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BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF —

J. F. MUIR, M.D., C.M.,

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WITH

TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY, &c.,

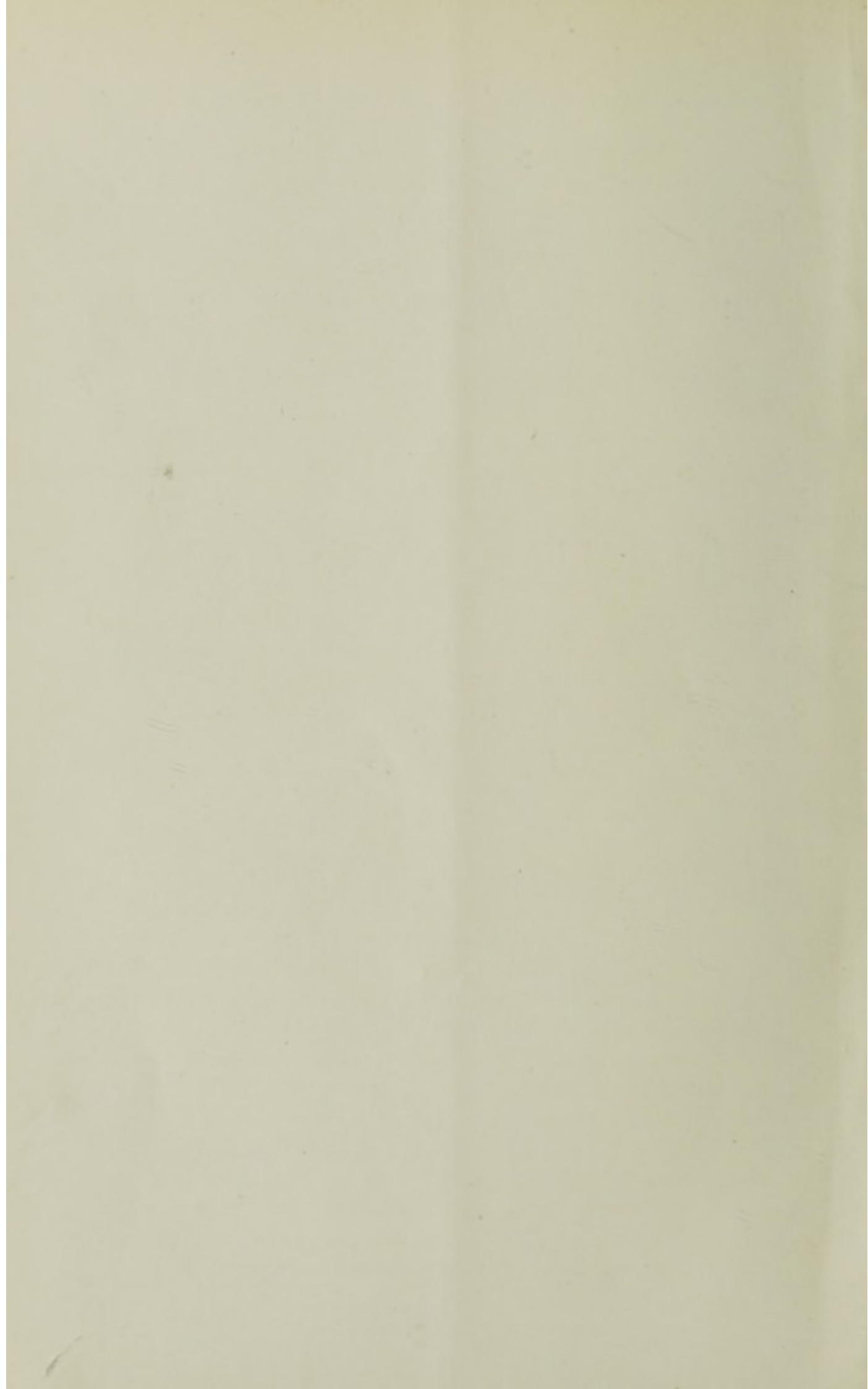
FOR THE YEAR, 1917.



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—
1918.



TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF WHITEHAVEN.

113, SCOTCH STREET,

WHITEHAVEN,

April, 1918.

Gentlemen,

Acting according to the requirements of the Local Government Board, I now present to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1917. In doing so I am at the disadvantage of acting as your Medical Officer of Health for about only one-third of that year. Owing to the sudden and lamented death of your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. B. Fisher, I was asked to undertake the duties of that office temporarily until a full-time officer should be appointed and be able to undertake the duties. Such an appointment has been made, but owing to the exigencies of the war and military service your Medical Officer of Health cannot yet perform the duties of his office, so I have to carry on until such times as can be arranged by the Council.

