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Contributors

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WOMBWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer
of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1920.



WOMBWELL :
T. M. Thornsby & Son, Printers, Central Printing Works.
1921.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

Area of Urban District	....	....	....	3,850 Acres
Population at Census, 1911	....	....		17,538
Population estimated by Registrar-General for 1920—				
For Birth Rate	....	....	....	17,764
For Death Rate	....	....	....	17,764
Excess of Births over Deaths for 1920	....			372
No. of Houses occupied at end of 1920	....			3,671

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate	....	....	....	....	36.1 per 1,000
Death Rate (All Causes)	....	....			15.1 " "
" Phthisis	....	....	....		.9 " "
" Zymotic Diseases	....				3.1 " "
" Respiratory Diseases	....				2.0 " "
Infantile Death Rate	....				101 per 1,000 Nett Births

Wombwell Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

TOWN HALL,

WOMBWELL,

APRIL, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Wombwell
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

The district is divided into five wards, namely, South-East, South-West, Central, North and Hemingfield, and is 3,851 acres in extent. The soil consists of marl and clay, with a sandy sub-soil resting on the shales and sandstones of the coal measures. The surface is undulating and the average height above sea level is 200 feet. The Great Central and Midland Railways and the Dearne and Dove Canal pass through the district, the last named is not much used, being chiefly for the transportation of coal and timber.

The chief occupations of the population are coal mining, glass bottle making, the manufacture of by-products from coal, and engineering. The total amount of Poor Law Relief for the district for the past year was £3,424-0-0. For the purposes of the Poor Law your district is within the Barnsley Poor Law Union and 12 deaths occurred during the year in Asylums or Infirmaries serving that Union.

For the purposes of Infectious Diseases your Authority contributes to the maintenance of the Kendray Hospital in the Urban District of Ardsley (Stairfoot) to which, as far as possible, all cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever are removed, while in times of epidemic bad cases of Measles can be taken there also, and generally beds are available for such rare cases as Encephalitis Lethargica.

Your Authority also contributes to the maintenance of the Lund Wood Small-Pox Hospital, in the Township of Monk Bretton, and to this any case of Small-Pox can at once be removed.

All the Sanitary Authorities of the Barnsley Poor Law Union contribute to the above hospitals.

For Colliery accidents in your district the Beckett Hospital Barnsley is available as it is also for other accidents, and subject to the available accommodation for surgical and medical cases generally.

Other cases from your district are admitted to the General Hospitals of Sheffield or Leeds. For Poor Law cases, the Workhouse Infirmary at Barnsley is available.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of December last was 3,671.

Of the total births 37 (19 males and 18 females) or 5·7 per cent were registered as being illegitimate. Five of the illegitimate children (all females) died within the year, the causes of death being as follows :—

Immaturity	...	15 days.
Haemorrhage	...	30 minutes.
Asthénia	...	3 days.
„	...	1 „
„	...	1 hour.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths amounted to 270 including 25 deaths of residents dying outside the district and excluding 3 non residents who died in this district. They consisted of 132 males and 138 females. Distributed into wards they were as follows :—

S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.
62	46	52	42	68

This gives a total death rate of 15·1 per 1,000.

This rate is high when compared with the death rate of England and Wales (12·4) but can be readily explained by the high birth rate. A high birth rate results in the presence of a large number of persons at the early years of life at which the death rate is high. The average for the last 10 years is 15·7 per 1,000.

The death rate last year for England and Wales was 12·4 per 1,000.

There were 17 enquiries by the Coroner.

Of still born babies there were 23 interred at the Wombwell Cemetery and 7 at Hemingfield Cemetery.

Infantile Mortality.

Under 1 year of age the deaths amounted to 66 being 2 more than in 1919

The death rate is 101 per 1,000 births, and is much less than during the past decade.

It is still higher than that of England and Wales which for the past year was 80.

The causes of the Infantile Deaths were :—

Measles	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis				3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	7
Premature Birth	...	...	...	30
Other Causes	...	...	...	9

Ward Statistics.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total.
Approximate Population	3661	3597	3954	3585	4030	
All Deaths	62	46	52	42	68	270
Death Rate	16.9	12.7	13.1	11.7	16.8	
Births	140	97	132	142	131	642
Birth Rate	38.2	26.9	33.3	39.6	32.5	
Infantile Deaths ...	18	13	8	12	15	66
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births	128	134	60	84	114	
Illegitimate Births ...	11	3	7	5	11	37
„ Deaths ...	3		1		4	8

Zymotic Diseases.

