

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Workington Borough.

Contributors

Workington (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/sd5syj3u>

License and attribution

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

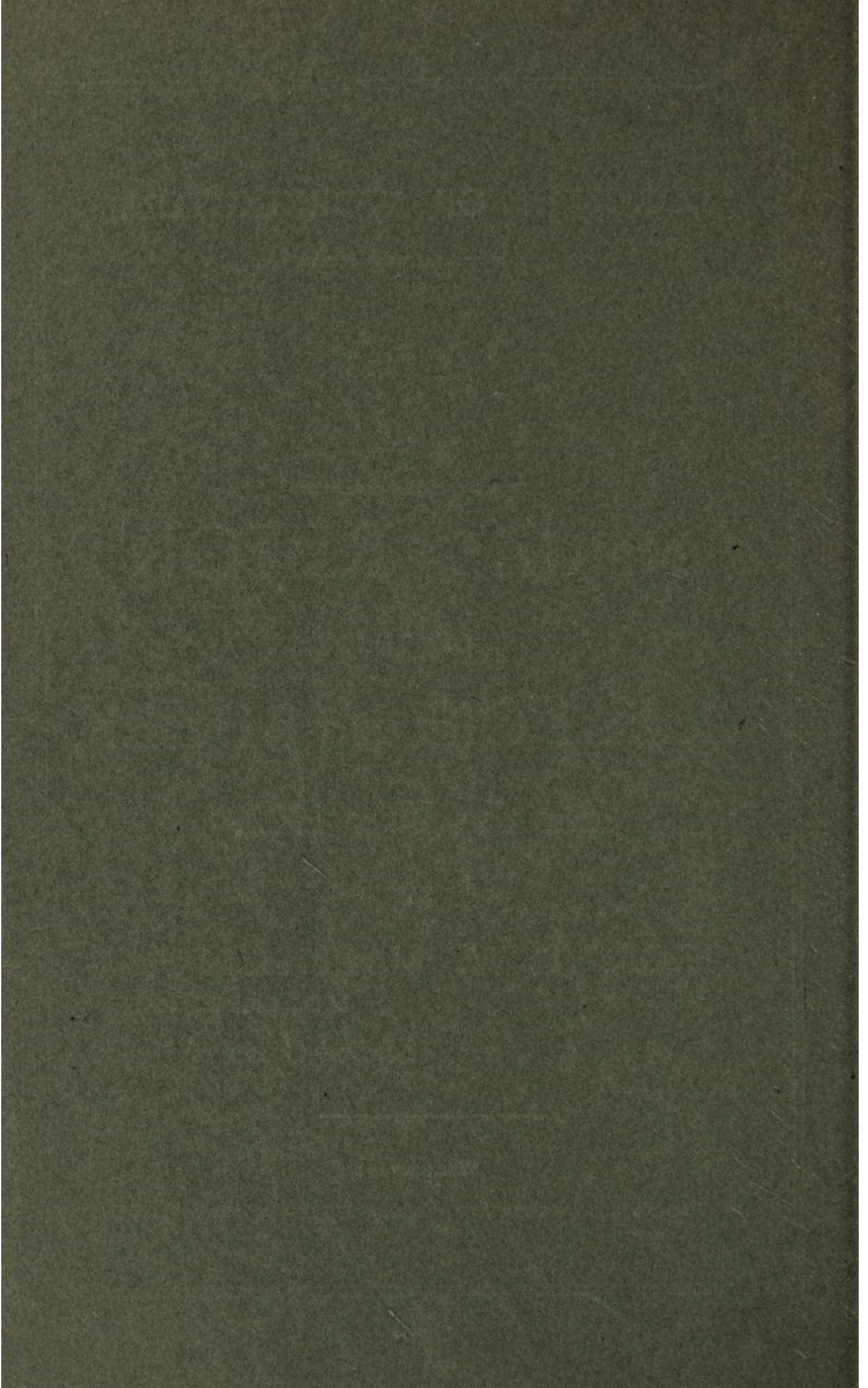
This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

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>

Unable to display this page



BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1925.

BY

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON,

M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

WORKINGTON :

THE WORKINGTON STAR LTD., OXFORD STREET AND JOHN STREET,

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Staff of Health Department	6
General Statistics	7
Vital Statistics	8
Infantile Mortality	15 & 18
Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases	9
Diphtheria	11
Scarlet Fever	13
Pneumonia	13
Tuberculosis	12
Cancer	14
Smallpox	14
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	21
Maternity and Child Welfare	15
Maternal Mortality	16
Milk Assisted Scheme	17
Cripple Scheme	21
Character and Changes in Health Services for last five years	22
Water Supply, Drainage and Sewerage, and Closet Accommodation	31
Housing and Housing Statistics	22 & 32
Scavenging	32
Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations	29
Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector	35
Amount of Relief	5
Factories and Workshops	40
Ambulance Facilities	29
Adopted Acts	30
Causes of Death	38



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON SANITARY
AUTHORITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

In accordance with paragraph 13 of Circular 540, dated 18th December, 1924, Ministry of Health, the Report for 1925 is a Survey Report. This Report, therefore, is a much fuller Report, and covers a period of five years from 1921—1925. Besides giving a more detailed account of all conditions affecting the health of the Borough, the Report includes a general account of such progress as has taken place in matters affecting the health of the community during that period.

