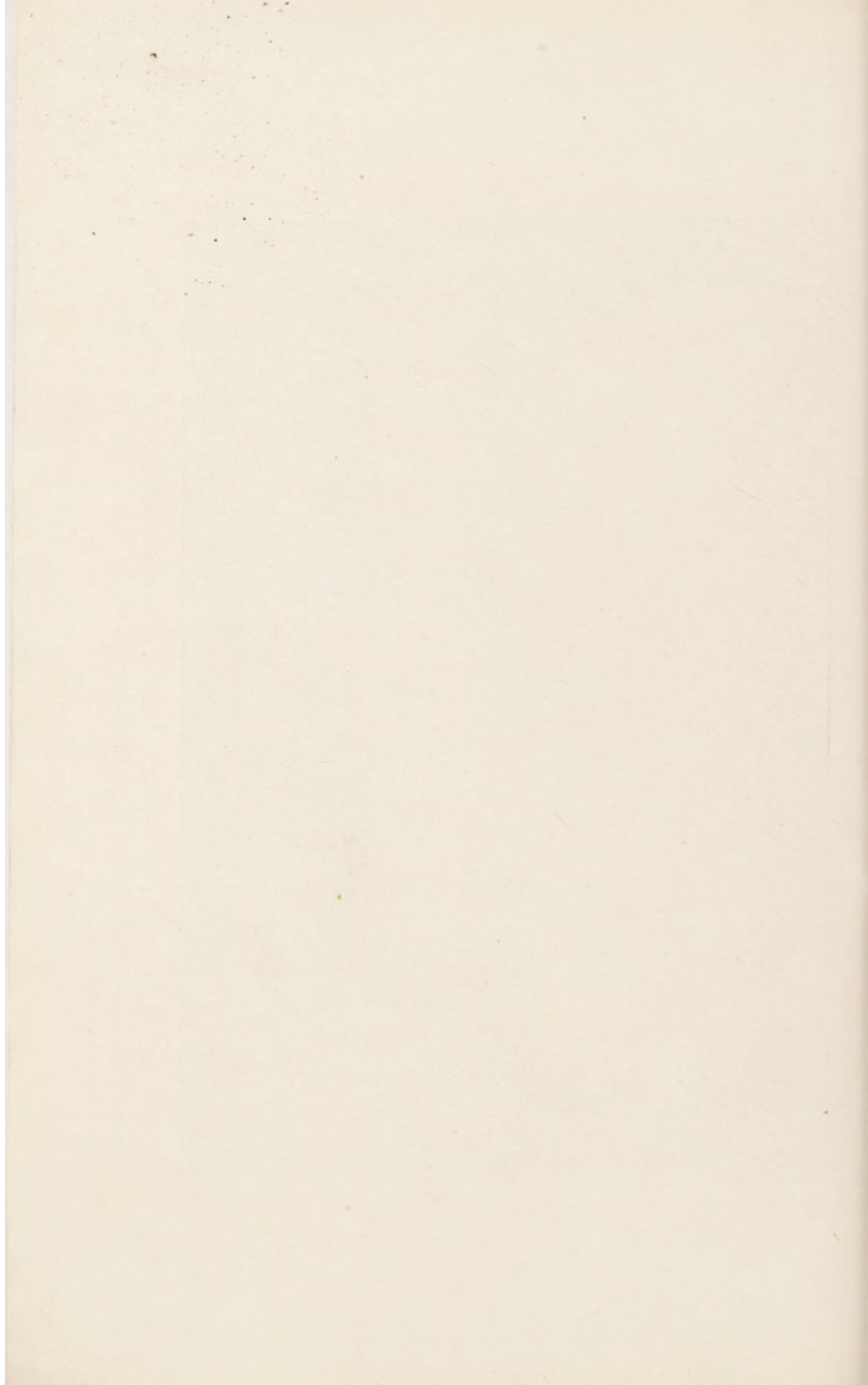
It is exceedingly difficult to keep a proper Register of these houses, as the people inhabiting them are continually changing, and what would be an accurate Register one day would not be so seven days afterwards.

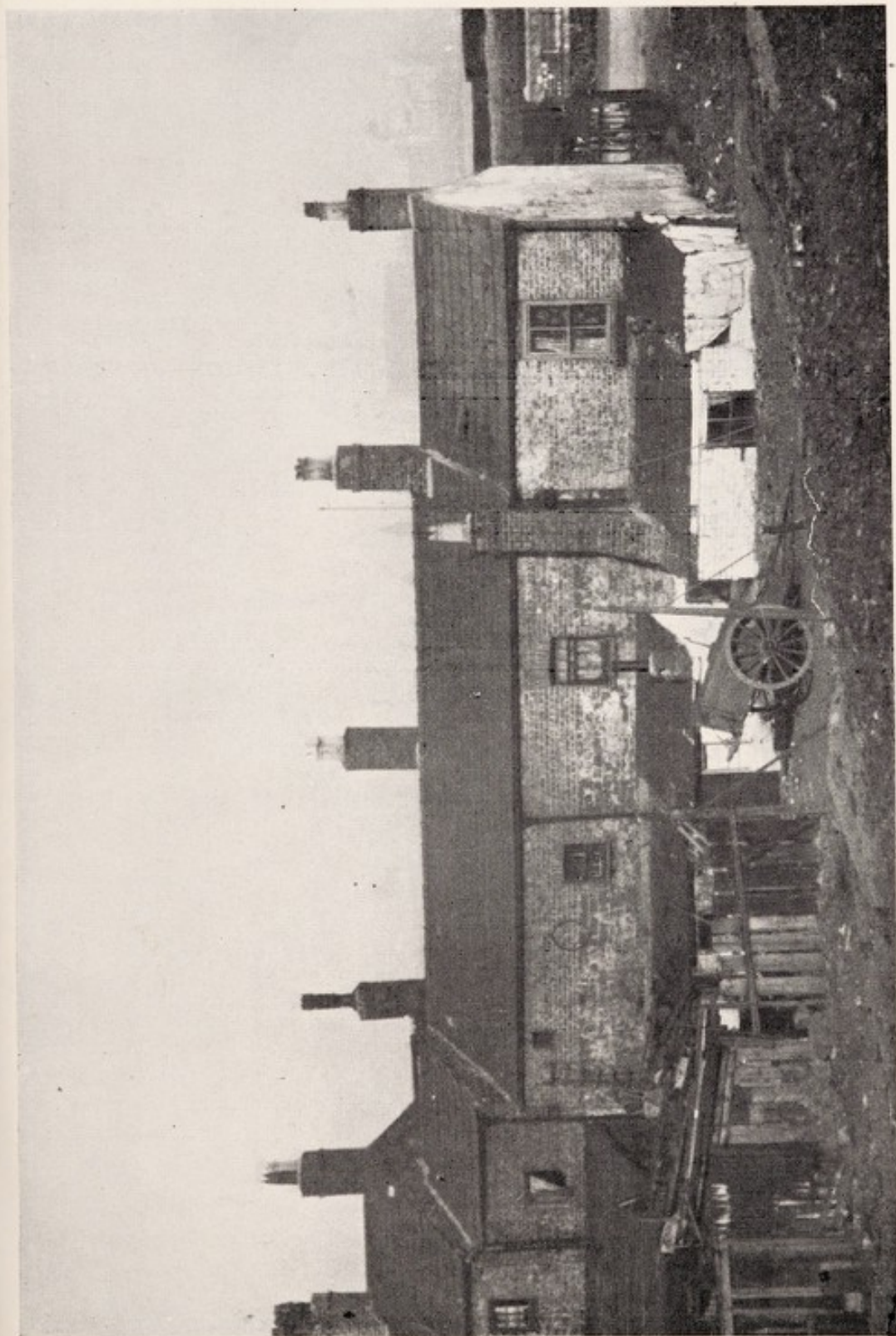
For contraventions of the Bye-laws 28 notices have been served, 26 of which were complied with. It was found necessary to prosecute



NO. 1.—FRONT OF COTTAGES, MARINE PARADE, BIRKENHEAD ROAD.

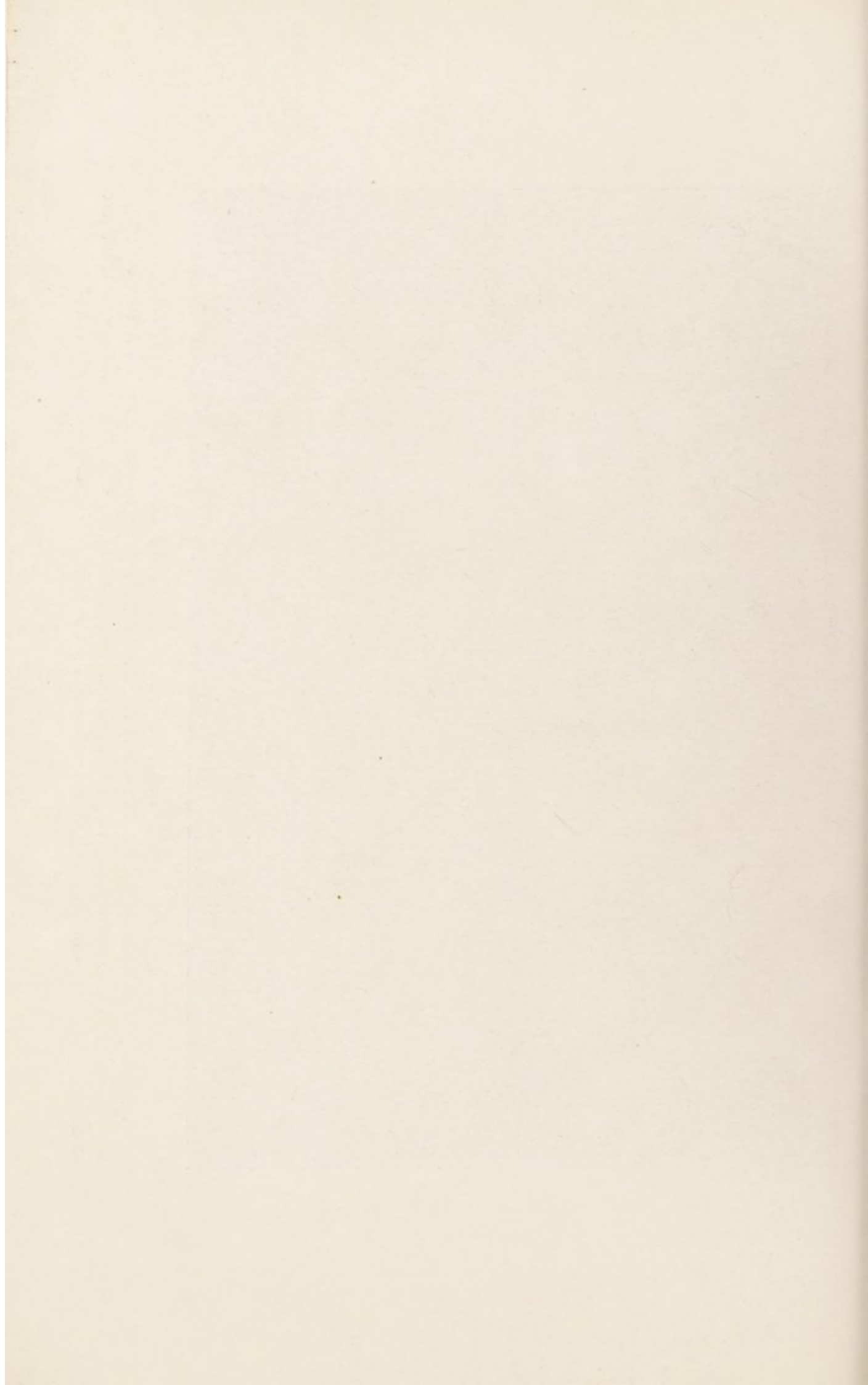
Houses lie in a hollow, consequently during heavy rains the houses are flooded. Note also the height of ground above the floor of house at the gable end.