There were 56 deaths from Zymotic diseases equal to a death rate of 3.1 per 1,000. The causes of these Zymotic deaths were as follows:—

Diarrhoea ...	9
Diphtheria ...	1
Typhoid Fever ...	2
Measles ...	41
Whooping Cough	3
	<hr/>
	56
	<hr/>

Under the Infectious Disease Notification Act there were notified 219 cases of infectious disease as follows:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	8
Erysipelas	...	...	...	28
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	37
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	9
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	123
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis				1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...			1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...			7

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Distribution in the Wards.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total.
Diphtheria	1	1	1	4	1	8
Erysipelas	6	4	6	4	8	28
Scarlet Fever	11	9	6	3	8	37
Enteric Fever	2	2			5	9
Puerperal Fever			2	1	2	5
Pneumonia	16	9	12	4	82	123
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis				1		1
Eucephalitis Lethargica					1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			3	1	3	7

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REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.

	S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	Total.
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1		4
Scarlet Fever	9	7	5	2	6	29
Enteric Fever	2	2			4	8
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis				1		1

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

During the year there were notified 37 cases of Scarlet Fever, 29 of which were removed to Hospital. There was no return case. The cases were fairly evenly distributed throughout the different wards and spread fairly evenly through the different months of the year. There were no deaths.

Enteric Fever.

There were 2 deaths out of the 9 cases notified.

Five of the nine cases occurred in the Hemingfield Ward (4 in one yard). Bacteriological examination pointed to these latter being caused by a carrier in the same yard, who had had the disease, which was unrecognised at the time. The carrier conditionally agreed to go to Hospital for treatment and was kept in $4\frac{1}{2}$ weeks.

A special report on this outbreak was sent to the Ministry of Health.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

There was 1 death out of 8 cases notified. The cases occurred sporadically.

Free supplies of Antitoxin were available at the Town Hall for the use of all the Doctors.

Smallpox, Anthrax, Rabies, Dysentery, Malaria and Trench Fever.

No cases of these diseases occurred during the year.

No vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health.

Disinfection.

Disinfection of the houses was carried out methodically (after removal of a case of acute Infectious Disease or at the termination of the illness) by fumigation and spraying with Formalin, while infected clothing was washed with Izal, and in certain cases the infected clothing was removed to the steam disinfector at the Kendray Hospital.

Influenza.

Influenza was fairly prevalent in February and March, but was a much milder epidemic than in the previous two years. There were 7 deaths, and these were evenly distributed as regards age, groups and locality.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One case was reported but it was too ill to be removed to Hospital and died the following day.

Respiratory Diseases.

There were 36 deaths from diseases of the respiratory tract—10 less than in 1919—23 from Bronchitis and 13 from Pneumonia. This is equal to a rate of 2 per 1,000.

Circulatory Diseases.

27 deaths occurred from diseases of the heart. This is equal to a rate of 1.5 per 1,000.

Cancer.

Cancer caused 13 deaths which gives a rate of .73 per 1,000.

Phthisis and other Tuberculous Diseases.

Phthisis and other Tuberculous Diseases caused 29 deaths which is 3 more than in 1919, and 1 more than 1918—which however was 4 less than 1917. The Phthisis death rate is .9 per 1,000.

The number of cases of Phthisis and other Tuberculous diseases notified in this district during the past year is much greater than in previous years. This is not due to any increase in actual cases of Tuberculosis in the district, but due to the greater facilities for "getting at" the cases.

A School Clinic is held every Tuesday, to which any school child is taken who doesn't seem well, and they are examined by the School Clinic Doctor. The majority of the notifications of Tuberculosis is composed of children of school age and under. A great deal of Tuberculosis prevalent in the Township would be lessened or prevented if the people would—to a much greater extent than they do at the present time—appreciate the value of fresh air and keep their windows open day and night.

This is even more necessary still, when there is so much overcrowding due to the house shortage.

A house to house inspection of the district reveals that there are 519 houses in the Township in which there are living more than one family, and that there are 404 houses in which there are more than two persons per room.