It will be seen, on perusal of the Report, that your Authority has made substantial progress in Housing, provisions for Maternity and Child Welfare, prevention of Infectious Diseases, and generally—improvement in the sanitation of the area.

There are certain recommendations contained in the Report which it is hoped your Authority will deem worthy of consideration during the next five years. Every one realises that the Borough has passed through trying times of trade depression, and the Authority is to be congratulated on the progress already made, and it is hoped that the further progress suggested will be easier, provided trade conditions improve and that Workington returns to a flourishing position in the industrial world.

I wish to express my thanks to all the members of the Sanitary Authority for their earnest considerations of public health problems placed before them, and also to record my appreciation to all Officials of the Health Department and to the Matron and Staff of Ellerbeck Hospital for their loyal help and co-operation during the year; also to voluntary workers of the town for their help and interest in health matters and their useful co-operation with the Public Health Service of the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

**PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF
THE AREA.**

The Borough of Workington lies on the coast of the Solway Firth at the mouth of the river Derwent, about 34 miles S.W. of Carlisle. Workington is the largest town in West Cumberland, both as regards area and population. Its greatest length along the coast from North to South is about 4 miles, and its breadth from East to West in an inland direction is $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. The town of Workington, as far as the lay out of the streets is concerned, appears to be a jig-saw puzzle which has not been solved. The entrances and exits to the town have not been suitably planned. This somewhat irregular arrangement of the town is partly due to the expansion and extension of its boundaries and partly due to different ownerships of land who have not worked in common to secure a definite town planning scheme.

Workington, once a small seaport town, has now developed into an important industrial centre. Its population has increased from 14,350 in the year 1881 to 27,380 in 1925. The chief industries of the town are iron and steel and coal-mining, the iron and steel works being the staple industry. As has been the case in other towns where the staple industry is iron and steel, Workington has suffered for many years past from considerable industrial depression and unemployment.

The total amount of money paid in relief during the year 1925 to persons belonging to Workington was £17,192 16s. 3d. Of this amount ^{out} £12,079 16s. 3d. was paid in outdoor relief and the remainder in respect of unemployment.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Name.	Appointments.	Whole time or Part time	Contribution to Salary by Exchequer
ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.B., Ch.B., M.D., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health. School Medical Officer.	Whole Time.	Yes.
MOSES JOHNSTONE, Cert. of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Board. Cert. of Royal Sanitary Institute. Cert. of the Worshipful Coy. of Plumbers.	Senior Sanitary Inspector. Housing and Meat Inspector.	Whole Time.	Yes.
DAVID C. DAVY, Cert. of Royal Sanitary Institute.	Assistant Sanitary Inspector.	Whole Time.	No.
NURSE PRESCOTT, Training—Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan (3 years); Southern Hospital for Women, Manchester, (2 years).	Health Visitor. Tuberculosis Nurse.	Whole Time.	Yes.
NURSE MORGAN, Training—Royal Infirmary, Manchester (3 yrs.); Cert. of Central Midwives' Board.	Health Visitor.	Whole Time.	Yes.
NURSE O'NIELL, Cert. of Central Midwives' Board.	Municipal Midwife.	Whole Time.	Yes.
STANLEY CARRUTHERS.	Office Clerk.	Whole Time.	No.

**BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND ANALYSIS OF
MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.**

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population.						Infantile Mortality.
		All Causes.	Zymotic Disease.	Cancer.	Tuberculosis.	Other Respiratory Diseases.	Influenza.	
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	...	...	...	...	0.32	...
Cumberland	18.9	13.4	0.6	1.4	0.6	...	...	85
Urban	19.7	14.3	0.7	1.5	0.7	...	...	97
Rural	17.8	12.4	0.4	1.3	0.6	...	...	71
WORKINGTON ...	19.3	14.5	0.7	1.2	0.8	2.8	0.8	121.2

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,244
Population (estimated) R.G.	27,300
Population Census, 1921	26,471
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	5,420
Number of Families or Separate Occupier (1921)	6,015
Rateable Value	£110,050
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£430

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Births—Legitimate	509	269	240
Illegitimate	19	9	10

Total 528

Birth Rate R. G.—19.3.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	396	206	190

Death Rate R.G.—14.5

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth—

From Sepsis	...	...	Nil.
From Other Causes	...	...	4

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1000 births—

Legitimate 119.8. Illegitimate 157.8. Total 121.2.