Having gone carefully over the Registrar's Returns for the Borough for the full year, I have been able, with the assistance of the Registrar General's Returns, to compile the report for the year. The Local Government Board intimated in its notice as to reports of Medical Officers of Health that, owing to the exceptional circumstances of the war, and shortage of paper, it is not desirable for the annual report to be exhaustive as to detail in matters of routine character, which are usually embodied in the annual report and required by the Local Government Board in normal conditions, but that only the actual work done during the year should be briefly set forth, and that such tabular statements as may be necessary or useful in showing the state of public health be included. According to these instructions, and from the fact of my not having done duty for the full year, several of the less

important tables have been omitted, and only those showing the birth and death-rates, the incidence of Zymotic diseases, and the other more important sanitary matters occurring in the year 1917 have been tabulated.

The war has made it impossible to adhere to the methods of estimation of local and national populations hitherto in use. Men of military age have been largely drafted to military training centres, or sent abroad with the army, and the remainder of the adult male population, as well as, to a lesser extent, the female population, has migrated on an unprecedented scale into areas other than those in which it was at the last census.

Taking as a basis the estimates of the civil population, as given by the Registrar General, the birth and death-rates of the Borough have been reckoned. The estimated population by the Registrar General is 17,892, which closely approximates that of the Borough Surveyor for the middle of last year. This is the figure on which the death-rates are founded. While for the birth-rate the population, as estimated by the Registrar General, is given at 19,945, and on that very much higher estimate the birth-rate is calculated. The two factors in the estimate of population make the birth-rate appear lower and the death-rate higher.

The number of births registered in the Borough was 479, being twenty less than the previous year, and giving a birth-rate of 24.02, calculated from the higher estimate of population as before stated. Of these births 252 were boys and 227 girls, and there were thirty-two illegitimate—thirteen boys and nineteen girls. Ten children were born in the workhouse—six boys and four girls.

There were 323 deaths registered in the Borough, which is equal to a death-rate of 18.05 per thousand per annum, and is lower than that of last year, which was 18.4. Of these deaths fifty-one were of non-residents, that is of persons whose usual place of abode was not in the Borough, but were only temporarily residing there at the time of their death. Most of these occurred in one or other of the Institutions in the Borough. On the other

hand, there were seven deaths occurred outside of persons usually residing in the Borough. The fifty-one deaths of non-residents are deducted from the gross number of deaths, and the seven deaths of usual residents added to the resultant, which makes the nett number of deaths 279, equivalent to a death-rate of 15·59 per thousand per annum. Of infants under one year of age sixty-eight deaths were registered during the year, giving an infantile death-rate of 141·9 per thousand births, a very considerable increase over that of the previous year.

From the eight principal Zymotic diseases enumerated in Table III. there were eighteen deaths, the same number as in 1916. The death-rate was just over 1·0 per thousand. Nine of these deaths were due to Diarrhœa and Enteritis, five to Whooping Cough, two to Diphtheria, and one each to Enteric Fever and Measles. As regards the mortality of the Borough, the figures compare favourably with those of previous years, except in the case of infantile mortality and the constantly lowering birth-rate.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year is shown in Table IV. There were in all 103. The cases of Tuberculosis were most numerous, there being 38, of which 34 were affections of the lungs, and four of other forms of this disease. Measles were notified in 30 cases, with one death, and two of Rôtheln or German Measles. There were 12 cases of Scarlet Fever, seven of which were removed to the Fever Hospital. There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever.

Six cases of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup were notified, with two deaths. Of these six, two were removed to hospital. One case of Enteric Fever was notified from the Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, was treated and died there. Three infants were notified as suffering from *Ophthalmia Neonatorum, all of which were visited and watched by the Health Visitor, and medically treated at their homes. Eleven cases of Erysipelas were notified. The number of cases admitted to Bransty Fever Hospital during the year was nine, this being the fewest for many years. There were no deaths, and there were no cases in the hospital at the year end.

The Child Welfare Centre, which was only opened in July last, has been well attended, and I think fully appreciated by those attending it. Unfortunately, many of the mothers to whom the Centre would be a decided benefit in teaching habits of cleanliness and the care of infants do not seem to care to come. I suppose it is a matter of educating them up to the benefits to be derived that only can remedy this.

I have made no systematic inspections of the Borough since I took over the duties of Medical Officer, but special inspections of insanitary houses have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself wherever requisite.

One slaughter-house for horses was inspected, and a temporary licence granted.

The number of Registered Workshops and the number of male and female employees are shown in Table VII.; also the inspections under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act in Table V. The number and character of defects found to exist is shown in Table VI. There is also a summary of the Sanitary Inspector's report for the year at the end of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES F. MUIR, M.D., C.M.,

Acting M.O.H.