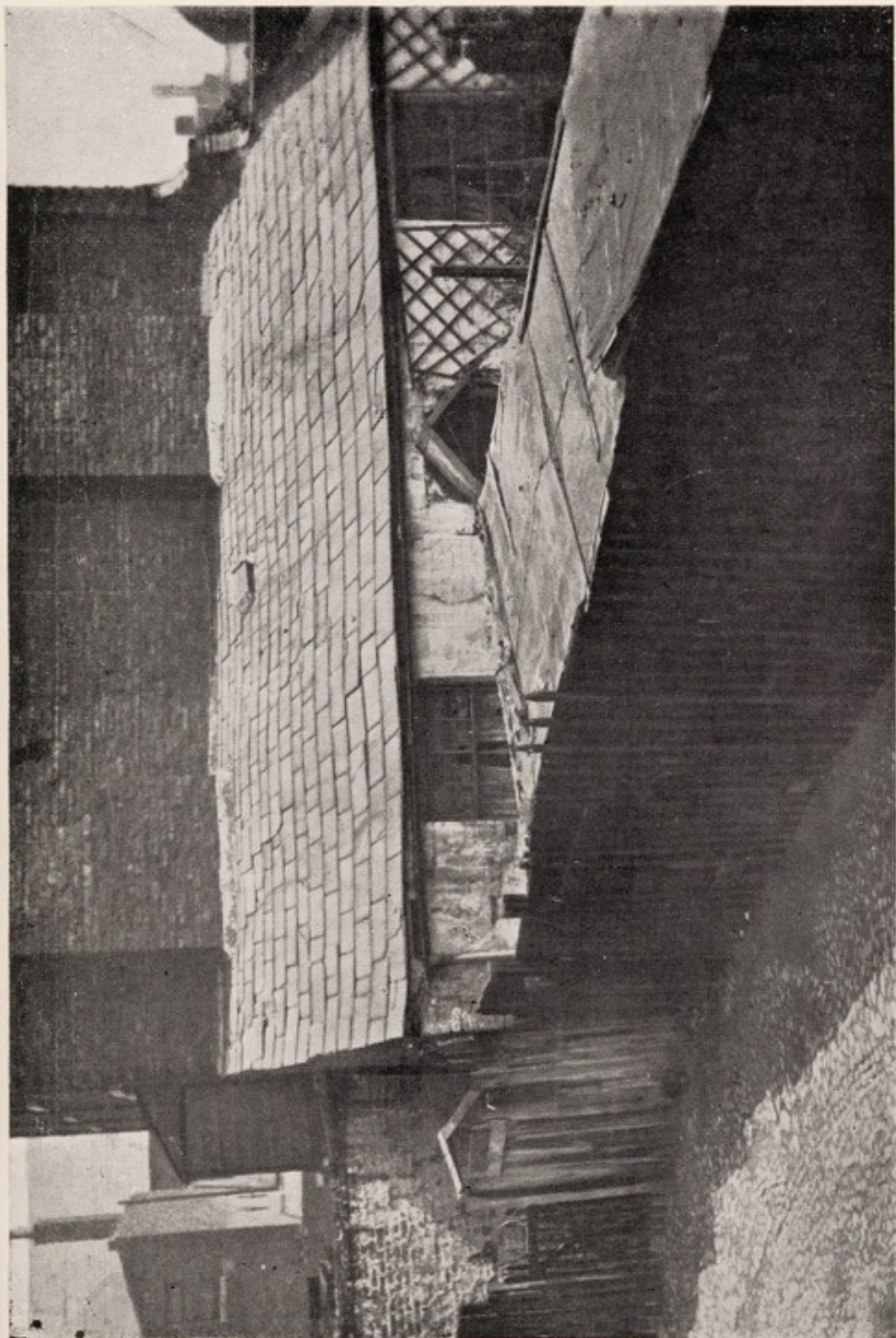




NO. 2.—REAR OF MARINE PARADE, BIRKENHEAD ROAD.

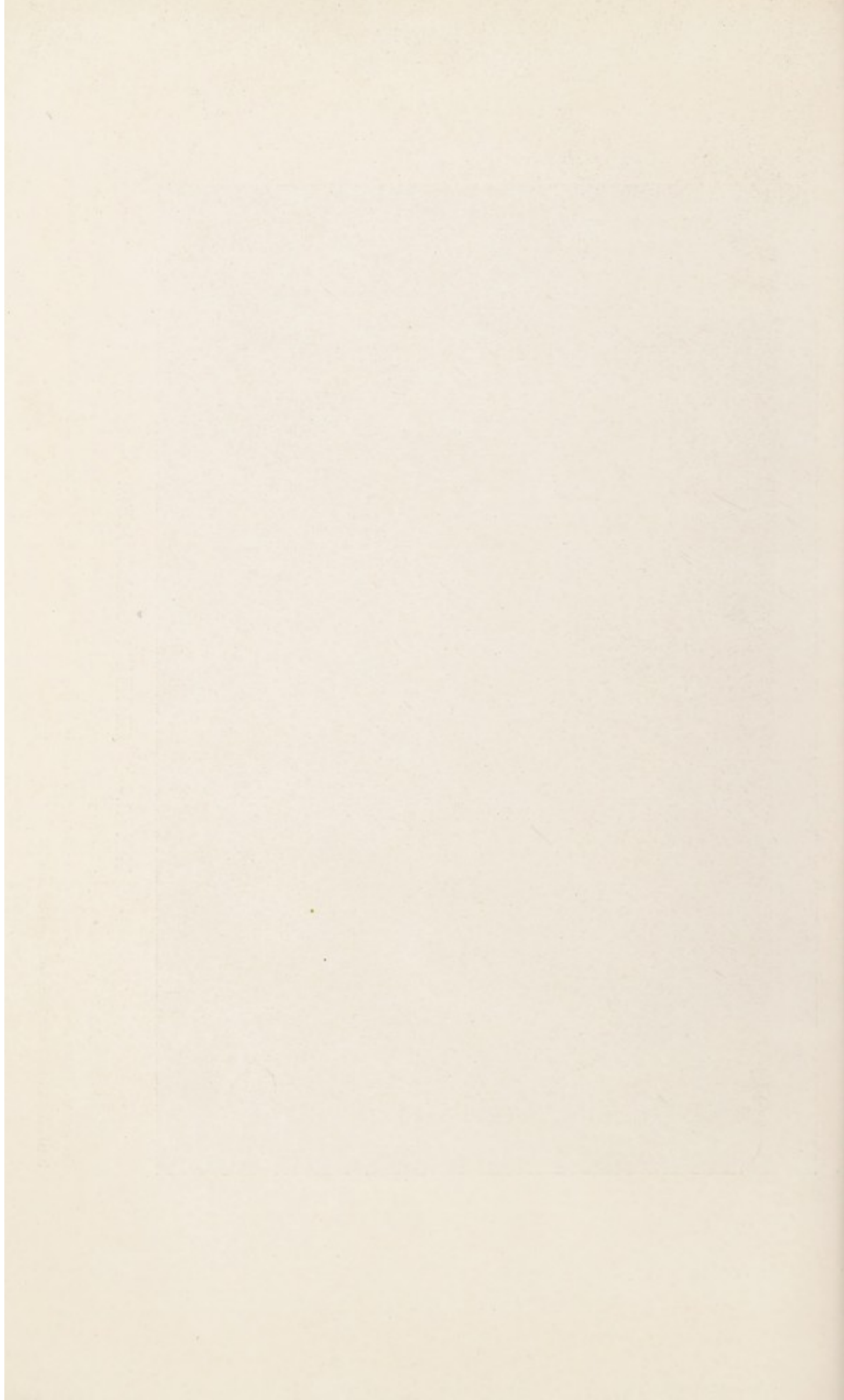
Surface of ground adjoining the end house is at the level of the scullery window, 3 feet above floor of cottage. Note number of dilapidated temporary erections, in most of which animals were kept. The W.C.'s for the houses are situated on the extreme left, about 30 yards distant from the houses, they are not shown in the photograph.





NO. 3.—2 HIGHER SEACOMBE.

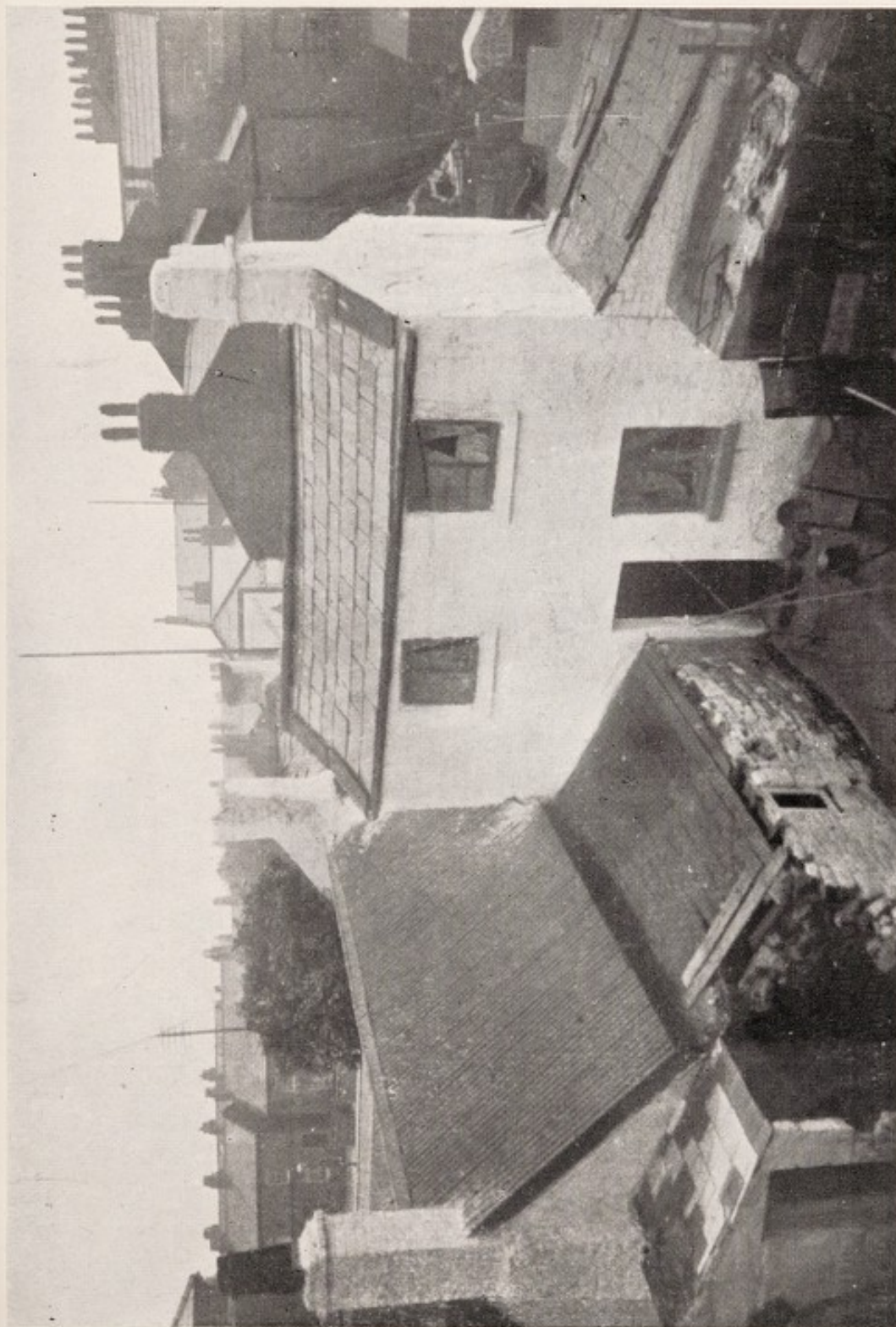
This is practically a lean-to erection against the gable end of a house. It consists of two rooms. Water tap is in the area on the left. W.C. across a court 20 yards away. The space in front was filled with dilapidated wooden buildings used for the keeping of fowls.





NO. 4.—1 and 2 SHORE COTTAGES, MAGAZINES.

The two doors behind the tree are the front doors of two houses containing two rooms each, and both solid backed. The water supply is from a tap fixed on the gable of the house adjoining. The W.C. for the two houses some distance away along the passage. The rooms are very low, and the houses are considerably out of repair.