Deaths from—Measles (all ages)	...	17
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	12
Number of Inquests held during the year	...	12
Number of Non-Resident deaths	...	13
Number of Transferred deaths from other districts		23
Number of deaths in Institutions	...	19

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

POPULATION.—The population of the Borough for the last five years showing Registrar General's returns—

Year.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Pop. R.G.	26,860	27,140	*27,380	27,450	27,300

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered for the year was 528, giving a birth-rate of 19.3 per 1,000. This rate is slightly lower than in the previous year. The birth-rate has continuously fallen in recent years:—

Year	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Rate	25.5	23.39	22.57	19.9	19.3

DEATHS.—The number of deaths after allowing for inward and outward transfers was 396 giving a death-rate of 14.5 per 1,000. This rate is a slight increase on the rate for the previous year. This is mostly accounted for by the presence of an epidemic of measles during the year which was responsible for 17 deaths from that disease. Again, the number of deaths from Influenza and Respiratory Diseases, especially Pneumonia, was more than double the number of deaths from these diseases in the previous year.

The following are the death-rates for the last five years :—

Year	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Rate	12.07	14.34	12.56	12.2	14.5

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The chief points of interest in connection with notifiable and non-notifiable diseases during the year were as follows :—

The small number of notifications of Diphtheria with only one fatal case.

One case of Para-Typhoid fever (B).

Epidemic of Measles which accounted for 17 deaths from this disease.

Large increase of deaths from Pneumonia.

No case of Smallpox.

Increase in the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever with one fatal case.

CASE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Case Rate for Workington per 1,000 of population.	Case Rate per 1,000 living in England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	4.28	2.36
Diphtheria	0.44	1.23
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.07
Erysipelas	0.10	0.39
Puerperal Fever	0.00	0.06
Smallpox	0.00	0.14

It will be noticed that the case rates of the above Infectious Diseases for Workington are less than the rates for England and Wales, except in the case rate for Scarlet Fever, which infectious disease has had an increased prevalence during the year.

DEATHS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS
DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65,	65 and over.	Total.
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	4	7	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Scarlet Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	Nil.	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	Nil.
Diphtheria ...	12	11	1
Scarlet Fever ...	117	93	1
Puerperal Fever ...	Nil.	...	...
Tuberculosis --			
(a) Pulmonary			
{ M.	16	...	9
{ F.	20	...	8
{ Total	36	...	17
(b) Non-Pulmonary			
{ M.	1	...	2
{ F.	5	...	3
{ Total	6	...	5
Chickenpox ...	55	Nil,	Nil.
Erysipelas ...	3	Nil,	Nil

DIPHTHERIA.

There were twelve notifications of Diphtheria and one death from this disease during the year. The great reduction in the number of cases of Diphtheria and deaths from this disease is a matter of great satisfaction to the Health Authority and its officials.

The following are the figures for the last five years :

Year.		No. of Cases.		Deaths.
1921	...	71	...	8
1922	...	33	...	5
1923	...	52	...	17
1924	...	12	...	3
1925	...	12	...	1

I wish to emphasize a point of great importance in connection with the possible presence of this disease. Every practitioner who is called to attend a child during illness, should always satisfy himself that diphtheria is not present or suspected. In a large number of cases of diphtheria the child does not complain of throat symptoms until the disease is well advanced, and such conditions as "stiffness of the neck" and swollen neck glands should be regarded with suspicion. Again every inflamed or "spotty" throat should be swabbed and bacteriologically examined as a matter of precaution, and furthermore antitoxin should be administered without waiting for the result of bacteriological examination in suspicious cases.

Antitoxin is provided by the Local Authority to medical practitioners free of charge and can be obtained from the chemist for that particular year, who keeps a special supply.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1
1—5	1	1	...	1	1
5—10	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	2
10—15	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
15—20	...	6	4	...	1	1	...	...
20—25	...	1	5	...	...	2	...	...
25—35	...	1	5	...	4	2	1	...
35—45	...	2	2	...	1	...	...	...
45—55	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
55—65
65 & over.
Total	16	20	1	5	9	8	2	3

42 notifications were received of persons diagnosed as suffering from Tuberculosis, of these, 36 were Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary.

There were 22 deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis during the year, of these 17 deaths were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 5 from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The total number of deaths from this disease was four more than in the previous year. Only one case was not notified before death and a quite satisfactory reason was given in this instance by the medical attendant concerned.