The number of houses where the people have their windows always shut is perfectly appalling and many houses have their windows and fireplaces made up.

The air in these rooms is never fresh, and the health of the occupants soon deteriorates by living in these vitiated atmospheres, and they fall an easy prey to the ravages of Tuberculosis.

Each case of Tuberculosis notified is visited and a leaflet of instructions left, and where necessary a sputum flask is provided. Patients are advised where possible to attend at the Tuberculosis Dispensary at Barnsley.

Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of residents, whether occurred within or without the districts.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH.								
	All ages.	under 1 year.	1—2 years.	2—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	65 and upwards.
Enteric Fever ...	2				1	1			
Measles ...	41	5	13	20	3				
Whooping Cough ...	3	2	1						
Diphtheria ...	1				1				
Influenza ...	7			1	1	1	1	1	2
Erysipelas ...	1							1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	16				2	4	8	2	
Taberculous Meningitis	5	1		2	2				
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	8	3		4			1		
Cancer ...	13						3	5	5
Rheumatic Fever ...	5				2		3		
Meningitis ...	1							1	
Cardiac Disease ...	27				3	2	5	8	9
Bronchitis ...	23	5	5					4	9
Pneumonia ...	13	3		3	3		3	1	
Diarrhœa ...	9	6	1	1	1				
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1								1
Nephritis ...	7		1	1	1	2	2		
Puerperal Fever ...	2					1	1		
Premature Birth ...	22	22							
Violence... ..	5			1		1	2	1	
Suicide	3						1	2	
Other defined diseases...	55	11		2	1	1	9	8	23
Totals ...	270	58	21	35	21	13	39	34	49

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1920.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD.					Total cases re-moved to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					S.E.	S.W.	C.	N.	H.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							65 and up-wards.
Pneumonia ...	123	19	63	25	3	13	16	9	12	4	82	
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	1	1					1			1		1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1				1						1	
Erysipelas ...	28	1		1	5	21	6	4	6	4	8	
Diphtheria ...	8		4	3		1	1	1	1	4	1	4
Puerperal Fever ...	5				2	3			2	1	2	
Enteric Fever ...	9			2	6	1	2	2			5	4
Scarlet Fever ...	37		12	20	5	54	11	9	6	3	8	29
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	133	1	1	53	22	54	20	26	33	32	22	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	37	2	12	17	3	3	6	4	10	4	13	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	7	7							3	1	3	
Totals ...	389	31	92	121	47	96	62	55	73	54	145	38

Water Supply.

The water supply of the district is obtained mainly from artesian wells supplemented by a reservoir with a natural supply.

The water is of a pure quality and has no plumbo-solvent action as a fair amount of lime salts are in solution, and it is practically free from possibilities of contamination.

The supply has been ample and sufficient to the lower levels, but was at times during the year seriously intermittent at the higher levels, particularly Jump and Hemingfield, and this was unfortunately more marked in summer months when a more abundant supply is necessary.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The drainage and sewerage system throughout the district is for the most part satisfactory, and during the year the existing sewer at the top of Gower Street has been extended so as to take in the houses of the New Housing Scheme.

The condition of the main Sewage Works at New Scarbro has been unsatisfactory for some years and its reconstruction has been held up during the War.

Extensive new works are now necessary and a new scheme has been prepared by Messrs. Balfour & Son, of Newcastle, to deal effectually at these works with a population of 20,000, an outline of which was given in the last Annual Report.

This scheme has now been submitted to the Ministry of Health for its approval.

Closet Accommodation.

At the close of the year there were 1,538 privies with covered middens, 1,012 water closets, 115 waste water closets, and 14 pail closets in use in the district.

During the year there were 23 privies converted into water closets. No privies were reconstructed. 4 new additional water closets were provided for old property where there was insufficiency of closet accommodation. The conversion of insanitary privies into the water carriage system has been proceeded with as far as possible. As the constancy of the water supply to all parts of the Township becomes more certain and the extensions to the New Scarbro Sewage Works completed, the conversions will be carried out more speedily so as to eventually completely abolish the insanitary privy.

Scavenging.

This is carried out by the Council's own staff, supplemented by hired carting.

During the year, 9,932 loads of dry refuse were carted to the tips, and 7,964 loads of nightsoil were led on to the land for Farmer's use.

The total cost of this was £5,170.