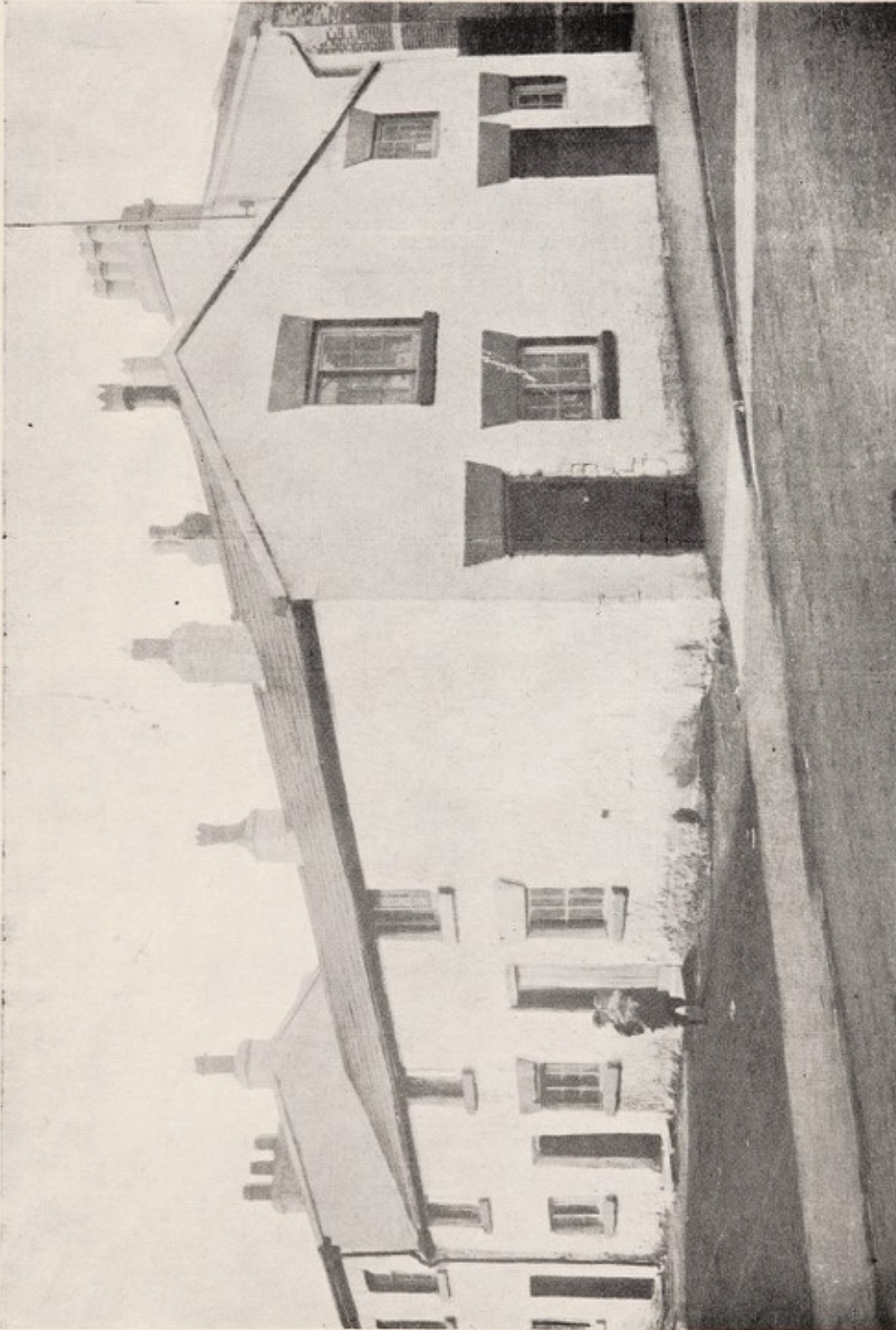
NO. 5.—4, 6 and 8 WALLASEY ROAD.

The house in the foreground was represented along with the two cottages abutting on the left facing Wallasey Road. They are all solid backed and without proper conveniences. Note also the dilapidated condition of the asphalt, roof of W.C., and dangerous condition of chimneys. The corrugated iron roof on the left is placed over a filthy rotting thatch.



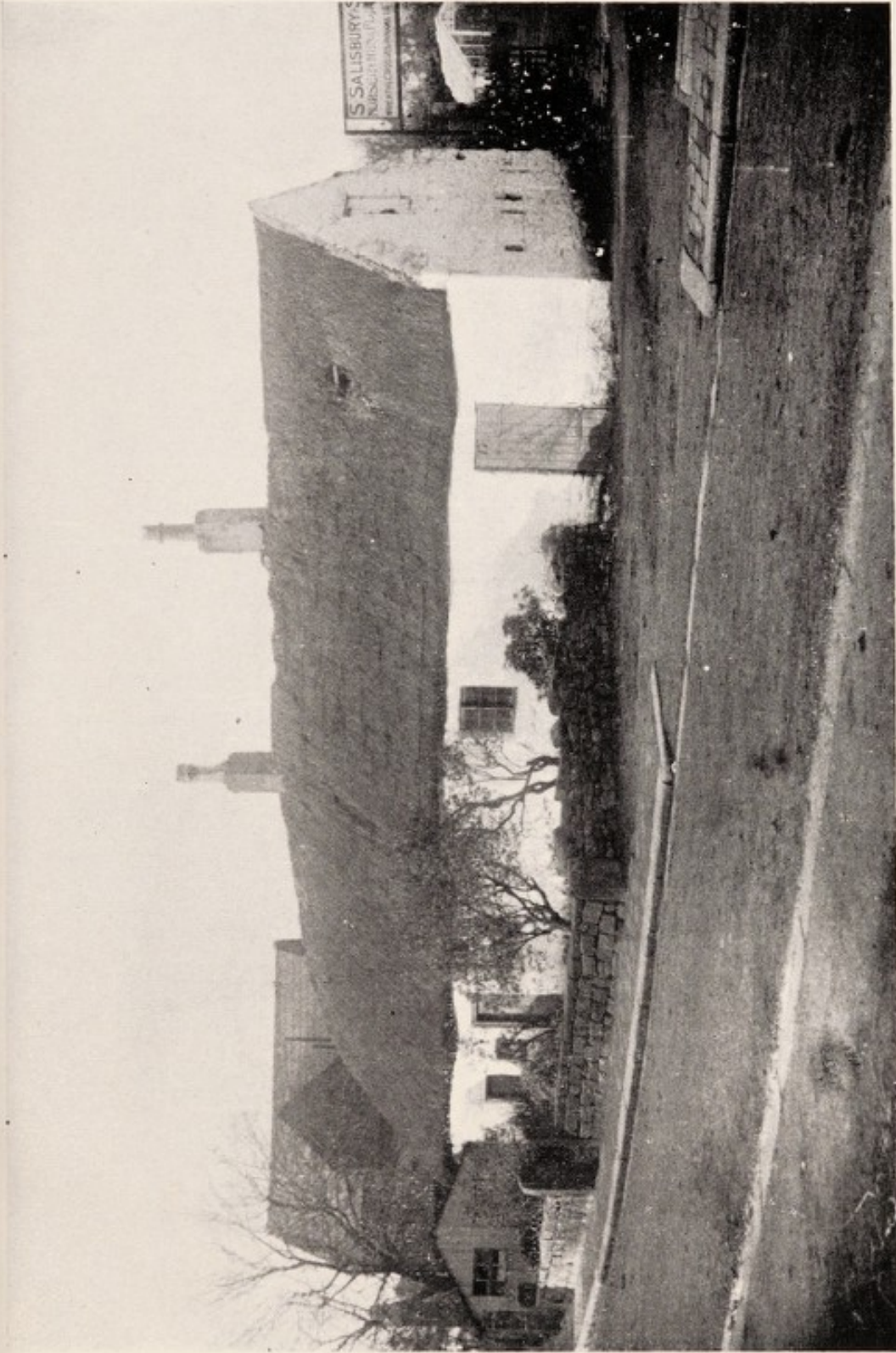
No. 6.—HOUSES IN HOPE PLACE, WALLASEY ROAD.

These houses are solid backed, in a very bad state of repair, and without proper conveniences. The high houses at the rear have been converted into workshops.



No. 7.—GARDEN COTTAGES and 225 WALLASEY VILLAGE.

This photograph gives a flattering representation of the houses, the worst conditions being at the back. It was impossible to take a photograph of the rear owing to lack of space. The houses are very old and in a bad state of repair. The rooms are low, and there is no efficient through ventilation.



NO. 8.—THATCHED COTTAGE, SCHOOL LANE, WALLASEY.

This old cottage was positively in a dangerous condition. There were only two available rooms, both dark, with low ceilings and inefficient ventilation. It was impossible to use the upper rooms owing to the difficulty of access thereto, the lowness of the ceiling and the dangerous condition of the thatch which had sagged and was far from weatherproof.

in two instances, namely, for overcrowding and for not keeping the house clean. The defendants were fined 10s. and 8s. 6d. costs, in the first case, in the latter, 3s. 6d. without costs, and an order made to cleanse within three days.

During the year a prosecution was instituted against a woman for failing to comply with a Nuisance Notice requiring her to cleanse her house. A fine of 3s. 6d. was inflicted by the Magistrates in this instance.

Sewers and Drains.

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

- Comely Avenue.
- Comely Bank Road.
- Mossy Bank Road.
- Rudgrave Square (North End).
- Beatrice Street.
- Tabor Street.
- Jersey Street (East End.)
- Passage between James Street and Peter Street.
- Passage between Rappart Road and Bell Road.
- Passage at the rear of 52 to 58, Union Street.
- Passage between Richmond Street and Windsor Street (South End).
- Passage between Richmond Street and Belmont Road.
- Passage between Edgmond Street and Hawthorne Grove.
- Passage at the rear of West side of Rudgrave Square.
- Passage between Church Crescent and Peter Street.
- Passage between 53 to 65, Rice Lane, and 14 to 22, Mossy Bank Road.
- Passage at the rear of 1 to 9, Mossy Bank Road and 11 to 27, Comely Bank Road.
- Passage between Nos. 24 and 26, Comely Bank Road.
- Passage between Nos. 16 and 18, Comely Bank Road.
- Passage at the rear of Nos. 32 and 34, Sea View Road.
- Passage at the rear of Nos. 263 to 271, Liscard Road.
- Main Brick Sewer, Brighton Street, 80 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.

Forty new manholes have been built, and old defective gullies re-placed with new gullies where required.

The usual attention has been paid to sewer flushing and cleansing of manholes.

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

SEACOMBE.

9, Peter Street.
 14, Palermo Street.
 33, Byerley Street.
 49, Milton Road.
 6, 7 and 8, Victoria Grove.
 8 and 14, Tabor Street.
 Recreation Grounds (Conveniences).

EGREMONT.

8, Union Street.
 18, Church Street.
 34, Green Lane.
 99 and 101, King Street.

LISCARD.

Queen's Hall, Liscard Road.
 "Elm Mount," Penkett Road.
 274, Liscard Road.
 94, Seabank Road.
 6, Westminster Road.
 "Queen's Arms" Hotel.

NEW BRIGHTON.

1, Sandridge Terrace.
 1, Stanley Terrace.

The following drainage systems were partially re-constructed during 1909 under the supervision of the Health Department :—

SEACOMBE.

137, Victoria Road.
 97 to 105, Demesne Street.
 132 to 140, Brighton Street.

EGREMONT.

"Bracton," Liscard Road.

LISCARD.

2, Liscard Grove.
73, Withens Lane.
Wallasey Grammar School.

NEW BRIGHTON.

7 and 17, Dudley Road.
High School for Boys, Victoria Road.

WALLASEY.

247, Wallasey Village.

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

Typhoid Fever,	in	1	instance.
Diphtheria,	„	3	instances.
Scarlet Fever	„	39	„
Erysipelas	„	2	„

and on inspection following private complaints, in 325 instances.

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

254 visits were, however, made to factories, 209 being in reference to sanitary accommodation, and 45 in reference to emissions of smoke from chimneys.

Workshops.