TABLE II.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH
DURING YEAR 1917.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 Years.	2 and under 5 Years.	5 and under 15 Years.	15 and under 25 Years.	25 and under 45 Years.	45 and under 65 Years.	65 and upwards.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
All causes { Certified	307	53	23	23	25	25	38	53	67	74
{ Uncertified	16	1	2	..	..	..	2	5	6	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	5	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	29	..	..	6	8	8	7	..	..	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	5	..	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	11	4	2	..	3	2	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	28	..	..	..	..	1	3	16	8	6
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease	22	..	..	..	4	3	6	5	4	6
Bronchitis	29	..	3	3	..	..	..	3	20	16
Pneumonia (all forms)	35	13	7	4	2	..	2	4	3	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	9	2	2	1	..	1	3	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	15	..	..	2	..	3	4	3	3	6
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Births	19	18	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	13	1	..	..	1	..	6	4	1	10
Suicides	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	76	14	5	2	4	2	4	17	28	23
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	..
Totals	323	54	25	23	25	25	40	58	73	74

TABLE III.—DEATHS FROM EIGHT PRINCIPAL
ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1917.

Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total Number of Zymotic Deaths							18
Zymotic Death-rate per 1000 of population per annum							1.00

TABLE IV.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1917.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards	
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	...	2	3	...	1	...	...	2
Erysipelas	11	...	1	...	1	4	...	5	...
Scarlet Fever ...	12	...	4	8	...	...	...	...	7
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	34	...	1	9	9	13	...	2	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	4	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	30	1	14	10	3	2	...	...	...
German Measles ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Totals	103	4	23	34	15	20	...	7	9

Bransty Hospital for Infectious Diseases is situated within the Borough, and provided by the Corporation. The Whitehaven Union Workhouse is also situated within the Borough.

TABLE V.—INSPECTIONS UNDER THE HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &c.,
ACT, 1909, DURING THE YEAR 1917.

Number of Dwellinghouses Inspected.	Number of Notices Served to Remedy Defects found on Inspection.	Number of Notices complied with.	Work in hand.	Notices not complied with.
286	268	13	4	251

TABLE VI.—SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CHARACTER OF DEFECTS
FOUND TO EXIST.

In-sufficient.	CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.		DRAINAGE AND SLOP WATER.			LIGHT AND VENTILATION.			Defective Paving of Yards and Out-Houses.	TOTAL.		
	Situation Unsuitable requiring Removal.	Condition Defective requiring Re-construction.	Defective Drains and Soil-pipes.	Defective Gullies.	Defective Sinks and Waste-Pipes.	Windows Defective or Fixed.	Special Openings required for Ventilation.	Partitions in Bedrooms interfering with Ventilation.			Defective Walls, Roofs, and Spouts.	Defective Floors.
4	12	12	5	5	8	309	227	...	76	3	19	746

TABLE VII.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the Year 1917.

Nature of Business.	No. of Work-shops.	Number of Persons employed.		
		Male.	Female.	Total.
Dressmakers and Milliners	16	...	46	46
Bakehouses	7	3	27	30
Tailors	8	19	9	28
Joiners	4	6	...	6
Cloggers	6	13	...	13
Boot and Shoemakers	4	14	...	14
Dealers in Cycles and Motors	4	10	...	10
Brazier and Tinsmith	1	3	...	3
Saddlers	2	7	5	12
Tallow Chandler	1	2	3	5
Bacon Washer	1	2	2	4
Plumbers	8	31	...	31
Coach Builders	1	2	...	2
Aerated Water Maker	1	4	...	4
Hosier	1	...	1	1
Blacksmith ... ..	...	...	...	...
Builder	1	3	...	13
Dye Works	1	1	2	3
Upholsterers	2	1	2	3
Watchmaker	1	1	1	2
Total	70	137	98	235

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
FOR 1917.

Defective Roofs and Walls causing Dampness	...	...	...	12
„ Rain Water Spouts	...	...	...	9
„ Water Supply (from Defective Connections)				3
„ and Choked Drains	...	...	...	42
„ Paving and Channelling in Courts and Yards				8
„ Sink Connections	...	...	...	3
„ Ventilation of Dwelling Houses (Sash Windows provided)	...	...	...	13
Accumulations of Manure in connection with Stables, &c.				14
W.C.'s in Insanitary Condition (Fittings Defective, &c.)				124
Houses and Premises in Dirty and Insanitary Condition				59
Dwelling Houses Overcrowded	...	...	...	7
Notice for Lime-washing of Courts	...	...	...	12
„ „ Slaughter-houses...				6
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	...	...	86
Unsound Meat Condemned—				
4 Whole Carcases of Beef.				
Portions of 6 Carcases of Beef—986 lbs.				
Unsound Fish Condemned—				
1 Barrel of Crabs.				
Unsound Fruit and Vegetables Condemned—				
Potatoes—384 stones.				
Pears—80 stones.				
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	188
„ „ „ complied with	...	...	...	180
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	12
„ „ „ complied with	...	...	...	10