The cesspools, 13 in number, are emptied at least once weekly by a special staff and removed on to the land.

Approximately, movable ashbins (with proper covering) for 250 houses have been substituted for fixed receptacles during the last 6 years-

Sanitary Inspection of Districts.

The number of Sanitary Inspections made in 1920 was 7,374.

In connection with this, 542 informal notices were served and of these 516 were complied with.

Statutory notices were served upon the owners of 37 houses under the Housing Acts and in 27 cases they were satisfactorily complied with.

Action was also taken under the Public Health Acts in the case of 57 houses and in 48 of these the notices were complied with.

Classified as to nature of defects or nuisances discovered they are as follows :—

STATUTORY.				OTHER.			
Overcrowding	...	...	21	Blocked or Defective Drains			
Dampness	...	...	25	and W.C.'s	...	...	387
Dirty Houses	...	...	11	Overcrowding	...	...	28
Inadequate Ventilation	...	...	9	Insanitary Privies & Ashpits	...	...	98
Insufficient or Insanitary				Defective Sink Pipes	...	...	16
Privies	...	...	39	Insanitary Yards	...	...	65
Insanitary Yards	...	...	25	Various Others	...	...	49
Defective Sink Pipes	...	...	15				
Various Others	...	...	13				

The inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspector comprise the following :—

Statutory house to house	...	...	234
Other houses	...	...	391
Slaughter-houses	...	...	434
Workshops	...	...	93
Cowsheds	...	...	278
Canal Boats	...	...	13
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	15
Nuisances	...	...	5,916
,, Reported	...	...	788
,, Abated	...	...	786
Total Number of Inspections	...	...	<u>7,374</u>

Factories and Workshops.

There are 61 Factories and Workshops in the Urban District and these have been the subject of 93 visits by the Sanitary Inspector and reported as being satisfactory. They consist of :—

Bakehouses	..	...	10
Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	27
Boot Repairing	...	...	7
Joinery, Picture Framing, Watchmaking Cycle Repairing, Saddlery	...	...	15
Two Workplaces—Cab Hiring Establishments.	...	...	2
			<u>61</u>

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are on the register 16 cow keepers and 13 who are purveyors only. By systematic and frequent inspection things have been much improved. The places are now kept clean and tidy, although there is much to be desired in regard to structural improvements.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools in this district is on the whole quite good. The number of closets available for the children is in one or two instances insufficient. At one school there are only 15 closets for 776 children.

Where closets have been in need of repair—only minor repairs were necessary—the attention of the Educational Authorities has been drawn to them and the repairs carried out.

The supply of water available for flushing the closets at the Jump and Hemingfield Schools was on many occasions during the summer months most unsatisfactory. This supply of water improved at the latter part of the year.

During the epidemic of measles the Head Teachers were asked to notify me of the first cases occurring in their schools.

There were no closures of any of the classes. One of the Nurses was put on to visiting all the cases of Measles which came to our notice, and assisted greatly with nursing to keep off chest complications.

The death rate from this disease in this epidemic was greater than in the epidemic when Measles was notifiable.

All the Schools have been regularly and thoroughly disinfected by spraying with formalin during each holiday.

Food.

The milk supply produced in the district is safeguarded from tubercular infection by a half-yearly inspection of the cows by an appointed Veterinary Surgeon.

During the year 3 samples of milk were sent by the Sanitary Inspector to the County Hall at Wakefield for bacteriological examination, but the result in each case was negative.

A large number of householders prefer tinned milk or dried milk preparations for their own use. The dried milk preparations have been used to a very large extent by the Mothers for their babies attending the two Infant Welfare Centres here.

Probably this has been a factor in the small number of deaths we had from Epidemic Diarrhœa during the year, as the food—having to be freshly made—is not so long exposed to flies and other contamination, as cows milk is when in an uncovered jug.

The quantity of milk produced within or imported into the district was sufficient for the needs of the township.

During the year the various premises used for the preparing, storing, or exposing for sale of foodstuffs were frequently inspected by the Sanitary Staff. There were 33 seizures of unsound meat (385 stones of beef, 125 stones of mutton and 145 rabbits) and there were 11 carcasses of beef condemned for destruction on account of tuberculosis.

There are nine licensed slaughterhouses in the district, all privately owned. These were made the subject of 434 visits by the Sanitary Inspector during the year and their condition was generally satisfactory.