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

TRADE.	Number of Workshops.	Number of People Employed.	Number of Visits.
Bakers	50	90	311
Confectioners	58	130	285
Laundries	26	130	148
Tailors	20	43	76
Dressmakers	74	165	109
Milliners	21	57	39
Bootmakers and Boot Repairers ..	51	93	128
Cycle Builders	11	19	50
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers ..	7	20	26
Watchmakers	3	8	19
Photographers	3	13	11
Wheelwrights and Smiths	9	23	37
Joiners	15	36	72
Hairdressers (making up goods) ..	1	47	11
Tinsmiths	1	2	4
Saddlers	1	2	4
Leadlight Manufacturers	3	21	5
Rag Sorters	2	2	12
Picture Framers	4	10	10
Coffin Makers	1	2	7
Wringing Machine Repairers	1	2	6
Electric Fitting Repairers	1	1	7
Disinfectant Manufacturers	1	1	3
Coach Builders	3	12	13
Motor Repairers	2	16	10
Stonemasons	2	5	5
Stevedores	4	97	8
Printers	2	5	6
Woodturners	1	1	2
Coopers	1	2	2

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

34 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.)	254	21	5*
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries.)	1210	148	—
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	216	29	—
Total	1680	198	5

* Black Smoke.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	No. of Defects			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public</i>				
<i>Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	85	83*	—	—
Want of Ventilation	9	9	—	—
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	5	5	—	—
Other Nuisances	178	175*	—	5
<i>Sanitary Accommodation :</i>				
Insufficient	38	38	—	—
Unsuitable or Defective ..	29	26*	—	—
Not Separate for Sexes ..	3	3	1	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal Occupation of Under- ground Bakehouse (s. 101)	0	0	—	—
Breach of Special Sanitary Require- ments for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100).	73	73	—	—
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report)	—	—	—	—
Total	421	413	1	5

* Works in progress.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.										OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			OUTWORK IN INFECTED PRE-MISES, SECTIONS 100, 110.					
	Lists Received from Employers.			Sending once in the year.			Addresses of Outworkers.				Inspection of Outworkers' Premises.			Instances, Notices served, Prosecutions.					
	Sending twice in the year.		Outworkers, Workmen.	Lists.	Con-tractors	Outworkers, Workmen.	Con-tractors	Lists.	Received from other Councils.	Forwarded to other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keep- ing or sending lists.	Failing to keep or permit inspec- tion of lists.	Prosecutions.	Failing to send lists.	Instances.	Orders made (S. 110.)	Prosecutions (Sections 109, 110.)		
	(2)	(3)																(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
Wearing Apparel	12	—	16	2	—	6	23	16	2	—	—	—	—	41	1	—	—	—	—
(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	12	—	16	2	—	6	23	16	2	—	—	—	—	41	1	—	—	—	—

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—	Number.
General Workshops	195
Bakehouses, including Confectioners' Bakehouses.. .. .	108
Laundries	26
Total number of Workshops on Register	329

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133).. .31	
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 ..	3
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 108 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, structural alterations have been made in 4 Bakehouses in accordance with notices served by this Department. They are :—

21, ROWSON STREET :—

Additional sanitary accommodation provided.

234, WALLASEY ROAD :—

Ceiling lathed and plastered.

119, MOUNT ROAD :—

Bakehouse accommodation (preparing room) considerably increased. External windows can now be utilized for ventilating purposes.

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	240
------------------------------	-----

Notices to provide seats were sent in two instances, and both were complied with. All the others were already provided with seats.

Wallasey Early Closing Order 1909.

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	5,549
No. of Contraventions	24
No. of Letters Written	—
No. of Prosecutions	1

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

There are 29 Cowsheds on the Register.

The number of cows in the registered sheds at the end of December was 92.

The Cowsheds have been regularly inspected (213 visits) throughout the year, and the efforts made to secure systematic grooming of the cows, the washing of the udders, and the cleansing of the milkers' hands before milking have been continued, and I am glad to report that the improvement which was manifested last year in regard to these matters has been maintained. During the year one of the oldest Cowsheds has been re-drained, and improvements made in the lighting and ventilation.

During the year sanitary alterations have been made in the following Milkshops, in accordance with notices served by this Department :—

Nos. 39 and 44, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD :—

Yard surfaces re-formed with impervious materials, and arranged with proper gradients to drain off all storm and waste waters.

Nos. 214, RAKE LANE AND 39, MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD :—

In each case additional and separate accommodation has been provided for the storage of milk and milk vessels, and the walls and ceilings have been limewashed.

“OARSHIDE DAIRY,” MOUNT PLEASANT ROAD :—

The floors have been specially concreted and channeled.

As referred to on page 56 of my Report of last year, I submitted to the Health Committee in February a special Report showing in detail the conditions under which milk was stored in the various shops throughout the District.

Clause 11 of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 had in several instances been contravened, since the methods of storage were such as to be incompatible with the proper preservation of the cleanliness of the milkstore or milkshop and of the milk vessels and milk therein, and likely to cause contamination thereof.

The following are the particulars :—

Number of cases in which Milk was stored in unsuitable places, or where the shop was used for the sale of Groceries, Hardware, Soap, Tobacco, Firewood, Vegetables, or other miscellaneous goods, in addition to Milk	..	60
Number of cases in which the Milk Vessels were not provided with proper covers	.. ..	39

In 59 instances the occupiers have ceased to sell goods which were considered to be unsuitable or liable to pollute or otherwise contaminate the milk sold from the same shop, and in 38 cases the milk vessels have been provided with proper covers. In 2 instances new and approved storage accommodation has been provided.

In one instance I objected to the premises being continued for the storage and sale of milk, and consequently the sale of milk has been discontinued.

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	648	6,020	250	624	7,542
*Wallasey & Alfred Lairages	1,958	8,043	..	..	10,001
Totals.....	2,606	14,063	250	624	17,543

*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	12 carcasses	1 carcass
MUTTON	—	—
PORK	8 carcasses	—
LAMB	—	—
TOTAL	20 carcasses	1 carcass

AMOUNT SEIZED AND DESTROYED FOR OTHER CAUSES.

	Private Slaughter Houses.		Lairages.	
	Carcases.	Quarters.	Carcases.	Quarters.
BEEF	10	3	—	2
MUTTON	17	4	2	—
PORK	14	2	—	—
LAMB	14	—	2	—
VEAL	55*	—	—	—
TOTAL	110	9	4	2

NOTE.—Not only were inspections made at Slaughter Houses, but at all shops where food is sold. For detailed information see page 84.

* 44 Carcasses were Immature.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

MR. LAIRD'S REPORT *re* WORK CARRIED OUT IN WALLASEY IN 1909.

TABLE I.

PARTICULARS OF SAMPLES PURCHASED IN THE DISTRICT OF WALLASEY
AND SUBMITTED FOR ANALYSIS, UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND
DRUGS ACTS, DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1909.

Name of Sample.	No. of Samples Analysed.	No. of Samples certified as Adulterated.
Butter	42	1
Cheese	4	Nil.
Coffee	2	..
Cream	3	..
Fruits, Tinned	4	..
Gin	1	..
Lard	3	..
Milk	59	4
Milk, Skimmed	2	1
Pepper	1	Nil.
Rice	1	..
Rum	2	..
Vinegar	1	..
Whiskey	7	..
Totals	132	6

5 samples of Margarine were also purchased and in each case the article was served in a properly marked wrapper.

TABLE II.

PARTICULARS OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS
ACTS IN THE WALLASEY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1909.

No.	NATURE OF OFFENCE.	RESULT OF PROSECUTION.
1	Selling Milk having a deficiency of 10 per cent. in its fat	Fined 5/-, also 6/- costs.
2	Selling Milk adulterated with 20 per cent. of water	Fined 20/-, also 14/6 costs.
3	Selling Margarine as Butter	Fined 2/6, also 14/6 costs.

The only comment I would make on the above is the following. There is a recommendation of the Board of Agriculture that the

total number of samples taken should total not less than three per thousand of the population, and half of these should be of milk. Our population is estimated at 73,000. If, therefore, the recommendation of the Board of Agriculture had been complied with, 220 samples should have been taken, 110 of which should have been of milk. The total number actually taken was 132, 59 of which were milk. I have repeatedly had complaints as to the poorness of the quality of the milk sold in the district. Indeed several letters have appeared in the Liverpool and local papers on the subject. Although our population has increased by some 2,000, and in spite of the fact that no less than 7 per cent. of the milk samples taken in 1908 were certified as adulterated, I find that the number of samples of milk taken last year is actually 11 less, being 59 as compared with 70 for the previous year.

Offensive Trades.

The offensive trades are as follows:—

Trade.	No. of Visits.
Knacker's Yard and Manure Manufacturer	140

Wherever a nuisance has been discovered, suitable action was taken.

Water Statistics for 1909.

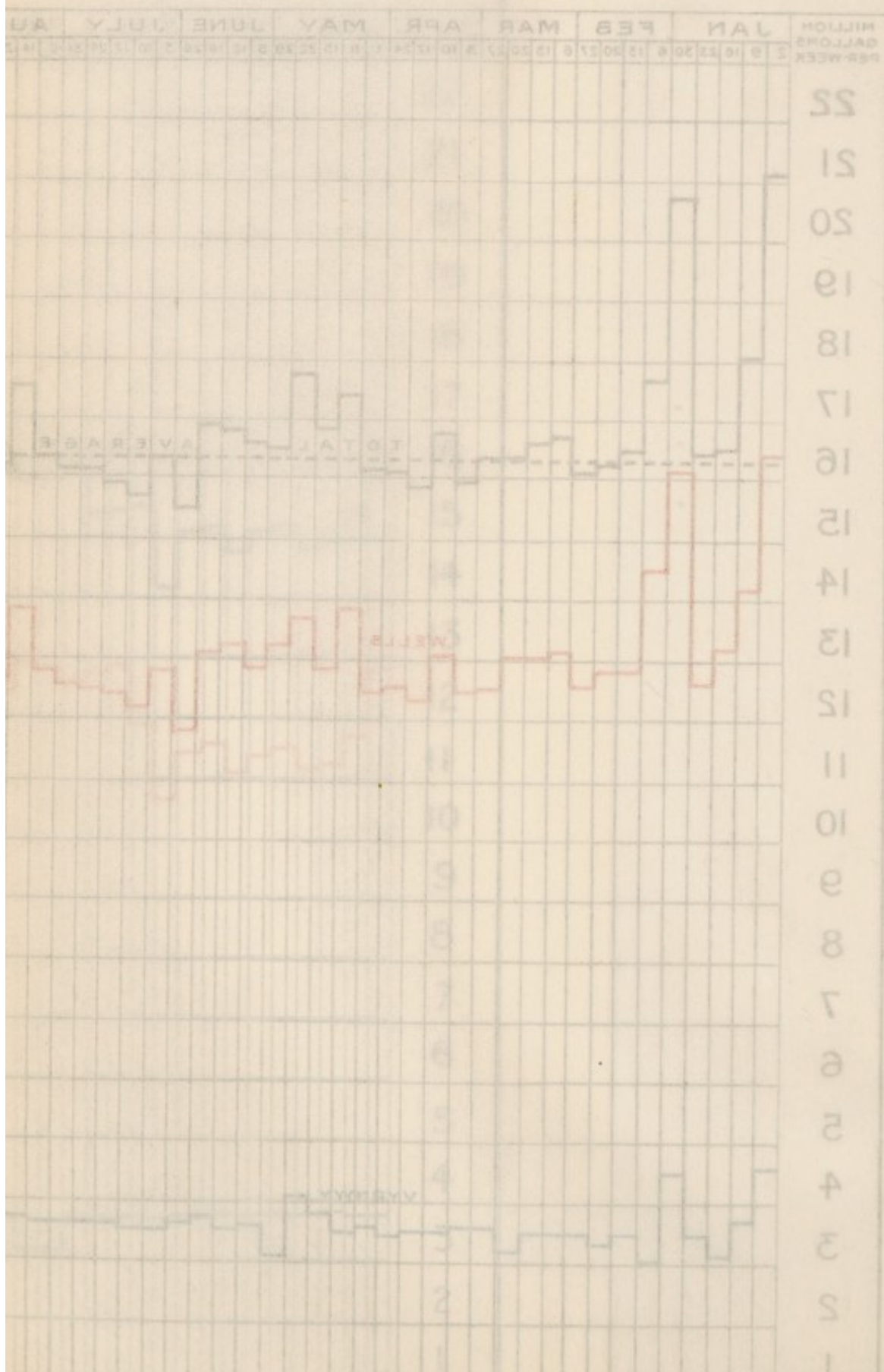
Volume of Water supplied from first of January, 1909, to 31st December, 1909, 848,259,147 gallons, made up as follows:—

From Wells at Liscard	663,038,147	Galls.
From Vyrnwy	185,221,000	..
Average supplied per day	2,323,998	..
Average Consumption per day per head	32.05	..
Divided as follows:—		
Supplied by Meter	6.82	Galls.
Supplied to Shipping .. .. .	.15	..
Watering Streets and Road Making .. .. .	.38	..
Flushing Sewers by Hose and Cart.. .. .	.26	..
Domestic and other purposes, including Drinking Fountains	24.44	..

INDEX

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

WEEKLY SUPPLY OF WATER



The quantity of water used for Flushing Sewers and Drains during the year was 6,940,000 gallons.

In connection with the General Sanitary Work I desire to call attention to the following points :—

Inspection of Stable Yards.

2,128 visits have been made as compared with 1,701 during last year.

In several instances manure pits have been emptied by the Department's own men, failing compliance with notices issued under the Bye-laws. In other cases accumulations or deposits of an offensive nature have been removed by the Department's men where owners or occupiers had failed to comply with the notices served under Section 49 of the Public Health Act, 1875. In each case the expenses were recovered in a summary manner.

Complaints having been received at the office with regard to a plague of flies which it was alleged came from large accumulations of manure and decaying vegetable matter in Occupation Road, between Leasowe and Green Lane, Wallasey, a meeting took place between the Medical Officer of Health and the Market Gardeners in the Parish Hall, Wallasey, with regard to the disposal of such manure heaps. Arrangements were then come to which, it is hoped, will prevent any cause for complaint in the future.

In 1 instance part of an offensive accumulation was removed by the Council in default of owner's compliance with a request to remove. Subsequently, however, the work of removal was completed by the parties responsible.

Green Lane Camp.

I would also put on record the improved condition of the camping ground in Green Lane, Wallasey. The offensive pits used as privies have been abolished, and proper pail-closets, supplying deodorizing material automatically, have been substituted. 3 services of water have also been supplied to different parts of the Camp, and 14 galvanized iron ashbins have been provided for the convenience of the campers.

Summary of General Sanitary Work.

WORK OF THE LADY SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING 1909.

Number of Houses visited	2,286
Do. found dirty	357
Do. families visited	2,725
Do. do. re-visited	1,299
Do. Notices sent to Occupiers for dirty floors and bedding	454
Do. Notices sent to Occupiers for overcrowding .	39
Do. do. Owners do. do. ..	—
Do. do. do. defective sash cords	7
Do. do. complied with	317
Do. References to Sanitary Inspectors	94
Do. do. other Departments	125
Do. Enquiry visits	21
Do. Visits to cases of minor infectious diseases..	747
Do. References to the Elementary Education Authority	287
Do. Sub-let houses visited	464
Do. do. found dirty	180
Do. do. do. overcrowded	37
Do. other infringements	17
Do. Routine visits to Midwives	205
Do. Enquiries <i>re</i> Still-births	29
Do. Visits under Midwives' Act	259
Do. Schools visited	13
Do. School cases visited	10
Do. visits <i>re</i> registered births	1,781
Do. do. infant deaths	171
Do. do. to Workshops	148
Do. do. Outworkers	41
Do. Special visits <i>re</i> Diarrhoea cases	—
Do. Visits <i>re</i> Phthisis deaths	59
Do. do. <i>re</i> Phthisis notifications	112

WORK OF THE INSPECTORS DURING 1909.

NUISANCES.

Number of houses found in a dirty condition	207
" " " in an overcrowded condition	36
" " " with defective, insufficient or choked drains ..	1,055
" " " without supply of water for drinking, domestic or sanitary purposes	163
" " " with defective or insufficient W.C. basins, flushing cisterns, putty joints, traps, waste- pipes, soil-pipes and/or channelings ..	2,920
" " " with defective yard or passage surfaces ..	818
" " " with defective floors	87
" " " vacant, or insecure against misuse by general public	15
" " " with damp or defective walls	55
" " " with defective roofs, gutters and downspouts..	453
" " " without proper and sufficient ashpits or ashbins..	825
" " " with dirty yard surfaces	158
" " " with offensive accumulations requiring removal..	159
Number of offensive ditches and ponds requiring cleansing	20
" animals kept so as to be a nuisance	47
" matters referred to other Departments.. .. .	565
" informations laid in respect of nuisances	6
" " withdrawn on payment of costs	3
" Magistrates' Orders obtained	3
" convictions	3
Amount of fines and costs	£3 5s. 6d.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT SMOKE NUISANCES.

Number of observations made	85
" Notices served in respect of black smoke	8
" Informations laid in default of compliance with Notice ..	5
" Informations laid in default of compliance with Order ..	—
Amount of Fines and Costs	£4 17s. 0d.

BYE-LAWS WITH RESPECT TO NUISANCES.

Number of stable yards inspected	2,128
" notices served to empty manure pits	111
" informations laid in default of compliance with notice ..	—
Amount of Fines and Costs	—

Number of Stable yards without manure pits	18
„ notices served to provide manure pits	18
„ notices served to provide stables with sufficient paving and/or drainage	13

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Number of preliminary notices issued for the abatement of nuisances ..	2,555
„ Statutory Notices issued	287

CANAL BOAT INSPECTION.

The number of Boats inspected in 1909 was 390.

INFRINGEMENTS :—

Registration	—
Notification of Change of Master	—
Certificates	1
Marking	9
Overcrowding	2
Cleanliness	1
Ventilation	—
Painting	8
Provision of Water Cask	1
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	4
Defective Deck Seams	2
Notices sent in respect of infringements	19
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	124
„ shippens with Milkstores attached	12
„ inspections made	471
„ notices served for defects.. .. .	7
„ notices complied with	7
„ notices served <i>re</i> utensils and covering of milk vessels ..	39
„ notices served requiring the removal of manure	—
„ notices served requiring liming or cleansing	11

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Number of workshops on Register	329
„ visits made	549
„ re-visits made	172
„ workshops found defective	10
„ workrooms with dirty walls	41
„ „ with dirty ceilings	36
„ „ with dirty floors	8
„ „ with dirty lavatories	45
„ „ not properly ventilated	3
„ „ found overcrowded	1
„ defective drains and water-closets	15
„ miscellaneous defects found	105
„ notices issued on occupiers	76
„ „ „ on owners	30
„ references to the Factory Inspector	73

BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	50
„ of visits made	419
„ re-visits	29
„ bakehouses found dirty (walls and ceilings)	17
„ notices issued for limewashing	27
„ bakehouses limewashed without notice	14
„ notices issued for defective drainage	—
„ „ „ walls and floors	1
„ „ „ to repair defective ceilings	2
„ „ „ cleanse tables, utensils, etc.	5
„ „ „ to clean areas	1
„ references to Factory Inspector	2

CONFECTIONERY BAKEHOUSES.

Number on Register	58
„ of visits made	186
„ re-visits	36
„ found dirty (walls and ceilings)	9
„ notices issued for limewashing	8
„ „ „ defective drainage	3
„ „ „ to cleanse floors, utensils, etc.	7

OUTWORKERS.

Number of Outworkers on Register	22
„ visits made to houses of outworkers	41
„ re-visits	3
„ notices served for sanitary defects at houses of workers	1
„ unwholesome premises	1
„ dirty walls and ceilings	1
„ notices complied with	1
„ outworkers employed in Wallasey for Liverpool Firms--	
Tailors	2
Tailoresses	8
Dressmakers	4
„ outworkers employed in Liverpool for Wallasey Firms—	
Tailors	6
Tailoresses	—
Dressmakers	—

WALLASEY EARLY CLOSING ORDER.

Number of shops visited by day	168
„ „ „ night	5,381
„ instances in which provisions of the Act were found not to be complied with	24
„ persons warned for contravening Act	24
„ informations laid	1
Amount of fines and costs	10/-

SEATS FOR SHOP ASSISTANTS.

Number of shops affected	240
„ assistants employed	263
„ seats provided	208
„ visits	455

MEAT INSPECTION.

Number of visits paid to the Wallasey and Alfred Lairages during the year 997

Amount of Meat seized at the Lairages and destroyed as unfit for human food 18,911 lbs.

This amount is made up as follows :—

Beef..	..	..	..	1,189 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	399 lbs.
Veal	..	..	..	2,598 lbs.
Offal	..	..	..	14,725 lbs.
Total	..	..	..	18,911 lbs.

INSPECTION OF CATTLE PENS.

Number of visits paid during the year 3,797

SHOP INSPECTION.

Amount of meat, etc., seized in small quantities and destroyed as unfit for human food 1,200 lbs.

Number of visits to pork shops and premises where meats are prepared for sale 3,111 lbs.

.. .. butchers' shops 5,007

.. .. fish and poultry shops 2,399

.. .. fried fish shops 685

.. inspections of hawkers' carts and baskets 691

SLAUGHTER-HOUSE INSPECTION.

Number of visits to Private Slaughter-Houses 2,111

Amount of Meat, etc., seized and destroyed as unfit for human food..21,491 lbs.
consisting of :

Beef	..	..	..	..	12,789 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	1,154 lbs.
Veal	..	..	..	..	1,089 lbs.
Offal	..	..	..	..	4,204 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	2,255 lbs.
Total	..	..	..	..	21,491 lbs.

INSPECTION OF ICE CREAM CARTS.

Number of visits to premises where Ice-cream is manufactured or sold.. 21

UNFENCED EXCAVATIONS.

Number of quarries found in an unfenced condition	4
„ Notices served to provide proper fences	4

SPECIAL COMPLAINTS.

Number of special complaints received and dealt with	1,109
--------------------------------------------------------------	-------

HOUSES WITH INSUFFICIENT ASHPITS.

Number of houses found without sufficient ashpits or ashbins	637
„ offensive ashpits abolished	322

PRIVY CONVERSION.

Number of offensive privies converted into proper and sufficient water closets	3
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

DRAIN TESTING.

Number of houses at which drains or branches have been specially tested by means of smoke or water	155
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

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	30
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of inspections paid to premises used for knackerling or fat boiling purposes	140
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

MARINE STORE INSPECTION.

Number of premises entered on Register	6
„ inspections	62
„ offensive conditions discovered at time of visit, and for which notices were served	4

PETROLEUM INSPECTION.

Number of persons licensed to store Petrol, etc.	17
„ inspections	47
„ contraventions discovered (non-renewal of licences)	5

GAME LICENCES.

Number of tradesmen licensed to deal in Game	11
------------------------------------------------------	----

INSPECTION OF TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Number of visits paid to various encampments at Wallasey	58
----------------------------------------------------------------	----

DISINFECTION.

Number of Houses disinfected after fevers	791
„ Rooms „ „	1,633
„ Houses „ phthisis	62
„ „ „ other diseases	25
„ „ „ vermin, etc.	4
„ Schools disinfected	5
„ Books from Public, Private or School Libraries disinfected..	243

LIST OF ARTICLES DISINFECTED.

Number of Mattresses	379
„ Beds	1,105
„ Pillows and bolsters	2,092
„ Blankets	1,677
„ Quilts	1,134
„ Sheets	1,135
„ Articles of wearing apparel	4,452
„ Carpets	194
„ Miscellaneous articles	2,280
Total	14,448

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

Number of Mattresses	34
„ Beds	29
„ Pillows and bolsters	19
„ Blankets	4
„ Quilts	6
„ Sheets	8
„ Articles of wearing apparel	32
„ Miscellaneous articles	34
Total	166

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	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,230
„ houses visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42,122
„ yard W.C.'s flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40,232
„ yard gullies flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	126,366
„ drains found choked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,208
„ drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,864

SPECIAL FLUSHING IN INFECTIOUS CASES.

Number of streets visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	894
„ houses visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,723
„ yard W.C.'s flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,723
„ yard gullies flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,030
„ drains found choked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	260
„ drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	212

FLUSHING OF SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ETC.

Number of streets visited	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	130
„ schools, public buildings, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
„ yard W.C.'s flushed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,028
„ yard gullies ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,651
„ drains found choked	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	376
„ drains cleared	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	369

NUMBER OF PASSAGES SPECIALLY FLUSHED DURING THE HOT WEATHER.. 87

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 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
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(1)	13.69	71				
1903.	56,000	1,612	28.78	183	113.5	765	13.66	59	5	32	752	13.69
1904.	57,000	1,678	29.43	265	157.9	882	15.47	53	5	53	813	14.00
1905.	58,500	1,657	28.32	163	98.9	748(2)	12.78	79	4	60	938	16.03
1906.	62,000	1,716	27.67	201	117.1	824(3)	13.29	67	3	49	772	13.19
1907.	67,000	1,763	26.31	181	101.5	837(4)	12.49	62	3	66	857	13.82
1908.	71,000	1,738	24.40	176	101.4	874(5)	12.30	75	1	60	876	13.07
Averages for years 1899-1908.	58,150	1,632	28.22	201	123.7	810	14.06	62	3	54	845	13.91
1909.	73,000	1,838	25.1	148	80	836(6)	11.4	81	5	54	885	12.0

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Note (5) Less 22 deaths of visitors in 1908. (2) Less 30 deaths of visitors in 1906. (6) Less 21 deaths of visitors in 1909.

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" 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.

Institutions within the district receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the district, are:—Victoria Central Hospital, Liscard Cottage Hospital, Wallasey, (receives non-residents only in cases of accidents or sudden illness whilst they are in the district,) Convalescent Home for Women and Children, New Brighton.

Institution outside the district receiving sick and infirm persons from the district, Workhouse Infirmary, Traunmere, Birkenhead.