The Inspector endeavours, as far as possible, to carry out his visits at the various slaughter houses, at the time of slaughtering, but as there are nine different slaughterhouses to visit, it is much more difficult to get all his visits at the actual time of slaughtering, than if there were one Public Abattoir.

		1914.	Jan. 1920.	Dec. 1920.
Registered	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Licensed	...	11	9	9
Total	... ..	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>

Maternity and Child Welfare.

In connection with the above scheme your Council have established two centres. The first one was started in October 1916, at the Free Library, Wombwell, and is held on Tuesday afternoons. The following year another was instituted at Jump and is held on Thursday afternoons. At both these centres antenatal work is carried out by the Medical Superintendents and during the past year there have attended 20 patients at Wombwell and 10 at Jump (as against 4 in 1919). The cases are brought to the centres by the midwife engaged by the patient; she is present at the examination in order to hear what advice is given to the Mother and that she may subsequently help the latter to carry it out. A printed card of general instructions is then handed to the patient to take home.

Although as yet only a very small percentage of prospective Mothers avail themselves of this branch of the department, yet the numbers are increasing steadily. The midwives have been brought into co-operation and are frequently pressed to bring along their patients; where they do not succeed, they are strongly advised to keep in touch with their patients, supplying them with a printed card of advice and entreat them to call in their own Doctor when any abnormal symptoms are present.

The Infant Welfare Centres are a big success and the attendances continue to increase.

At the Wombwell Centre there have attended 2,450 Mothers and 2,456 Children, a weekly average of 55·8. 263 new babies have joined, of these 234 were under one year and 29 over that age. The Doctor examined 566 children at this Centre during the year—an average of 12·8 per session. At the Jump Centre 85 new babies have joined during the year—of these 72 were under one year and 13 over that age. There were 1,282 attendances at this Centre—an average of 29·8 weekly, and 416 children were examined by the Doctor—an average of 9·6 per session.

At both places tea and light refreshment at practically cost price are supplied to the Mothers, many of whom have walked long distances and brought little ones they could not leave at home. The Centres have materially assisted in supplying large quantities of dried and tinned milk to parents, when there was difficulty in obtaining regular or sufficient supplies of fresh milk. Large quantities of Virol and other malt preparations and cod liver oil emulsion have been purchased at the Centres for backward children. The Health Visitors attend at the home a few days after the birth of the baby and keep in close touch with the Mother until she is getting about; she is then advised to bring her baby to the Centre.

All cases of Ophthalmie Neonatorum are attended twice daily to ensure proper treatment being carried out according to the instructions of the Doctor attending. Deaths in infants under one year and all still births are investigated by the Health Visitors and recorded on index cards for reference.

Puerperal Fever.

Five cases of this disease were notified and there were two deaths. The midwives engaged on these cases were stopped from attending other cases for seven days after their last visit to the patient, and their clothes, bags and instruments were disinfected.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Seven cases were notified, but in none of these cases were the eyes damaged.

Diarrhoea.

There were nine deaths from this disease. The cool and wet summer was one of the chief causes of the comparatively small number of cases.

The more general use of dried milk preparations (which does not allow the same facilities for fly contamination) is another cause in the diminution of cases.

Flies undoubtedly carry the organisms of this disease on their legs and as they frequent middens and other filth they transport the organisms of diarrhoea to food and milk. The importance of a crusade against flies cannot be exaggerated.

Whooping Cough.

There were three deaths from this disease (all under 2 years). The cases were mostly in the Hemingfield Ward.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

One case was reported and removed to Hospital. There has been some recovery from the paralysis.

Measles.

Measles was responsible for 41 deaths. The epidemic was throughout the Township, but mainly in the South East and Hemingfield Wards. It occurred in February and March, when there was a greater liability to chest complications, *e g.*, Pneumonia.

The Schools were not closed.

The cases occurred mostly in children under school age, 38 of the 41 deaths being under 5 years of age. One Health Visitor was kept solely visiting these cases and paid 661 visits. The fact that Measles was again not notifiable, prevented many cases from being brought to the notice of the Sanitary Department. This probably was a factor in the great number of deaths, and the epidemic occurred, as previously stated, in the winter months when chest complications were more likely to occur.

Sanitary Administration.