N.B.—The Union Workhouse is not within the district.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 3,409. Total population at all ages at Census of 1901 53,579. Number of inhabited houses, 1901 Census, 10,756. Average number of persons per house, 4.97 at Census of 1901.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in Wallasey in 1909 and previous Years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	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.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
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	752	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	857	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
1908..	71,000	1,738	906	176	25,934	806	371	92	37,202	764	465	74	7,864	168	70	10
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908. ..	58,150	1,632	836	201	21,859	747	346	95 Av. for 7 yrs.	31,067	745	420	81 Av. for 7 yrs.	5,223	139	65	14 Av. for 7 yrs.
1909..	73,000	1,838	885	148	27,066	867	370	72	37,605	811	443	64	8,329	160	72	12

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 are included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and 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 1909.

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	2	3	H 1	H 2	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 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	57	15	30	7	4	..	19	28	10	14	13	4	31
Erysipelas	32	1	3	6	15	6	16	14	2	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	716	163	484	41	23	..	273	411	32	208	286	13	507
Typhus Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	18	1	5	5	7	..	3	13	2	5	7	1	13
Relapsing Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Isolation .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..	7
Totals	825	7	180	60	50	6	313	466	46	232	308	18	558

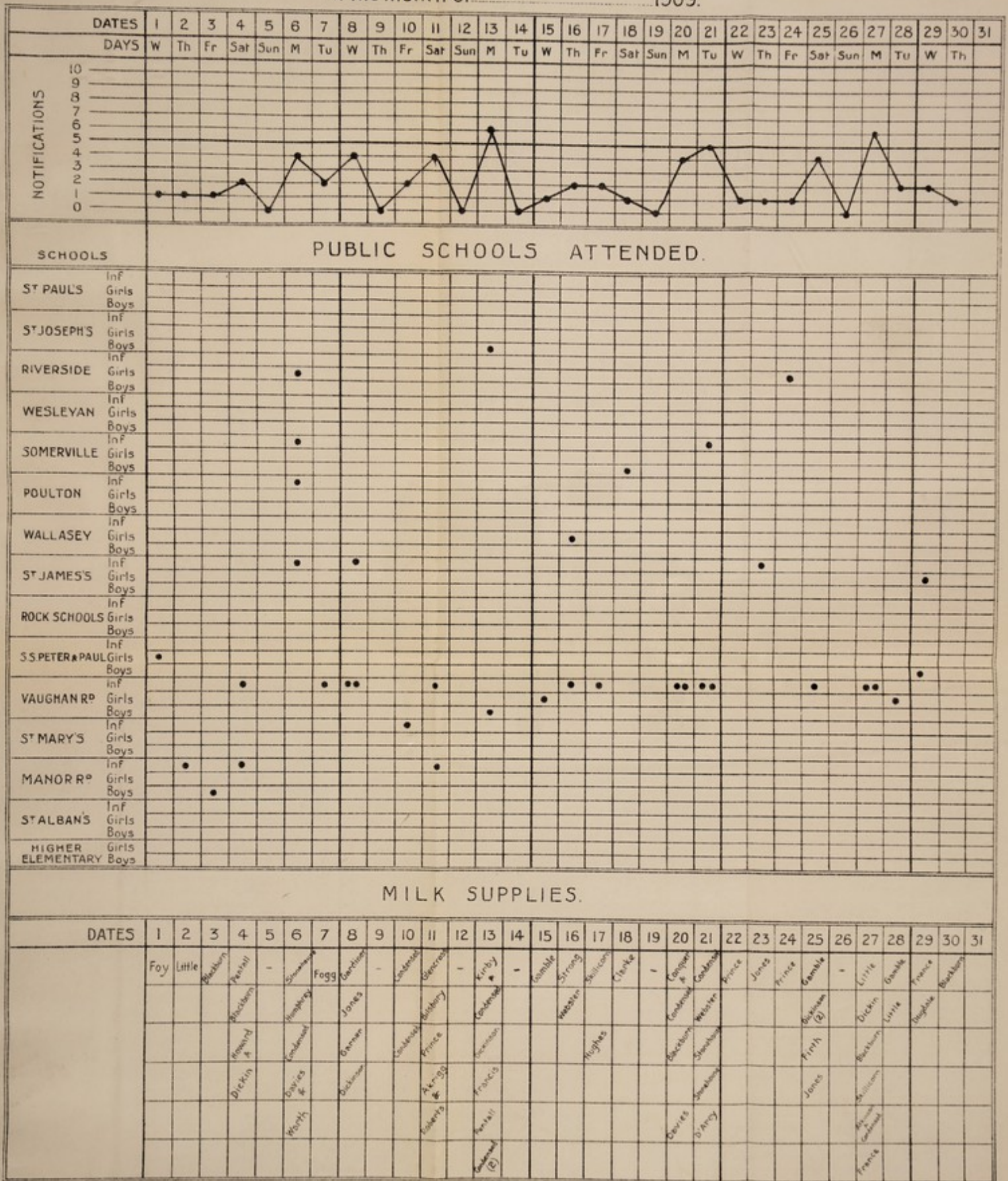
NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
 Isolation Hospitals: Mill Lane Hospital* (Poulton); Leasowe Road Smallpox Hospital† (Wallasey); latter not used in 1909;
 "North Meade House" (Seacombe), not used in 1909.
 * Total available beds 90. † Total available beds, 20. No. of diseases that can be treated concurrently, 4.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death in Wallasey during
Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	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. 12
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and upwards. 8	P'ton-cum-S'co'te 9	Lis-card. 10	Wal-lasey. 11	
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	13	3	10	..	..	..	..	10	3	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	20	1	6	13	..	..	..	7	12	1	14
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	9	..	2	6	1	..	..	5	2	2	3
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	..
Enteric .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other cont'd .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza..	12	..	..	..	1	3	8	4	7	1	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa	6	5	1	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	..
Enteritis	10	4	4	1	..	..	1	6	4	..	1
Gastritis	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	2
Puerperal fever ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1	..
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	63	..	..	1	8	48	6	28	28	7	..
Other tuberculous diseases ..	34	13	13	..	6	2	..	14	17	3	2
Cancer, malignant disease	73	..	..	..	1	38	34	29	37	7	4
Bronchitis	65	8	4	..	1	18	34	28	35	2	1
Pneumonia	86	19	16	8	3	32	8	39	45	2	14
Pleurisy	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	9	1	1	..	..	4	3	..	1	4	1
Alcoholism	7	..	..	..	..	6	1	2	5	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases ..	3	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	..	1
Premature Birth ..	27	27	..	..	..	..	..	13	12	2	2
Diseases & accidents of parturition ..	8	..	..	..	1	7	..	7	1	..	1
Heart diseases ..	86	1	..	3	2	40	40	42	37	7	7
Accidents	16	6	3	..	..	4	3	8	6	2	5
Suicides	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	2
Senile Decay	54	..	..	..	..	2	52	17	33	4	..
Not certified ..	24	3	1	2	2	11	5	10	13	1	..
All other causes ..	246	51	17	10	9	89	70	87	134	25	20
TOTALS	885	148	79	44	37	312	265	370	443	72	81

Chart showing the DAILY NOTIFICATIONS of SCARLET FEVER
in the month of _____ 1909.



APPENDIX.

*Copy of Circular distributed to householders with regard to the manner
of use of Ashpits and Ashbins.*

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WALLASEY.

IMPORTANT NOTICE AS TO THE USE OF ASHPITS AND ASHBINS.

Ashpits and Ashbins, as the names denote, are intended only for ashes.

In order to prevent a nuisance arising, and to diminish the number of flies during the summer months, it is particularly requested that materials likely to decompose and become offensive should not be put into ashpits or ashbins. Materials such as fish heads, vegetable refuse, bad fruit, etc., should be burned in the kitchen grate.

Your attention is also drawn to the fact that the deposit of wet refuse in ashpits or ashbins is forbidden. The observance of these simple precautions will tend to improve your own and the public health.

Inasmuch as ashpits are emptied at intervals of six weeks or thereabouts, and ashbins once a week, it follows that the use of ashbins is greatly to be recommended for the sake of good health and cleanliness.

By Order of the Health Committee,

T. W. N. BARLOW,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

[COPY.]

Report of the Medical Officer of Health with respect to the proposed provision of Workmen's Dwellings.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
January 9th, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH, ETC.,
COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

At a Meeting of the Council held on the Fifth of November, the following Motion, proposed by Mr. Holdsworth, was carried :—

“ That the Council take into its serious consideration
“ the desirability of erecting Workmen's Dwellings, and that
“ a Special Committee be appointed by this Council to go
“ thoroughly into the question, and, if possible, place before
“ the Council a workable scheme.”

A Meeting of the Special Committee formed in accordance with the foregoing Resolution took place on the 10th of November, at which it was resolved, *inter alia*, that the Medical Officer report on :—

1. The number of dwelling-houses in the district suitable for the accommodation of working people, with their rentals, the character of the accommodation provided therein, and the parts of the district in which the houses are situated ;
2. The present number of available unoccupied dwelling-houses suitable for the use of working people, and their locality ;
3. The amount of insanitary property in the district which has been demolished already, or will probably be demolished in the near future ;
4. The necessity from a business or sanitary point of view for the provision of further accommodation for the working classes ; and
5. Generally upon the question.

In accordance with this Resolution, I beg to present the following Report :—

I propose, in the first instance, to place before the Committee all the necessary information, reserving my comments on the general aspect of the question until the end. I may say that the information in the following Tables was obtained from a house to house visitation by the Sanitary Inspectors in the last days of November and the early days of December.

With regard to the number of houses and their rentals, Miss Birrell brought me independent information, and it agrees in all essential particulars with that submitted by the Male Inspectors. The details as to the actual streets and houses visited are available for reference if required. In addition to the information contained in the Tables, enquiries were also made as to the reasons why the chief tenants sub-let their houses, but the results can hardly be tabulated. The answer in most instances was “to help to pay the rent.” In three instances the husband was out of work, and, I presume, the sub-letting in these cases was of a temporary character. In ten instances the chief tenant was a widow, and the sub-letting of her house was her means of livelihood. The enquiries were repeated to the sub-tenants, and the answers received practically corresponded with those given above.

ENQUIRIES WITH REGARD TO WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

(RENTS, 7s. 6d. WEEKLY AND UNDER.)

Number of Streets visited in

Streets.	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey.	Totals.
	19	88	14	31	24	15	191

Number of Houses visited in

Houses.	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey	Totals.
	320	1,896	227	581	293	225	3,542

Number of Streets in which Empty Houses were found in

Empty Houses.	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey.	Totals.
	10	24	1	3	2	—	40

Number of Occupied Houses at Weekly Rentals of from 1s. 6d.
to 7s. 6d. in

Weekly Rental.	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey.	Totals.
1/6 ..	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
2/- ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2/6 ..	—	—	2	1	—	3	6
3/- ..	—	5	1	13	2	11	32
3/6 ..	3	19	—	1	—	8	31
4/- ..	12	51	2	6	5	14	90
4/3 ..	—	5	—	—	—	3	8
4/6 ..	86	215	—	101	15	20	437
4/9 ..	12	26	—	—	9	—	47
5/- ..	18	73	23	11	28	46	199
5/2 ..	—	—	—	—	25	—	25
5/3 ..	—	13	—	4	—	—	17
5/6 ..	12	253	44	111	7	41	468
5/9 ..	—	82	—	36	6	1	125
6/- ..	79	212	24	134	11	40	500
6/3 ..	—	16	54	—	12	—	82
6/6 ..	43	199	23	30	37	7	339
6/9 ..	—	64	—	4	36	—	104
7/- ..	19	155	25	45	52	—	296
7/3 ..	—	85	4	—	—	—	89
7/6 ..	15	371	20	75	45	31	557
Totals ..	299	1,844	225	572	290	225	3,455

Number of Unoccupied Houses at Weekly Rentals of from
1s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. in

Weekly Rental.	Poulton.	Seacombe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey.	Totals.
Less than 3/-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3/- ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
3/6 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4/- ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
4/6 ..	5	8	—	—	—	—	13
4/9 ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	4
5/- ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
5/6 ..	1	4	—	—	—	—	5
6/- ..	5	5	—	6	—	—	16
6/6 ..	3	10	—	1	—	—	14
6/9 ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
7/- ..	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
7/6 ..	2	17	2	1	1	—	23
Totals ..	21	52	2	9	3	—	87

Character of Accommodation in Occupied Houses * in

Houses with	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey.	Totals.
1 room..	—	—	5	1	—	—	6
2 rooms	—	4	2	7	6	19	38
3 „ ..	3	22	4	6	1	11	47
4 „ ..	197	939	109	342	108	124	1,799
5 „ ..	20	143	33	10	22	14	242
6 „ ..	74	685	55	167	84	43	1,108
7 „ ..	—	39	7	33	69	14	162
8 „ ..	4	9	10	6	—	—	29
9 „ ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
11 „ ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	299	1,845	225	572	290	225	3,455

Character of Accommodation in Unoccupied Houses * in

Houses with	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wallasey.	Totals.
1 room..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 rooms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 „ ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
4 „ ..	15	29	—	6	—	—	50
5 „ ..	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
6 „ ..	7	15	2	2	2	—	28
7 „ ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
8 „ ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ..	22	51	2	9	3	—	87

* Rentals of above do not exceed 7s. 6d. weekly.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF HOUSES (7s. 6d. WEEKLY AND UNDER), OCCUPIED AND UNOCCUPIED, IN WHICH

- (a) Bath Accommodation is provided;
 (b) Washing Accommodation is provided (*i.e.*: Wash-house, boiler in scullery or yard, etc.);
 (c) No Washing Accommodation provided.