The staff engaged in Sanitary Administration consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one Sanitary Inspector and one Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The work consists of the ordinary routine work of their office as mentioned in the section on Sanitary circumstances of the district.

In addition the Sanitary Inspector follows up all notifications of infectious diseases fully investigating each case and furnishing the Medical Officer of Health with a report which is filed for reference. He arranges for removal of the case and carries out the necessary disinfections of the premises. Inspections are regularly carried out upon Houses, Premises, Slaughterhouses, Workshops, Cowsheds, Schools, Canal Boats and Vans. Food Inspection of all kinds and destruction of condemned foodstuffs are within his duties.

All nuisances reported or discovered are followed up until remedied.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Officer designated to make inspections under Article 2 of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.

Hospital Accommodation.

All cases of infectious disease requiring removal are taken to the Kendray Hospital, Barnsley. Smallpox cases are accommodated at the Smallpox Hospital, Lund Wood. During the year the following cases were sent to the Kendray Hospital:—Scarlet Fever 29, Enteric Fever 4, Diphtheria 4, Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis 1.

Adoptive Acts.

The following Acts have been adopted by the Council:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

“ “ “ “ “ “ 1907.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

During 1920, 95 specimens were sent to the County Hall, Wakefield, for bacteriological examination as follows:—Widal 6, Sputum 29, Diphtheria 10, Ringworm 45, Other Specimens 5.

Housing.

The total number of inhabited houses at the close of the year was 3,671, of these 3,435 were occupied by the working class. There were six new houses erected during the year. The Registrar General estimated the population for 1920 as being 17,764, and this would give an average of 4·8 persons per house. Before the War the average was 5·2 persons; the increase of births over deaths for the past six years is far in excess of the number of houses built to accommodate them at the 5·2 basis.

A survey of the houses in the township by the Sanitary Inspector reveals the fact that there are 519 houses with more than one family living in each house and that there are 404 houses with an average of more than two persons per room.

A scheme for the erection of 501 houses of the artisan class has been submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Health and is being at present carried out.

During the year 21 cases of overcrowding were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector, the difficulty being to find them other accommodation. The district is of comparatively recent growth and there is an absence of slums.

The general character of the defects found on house inspections were principally as follows :—Overcrowding, Dampness, Dirty Houses, Inadequate ventilation, Insufficient or insanitary privies, Insanitary yards, Defective sink pipes.

Action was taken under the Public Health Acts in the case of 57 houses and 48 of these notices were complied with.

Statutory notices were also served upon the owners of 37 houses under the Housing Acts, and 27 of these were satisfactorily complied with.

In addition to the above 542 informal notices were served and 516 complied with.

The conversion of privies into W.C.'s have been proceeded with whenever possible, and as the water supply becomes more constant at all levels of the township, will be proceeded with at a quicker rate.

With regard to refuse removal this is carried out by the Council's own staff, supplemented by hired carting, the staff being thereby able to keep abreast of the work.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics. Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1. General.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	20,000
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	15·1
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	All cases	...	...	1·6
		Phthisis	...	...	·9
(4)	Infantile mortality	..	...	...	101
(5)	Number of dwelling houses of all classes	...	...	...	3,671
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling houses	...	...	...	3,435
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	4

2. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

1. Inspection.

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	625
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	...	234
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	1
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	37

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence
of informal action by the Local Authority or their
officers 124

3. Action under Statutory powers.

**A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning
&c. Act, 1919.**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were
served requiring repairs 37

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit
(a) by owners 27
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners NIL.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing
Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by
owners of intention to close NIL.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which notices
were served requiring defects to be remedied 57

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied
(a) by owners 56
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners NIL.

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling houses having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | NIL. |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | NIL. |
| (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | ... | NIL. |

3. Unhealthy Areas.

No areas were represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part 1 or (b) Part 2 of the Act of 1890:—

- | | | |
|--|-----|------|
| 4. Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with the consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1919 | ... | NIL. |
|--|-----|------|
5. The staff engaged on Housing Work is composed of
- | |
|------------------------|
| (a) Housing Committee. |
| (b) Surveyor. |
| (c) Sanitary Staff. |

In conclusion, I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for the help they have given me.

My thanks are also due to the Sanitary Inspector for the valuable assistance which he has rendered me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. C. PICKUP,

Medical Officer of Health.