	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egremont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wal-lasey.	Totals.
(a) Bath Accommodation	12	114	—	24	48	—	198
(b) Washing Accommodation	320	1,884	166	578	287	225	3,460
(c) No Washing Accommodation	—	12	61	3	6	—	82

TABLE SHOWING

- (a) The number of Streets in which there are Sub-let Houses ;
 (b) The number of Sub-let Houses and the amounts of weekly Rentals paid by the chief tenants.

	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egre- mont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wal- lasey.	Totals.
(a) No. of Streets in which there are Sub-let Houses	—	27	2	3	5	1	38
(b) No. of Sub-let Houses where chief tenant pays 4s. 9d. per week ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Do. 5/- p. week	—	5	—	—	—	—	5
Do. 5/6 do.	—	4	2	1	—	3	10
Do. 6/- do.	—	9	—	—	7	—	16
Do. 6/6 do.	—	11	—	—	1	—	12
Do. 6/9 do.	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Do. 7/- do.	—	9	1	1	8	—	19
Do. 7/3 do.	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Do. 7/6 do.	—	2	—	2	2	—	6
TOTALS	—	45	3	4	19	3	74

TABLE SHOWING AMOUNTS PAID PER ROOM BY SUB-TENANTS, AND THE NUMBER OF ROOMS OCCUPIED AS SUB-LET.

Sub-Tenant pays weekly per room.	Poulton.	S'combe.	Egre- mont.	Liscard.	New Brighton.	Wal- lasey.	Totals.
7½d.	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
9d.	—	17	—	—	—	—	17
10½d.	—	3	2	—	—	—	5
1/-	—	7	3	1	8	—	19
1/1	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
1/1½	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
1/2	—	—	—	—	9	—	9
1/3	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
1/6	—	23	2	2	6	3	36
1/7½	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
1/9	—	1	—	—	6	—	7
2/-	—	11	—	—	3	—	14
2/3	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
2/6	—	4	—	1	7	—	12
2/9	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
3/-	—	1	—	1	1	—	3
TOTALS	—	83	7	8	45	3	146

As showing the extent to which private enterprise has met, and is meeting the demands of the district, I have obtained from Mr. Travers the following Table, which shows the number of houses which have been granted CERTIFICATES OF HABITATION for the last six years, and the estimated rentals of such houses:—

TOWNSHIP.	WEEKLY RENTALS.							YEARLY RENTALS.										Totals.				
	6/6	7/-	7/6	8/-	8/6	9/-	10/-	10/6	11/6	£20	£25	£28	£30	£35	£40	£45	£50		£60	£70	£100	£120
YEAR 1903.																						
Poulton-Seacombe..	18	18	1	—	6	3	—	17	—	—	9	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	76	
Liscard	—	10	—	2	—	4	—	56	—	—	14	—	22	36	14	15	7	—	—	—	180	
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	16	1	—	5	5	—	—	1	—	—	32	
YEAR 1904.																						
Poulton-Seacombe..	6	—	15	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	14	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	59	
Liscard	—	—	5	5	—	—	—	65	—	—	10	—	23	12	19	15	8	—	—	—	162	
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	3	8	5	2	6	—	—	—	38	
YEAR 1905.																						
Poulton-Seacombe..	44	15	—	—	—	—	—	47	—	—	9	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	118	
Liscard	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	9	—	103	31	43	4	9	5	—	—	257	
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	17	4	11	21	1	—	—	—	—	57	
YEAR 1906.																						
Poulton-Seacombe..	27	—	—	—	3	—	144	—	21	4	28	—	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	237	
Liscard	—	—	—	—	31	—	82	—	2	—	43	—	109	18	22	5	5	4	—	—	321	
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	12	—	7	23	5	5	3	—	—	—	56	
YEAR 1907.																						
Poulton-Seacombe..	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	278	—	—	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	347	
Liscard	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	131	—	—	—	—	51	30	13	6	—	8	1	2	242	
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67	28	8	7	1	6	—	—	117	
YEAR 1908.																						
Poulton-Seacombe..	21	—	73	—	—	—	—	141	—	—	3	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	247	
Liscard	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	19	—	65	44	2	—	—	5	—	—	170	
Wallasey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	9	—	73	37	14	3	1	—	—	—	148	
																					706	565

Tenant pays taxes in houses above a Rental of 11s. 6d. weekly.

Before considering the foregoing figures, it may be well to briefly consider the Insanitary Property problem as it presents itself in this district, and the measures taken to attack it up to the present.

Houses unfit for habitation may be classed under two heads.

1.—Those which cannot be made fit for habitation, owing, for instance, to their position with regard to other houses, to their extremely dilapidated state, or to their lack of proper conveniences, which conveniences cannot be supplied in the space available.

2.—Those which are unfit for habitation, largely owing to the filthy habits of the people inhabiting them, and the bad state of repair into which they have been allowed to lapse, but which, with very thorough repair,—not slum patching,—and provision of proper conveniences (where absent) can be made fit for habitation.

Class 1, of course, ought to be demolished; but with respect to these, it is very necessary to bear in mind that the process of demolition should take place gradually, otherwise hardship will be inflicted on those whom it is desired to help. The sudden demolition of a large number of houses must of necessity inflict hardship on the tenants, in that they may not be able at once to find houses to take the place of those from which they are being turned out.

Houses in Class 2 must also be dealt with with discretion. It is not wise to deal with too many houses at a time in one district, because the thorough repair of a house in the majority of instances will mean the temporary ejection of the tenant.

It is very necessary also that as many as possible of the low-rented houses should be preserved. Owing to the rise in price of land and building materials during the last few years, it is impossible to build houses to-day at anything like as cheap a rate as formerly. The demand for low-rented houses always, and in every town, exceeds the supply.

In this district up to the present time we have dealt with houses under both Class 1 and Class 2. 15 have been demolished, 8 are about to be demolished, 20 have been thoroughly repaired, and a Closing Order is to be applied for with respect to three to ensure their being put into a state of thorough repair. The object of applying for a Closing Order is to prevent the owner receiving rents from houses that are unfit to live in, until such time as they are made fit. The houses repaired and demolished have not been all in the same neighbourhood. At a rough estimate there are scattered over the district an additional 20 cottages which are unfit for habitation and which cannot be made fit. These, I hope, will gradually be demolished. There are a considerable number of houses which are out of repair and lack the proper conveniences so essential to decent living, but which can be made fit, and these also will be dealt with gradually.

I mention these facts as having a very considerable bearing on the question shortly to be considered, in that the number of houses demolished must be a factor in coming to a conclusion as to the necessity or otherwise of building dwellings for the working classes.

It will be noted on Table, page 97, that there were 87 unoccupied houses in the district. 23 of these were at a rental of 5s. per week and under, 21 at rentals of between 5s. and 6s., 20 at rentals between 6s. and 7s.

The Table on page 97 is very interesting. It suggests the need of bathing accommodation, to which I will refer again, and the very large proportion of houses in which washing accommodation is provided,—3,460 out of 3,542.

The Table on page 98 shows the extent to which sub-letting of houses prevails. This is an important Table, since a large amount of sub-letting would indicate the lack of suitable accommodation and some amount of overcrowding. With regard to this Table, I am rather of the opinion that the amount of sub-letting is under-estimated, although it represents the answers given to the Inspectors in their house to house enquiries as to whether any portion of the houses was sub-let. It is possible that, for purposes of their own, some may have denied sub-letting where, in fact, it existed.

I should like here to draw your attention to the general housing of the population of this district compared with other places.

According to the last Census, two-thirds of the population of LONDON had houses containing not more than four rooms, these in most cases without adequate sanitary conveniences, open space, sunlight and air. About 900,000 people were living in overcrowded rooms. At least 386,000 had to sleep, eat, cook, wash, live and die in one-room dwellings.

In GLASGOW, the second city of the Empire, no less than one-fifth of the people lived in one-room dwellings. More than half the people had houses with not more than two rooms. 87 per cent had three rooms and less, while 90 per cent. of the new buildings in the last three years had not more than three rooms.

In EDINBURGH more than half the homes consisted of one or two rooms.

In WALLASEY, at the last Census, 0.1 per cent. only of the population lived in one room, 1.6 per cent. in two rooms and less, three per cent. in three rooms and less, 16 per cent. in four rooms and less. These figures are most important as showing the character of the population with which we are dealing.

The corresponding figures for BIRKENHEAD at the same time were : One per cent. of the population lived in one room, 5.3 in two rooms and less, 10.1 in three rooms and less, 28.3 in four rooms and less.

The population per house at the last Census in Wallasey was 4.9, in Birkenhead 5.6, and in Bootle 5.8.

I think it may be said with truth that Municipalities embark on house-building for one of two reasons ; either because of the large amount of insanitary property demolished in their area, or actual lack of suitable accommodation for working people. In Wallasey there has not been nor will there be any extensive demolition of property. The property already demolished has been in two lots, separated from one another

at a distance approaching a mile. The different lots of insanitary property which will require demolition are far apart from another, and in quite different districts from those already dealt with. There is thus not likely to be in Wallasey any serious disturbance of population owing to demolition.

The figures of the foregoing Tables do not suggest a house famine.

Perhaps I had better insert here some figures which I have obtained, through the kindness of Captain Martin, relative to the number of people crossing to and from Liverpool via Seacombe by the early morning boats, between 5 and 7 o'clock. The passengers were counted for a week. The average number crossing from Liverpool to Seacombe per day (excluding Sunday) was 349. Those going to Liverpool from Seacombe were 767.

NUMBER OF PASSENGERS FROM AND TO LIVERPOOL VIA SEACOMBE FERRY
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4-45 A.M. AND 7 A.M. ON THE FOLLOWING DATES.

			From Liverpool.	To Liverpool.
Tuesday,	December 8th	...	473	767
Wednesday,	December 9th	...	422	834
Thursday,	December 10th	...	356	768
Friday,	December 11th	...	339	764
Saturday,	December 12th	...	243	763
Monday,	December 14th	...	266	705
Total for six days			<u>2,099</u>	<u>4,601</u>

These figures may not mean very much, but whatever inference one draws from them, they certainly suggest that many Liverpool workmen live in this district out of choice, rather than that Wallasey workmen live in Liverpool because there are no available houses on this side.

I may again refer to the fact that there were 87 empty houses on the occasion of the Inspectors' visits. It is true there is some sub-letting, but that obtains in every district; and after personally visiting a fair number of these houses, my impression is that it is not the so-called respectable working people who sub-let their houses, but rather those who do not want very much work, but who do require a very

large amount of alcohol. Speaking generally, the houses sub-let are the dirtiest houses, and the people inhabiting sub-let houses are the dirtiest of the population, and are largely of a class who would not go into new houses if they were built for them, if for no other reason than that they have conscientious objections to paying much rent; and indeed I very much doubt if it is a wise policy to put this class of people into good houses, because, even with very rigid official supervision (which in itself is repugnant to English people), houses inhabited by a certain class would be made slums in a very short time.

Before discussing the desirability of municipal house-building, let us examine for a moment the experience of all towns with regard to the gradual change in character of districts, and the general shifting of the population. In Liverpool, for example, once fashionable districts are now inhabited by middle-class and working class people. Many common lodging houses now, were, in fact, once residences of merchant princes. The houses vacated by a certain class are inhabited by the class below them. If very large, they are sub-let. In like manner the houses occupied by the superior mechanic, after a time become occupied by the casual labourer, and the experience of all towns, with the possible exception of Liverpool, is that, where houses have been built by municipalities, these houses have been inhabited by the better class of working people, and the people whom it was intended to house occupy the houses vacated for the municipal dwellings, *not* the new houses, precisely as I have pointed out, what happens naturally in every town. Liverpool paid special attention to the housing of those dispossessed by the pulling down of houses, and claim to have housed 70 per cent. of the previous inhabitants; but it must be remembered that Liverpool's schemes are under Part 1 of the Act, have been very expensive, and are undoubtedly a heavy charge on the rates. It is, of course, very important that the people should be housed in decent houses instead of the hovels in which at present so many live. It is of equal, if not greater importance, that they should be housed on lines which will ensure that the houses they inhabit should be properly cared for. Miss Octavia Hill's system of rent collecting, which makes the interest of the landlord and tenant identical, would seem to have solved this part of the problem. She has recognised what so many

people fail to recognise, namely, that the housing question is largely a personal one. A good many people imagine that the housing question can be settled by municipal house-building. Nothing is further from the truth. Immense sums have been spent all over the country (the London County Council itself had spent nearly £3,500,000 up to November, 1906) without any appreciable result. In fact, only the fringe of the problem has been touched up to the present. Everyone will admit that charitable doles do no good. So with housing doles; the people must be taught to help themselves, and that is not accomplished by the municipality building a small number of houses for the people to live in, especially when the tenants for the houses must of necessity be chosen, if not by favouritism, by something approaching it. Any policy of housing reform cannot be satisfactory unless it is capable of being applied to the whole district. This would be a difficult matter for the municipal house builder.

The expediency of municipal house-building is a much debated question, and it may be of interest at this juncture to give the reasons which prompted a Sub-committee of the Birmingham City Council, appointed in 1903, to report as to the necessity or otherwise of building Workmen's Dwellings in Birmingham, which, it may be mentioned, was a town containing at that time, 42,000 back-to-back houses, *i.e.*, houses without through ventilation, and 6,000 courts, many of the unfit houses being occupied by persons of drunken and dissolute habits; indeed it was stated that the condition of the houses was often due to the tenants themselves. One would have thought that, if there ever was one, here was a town in which municipal house-building was indicated, but in spite of the above conditions, however, the Committee reported against municipal house-building, and gave the following as their reasons:—

(1) " Experience shows that in spite of the fact that
" Corporations can borrow money cheaply, municipal house-
" building is more expensive than any other ;

(2) " Municipal houses, if let at a lower rent than those
" around must be let at a loss. This means that one class of
" ratepayers is paying part of the rent of another ;

(3) "The evidence shows that rate-aided competition in house-building and letting will drive everyone else out of the field, with the result that the supply will not meet the demand, and a house famine will ensue. As a matter of fact, since the Council decided to hold its hand in the matter of house-building, schemes for the erection of flats at rentals of from 3s. to 6s. 3d. per week have been started by two different persons ;

(4) "It is urged that the community ought to provide good cheap houses for the respectable poor. But these are just the people who will not come forward for such houses ; they will have to be sought for. Meantime the applications of those who present themselves will have to be scrutinised in an inquisitorial manner impossible for a public body. And supposing such an enquiry were carried out, those just above the limit for admission to a cheap house would suffer a great injustice, and would be tempted to earn lower wages, by doing less work, in order to qualify for the better and cheaper house ;

(5) "Municipal house-building is a form of rate-aided charity to the poorest inhabitants, which must press heavily upon those ratepayers above that limit, but who already find it difficult to make both ends meet ;

(6) "The only effect of municipal house-building, supposing it to reduce rent all over the city, would be to benefit employers of labour, since it is a well-known fact that wages follow rent."

With regard to No. 3, it seems to me quite clear that, apart from the clearance of an area under Part I. of the H.W.C.A., with the consequent compulsory re-building, houses built by a Municipality must either be, so to speak, (*a*) a drop in the ocean and have no influence on the solution of the housing problem (what influence, for instance, can the building of thirty or forty houses by a Municipality possibly have), or (*b*) be so extensive as to drive out of the field all private undertakings, for, as the Birmingham Committee point out, no private man could hope to compete with a Municipality if, as is generally the case, the Municipality is content with a less rate of interest upon

their capital and therefore want less rent for a similar house than the private owner would want.

I would like to refer to some figures relating to this aspect of the question, contained in Alderman Nettlefold's Book on Practical Housing. Most of the housing work in the country has been done under Part I. of the Act. From figures collected by him, it would appear that, throughout the country, 10,805 houses have been dealt with; £4,202,655 has been spent; 54,030 persons re-housed; giving an average of £77 15s. per person. The cost per head of re-housing varies from £40 19s. in some places to £107 4s. in others. Very many more than 10,805 houses have been dealt with under Part I., and of course a great deal more money has been spent, but the data are not sufficiently clear and reliable to justify their inclusion in the figures given above. He then goes on to say:—

“ It is, I think, understating the case to say that there
 “ are, at the very least, five million people in this country living
 “ in houses urgently requiring improvement either in their
 “ fabric or surroundings. If the tenants are relieved under
 “ Part I. at a cost of £50 per head (not £77 15s.—average for the
 “ country), the total sum required will be £250,000,000,
 “ which is far more than the Local Authorities could possibly
 “ raise for housing reform even if they and their constituents
 “ are willing to do so.”

From the Table on page 99, it will be noticed that 109 new houses of the kind under consideration, *i.e.*, at a weekly rental of 7s. 6d. and under, were certified for habitation last year (1908) in this district. This number, at a cost of only £250 per house, means an expenditure of £27,250. If, therefore, by any action of the Council private enterprise were driven out of the field in this district, and the place were to develop as rapidly in future years as it did last year, it would appear that the Council would either have to borrow £27,250 per annum, or the development of the place would be stayed. When one considers the variety of objects for which money has to be borrowed yearly by a Local Authority, it is, to say the least, extremely doubtful if the yearly amount of money necessary for the proper development of the district could be obtained.

I think it is generally admitted that municipal building is always expensive ; in fact, municipal work of any kind costs more than similar work done by private enterprise. If, therefore, houses are to be let at their economic rent, the same class of house must cost more to the tenant. If let below their economic rent it means that the rates are in part being used to make up the deficiency. No thoughtful man would advocate the letting of houses below the economic rent by means of subsidies from the rates in any form, either overt or covert. To quote again from Nettlefold's Book :—

“Wages follow rents, and the policy of letting houses
 “below their economic rent would only result in providing
 “capitalists with cheap labour at the expense of the general
 “body of ratepayers. Capitalists as a body are quite able
 “to take care of themselves without any outside assistance,
 “and there is no reason for providing them with cheap labour
 “at the expense of the general body of ratepayers. The object
 “of housing reformers should be to level up, not to level down.
 “We should endeavour to secure the best possible housing
 “accommodation within the means of the people, and not to
 “reduce rents by cutting quality or manipulating the local
 “rates.”

In Birmingham, where I find they adopted some time ago the same policy with regard to the housing question as that which we have commenced in Wallasey, namely, making the owners of slum property put such property into thorough repair (if this is possible) or demolish it, during the last six years 1,708 houses have been repaired, 1,005 houses demolished, 342 are being repaired. They found it necessary to appoint a special Housing Staff, which, of course, had to be paid, and several obstructive buildings have been demolished, for which compensation has had to be paid. The total cost, however, of all the work, including the items above mentioned, works out at £1 4s. per head of people housed, which compares very favourably with the average for the whole country of £77 4s. 0d. per head of people housed under Part I.

I referred earlier in the Report to the large number of houses in this district without baths. When one recognises the fact that the housing question is largely a personal one, and no inconsiderable portion of it a question of cleanliness, I would suggest that there is need for the provision of additional bathing facilities. It may be pointed out that, in the new Baths, accommodation of this character has been provided, but I would urge that the private baths in those buildings are used by a superior class of people altogether to that which it is necessary to get in touch with. Many poor working people do not care to prove by comparison with other people more fortunate perhaps, how dirty they are, and probably look upon a building lined with white tiles as something far above them. What I suggest is, that cottage houses should be rented in various parts of the district and two or three baths placed therein, towels and soap provided, so that the poor people in the neighbourhood could, for the nominal sum of a penny, have a hot bath when they needed one.

The necessity for wash-houses is not so acute. A very large proportion of the houses are already provided with accommodation in that respect. In this district the water supply for a good many houses consists of a stand-by pipe in the yards (and incidentally I may mention that during the recent spell of cold weather, out of 71 taps supplying 90 houses with water, 97 per cent. of them were frozen.) This matter I propose to deal with in the near future. I mention it here because it is in no slight manner bound up in the housing question. If people have no water, they themselves and their houses are perforce dirty; a dirty house is an insanitary house. The provision of a proper water supply may result in turning an insanitary house into a sanitary one.

In my opinion much more useful work tending towards the ultimate solution of the housing question can be done by a Municipality than by building houses. I have just referred to one; let me mention others. One item which unnecessarily adds to the rent of houses is the cost of estate development. If, therefore, the cost of estate development can be lowered, without at the same time in any way endangering the health, convenience or comfort of the people, I think it should be done. I would suggest that in at least two particulars this can be accomplished:

(a) in the making of roads, (b) in the making of back passages. The minimum width between houses allowed in this district is 36 feet. (I take this district merely as an example. The bye-laws in force here with regard to streets apply fairly generally throughout the country). The minimum width of roadway is 20 feet. The minimum width of the sidewalks is eight feet. The sidewalks are paved with flags. The roadway is solidly made, and channelled at each side. Along the majority of side roads in this district nothing ever passes except an occasional tradesman's cart. Two of these occasionally meet in a road. Is there any reason why the carriage-way should be any wider than would admit of the passing of these two vehicles? Or again, is there any reason why in those non-frequented streets the paving should be at least eight feet wide? While maintaining as great a distance as the Bye-laws now enforce between the houses, is there any reason why the extra space saved should not be grass, lined with shrubs or trees? It would not only save expense but would also enhance the beauty of the streets. The same method might be used for dealing with roads which are not at present main roads, but which may be main roads at some future time. Having secured the requisite distance between the houses, the roadway could be made at first wide enough to suit the requirements of the time; afterwards, since the Local Authority would own the whole of the street, it might be widened at simply the cost of making the extra width of road required.

With regard to back passages, I think the requirements with respect to them might be made less stringent, and less expensive, without in any way proving a source of nuisance or danger.

A second essential for cheap housing is cheap land. This can only be obtained on the outskirts of a district, and cheap travelling facilities are essential. All the most recent, the best and most successful housing schemes have been carried out on land bought at agricultural price, on town-planning and co-partnership principles, that is, where money is advanced for the purpose of developing the estate by capitalists at a fixed rate of interest, generally four per cent. Any profit above that goes to reduce rents or give increased facilities to the tenants.

It has been suggested that the money saved by decreased cost of estate development might not result in cheaper rents, but would go into the pockets of the land-owner. That may be so in some cases, but it would not be so if the estate were developed on co-partnership lines, nor again, if the Municipality owned the land and supervised the development thereof on well thought out lines.

Both these points were also dealt with in the Town Planning Bill, which, as your Committee are well aware, passed through the Committee of the House of Commons last Session, but was crowded out at the end, and did not become law. This Bill may be termed a non-political measure, and is to be re-introduced next Session, when it will doubtless be passed into law. This being so, I should strongly advise the Committee to hold their hand in the matter of building houses for the present, whatever course of action they ultimately decide upon. In this district there is no urgent need at any rate, for the building of houses.

Let me conclude the Report by a quotation from a well-known writer on the Housing Question. He says :—

“The duty of a Local Authority is to lay down the
 “main policy, giving all their energies to encouraging others to
 “carry out details, and taking the utmost pains to see that the
 “work is well done. Experience shows that the work is better
 “done by individuals, provided always that the Local Authority
 “supervises it with courage and discretion.”

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. W. N. BARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

P.S.—Since the completion of this Report, I have had the opportunity of reading the new Children's Act, and I rather think it will be obligatory on the Local Authority to provide bath accommodation, of a similar kind to that I have suggested on page 109, if the requirements of that Act are to be satisfied.

List of Streets in which Deaths have taken place in 1909—continued.

LOCALITIES.	January.		February.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		September.		October.		November.		December.	
	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.
Walsingham Road	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Warren Drive
Waverley Street	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Warwick Drive
Waterloo Road
Wellington Rd., Egremont	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wellington Road
(New Brighton)
Westmoreland Road
Wentworth Avenue	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilson Road
Westminster Road
William Street	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Withens Lane
Winterhey Avenue
Windsor Street	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wright Street	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wheatland Lane	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton Street
Woodview Avenue
York Road
York Avenue
Zig Zag Road
TOTALS ..	11	57	12	82	15	95	15	74	8	57	15	45	10	50	8	47	14	40	13	51	9	77	18	62

Total under 1 year .. 148
 Total over 1 year .. 737