It is gratifying to state that cases of Tuberculosis are now being notified to a greater extent in the early stages of the disease.

This is of great importance inasmuch as Sanatorium Treatment is much more effective as a cure for Tuberculosis. There is, however, a very great drawback in connection with the treatment of this disease and that is, that many patients return to unhygienic surroundings after discharge from the Sanatorium. This is therefore a very important point in improving the housing conditions of the community.

One cannot help viewing with concern factors which are encouraging the incidence of Tuberculosis in Workington. The continued trade depression in Workington for many years has brought about considerable unemployment and in its train hardships and want of nourishment to the manual worker, his wife, and family. This state of affairs has been the means of producing a larger number of persons, especially children, who are pretubercular or susceptible to the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 117 notifications of Scarlet Fever during the year. The cases occurred steadily throughout the year, the highest number in one month being 14. One death is certified as died from Scarlet Fever. This was a child under one year of age and had been delicate from birth. The general run of the cases was of a mild character and for this reason "missed" cases occurred.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 48 deaths from all forms of Pneumonia during the year. This number is more than double the number of deaths from this disease during the previous year. There is a good deal to be said for the removal of

cases of Pneumonia to Hospital. There is no doubt that good surroundings and good nursing are most advantageous in the treatment of this disease. Possibly in times when cases of Pneumonia are present more good would be done by removing many of these cases to hospital instead of Scarlet Fever.

SMALLPOX.

No case of Smallpox occurred during the year.

CANCER.

The following Table shows the deaths from Cancer (Malignant Disease) with sex and age distribution:—

Age Groups.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 20 year	1	—	1
20—30 „	—	1	1
30—40 „	1	—	1
40—50 „	—	2	2
50—60 „	4	4	8
60—70 „	5	4	9
70—80 „	5	4	9
80—90 „	1	3	4
	—	—	—
Total	17	18	35
	—	—	—

The number of deaths from Cancer was 35. This is a slightly smaller number than the previous year, but it still keeps at a fairly high level. In connection with this disease it is of interest to state that modern X-ray apparatus has been installed at the Workington Infirmary. This will aid to a great extent the early diagnosis of Cancer which is so important in order to obtain successful results from operations performed in connection with this disease.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

BIRTHS.

The number of births during the year was 278 males and 250 females, giving a total of 528 and a birth-rate equal to 19.3 per 1,000.

There were 19 illegitimate births during the year. The following table shows the birth-rates for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of Births.			Birth-rate per 1000,	No. of Illegitimate Births.		
	Males.	Females	Total.		Males.	Females	Total.
1921	343	358	701	25.5 per 1,000	15	12	27
1922	348	287	635	23.39 "	16	13	29
1923	302	316	618	22.51 "	16	12	28
1924	272	275	547	19.9 "	10	14	24
1925	278	250	528	19.3 "	9	10	19

INFANT DEATHS.

There were 64 deaths of infants under one year of age. The Infantile Mortality was therefore 121.2 per 1,000 births. This rate is higher than the rates for the two previous years, and is mainly due to deaths from Measles, which numbered four, and the increased number of deaths from Lung diseases, especially Pneumonia in the last quarter of the year.

The number of deaths of illegitimate infants was three, and the number of still-births twenty-two.

The following table shows the Infantile Mortality Rates for the last five years:—

Year.	No. of deaths of Infants under one year.	Infantile Mortality Rate.	No. of deaths of Illegitimate Infants.	Illegitimate Death-rate.	No. of Still-Births.
1921	72	102.7	3	111.1	27
1922	81	127.5	7	241.3	19
1923	48	77.6	4	142.8	19
1924	44	80.4	7	290.0	19
1925	64	121.2	3	157.8	22

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Recent reports regarding Maternal Mortality in England and Wales have shown that during the last 25 years the infant mortality has diminished 50%, but the maternal mortality has remained the same, namely, for every thousand children born four maternal deaths have occurred. The rate for the last five years in Workington is 4.2 per 1,000 births, which is approximately the same as the rate for the whole country. It is therefore of great importance, in order to reduce this rate, to educate the expectant mother by ante-natal supervision. This already exists to a slight extent, but more ante-natal supervision is necessary to correct defects during the expectant period. There is no doubt that a certain percentage of the reduction in the infantile mortality has been due to child welfare supervision, and there is no reason that if antenatal work is developed to the same extent that many women's lives would be saved during or as a result of confinement, and also many infant deaths could be prevented during the first month of life.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Two Health Visitors are employed by the Council. Their work is chiefly visiting infants under one year and children up to five years of age, attending the Welfare Centres and giving advice to expectant and nursing mothers.

During the year the Health Visitors paid—

To Infants under one year ...	First visits	549
		————
	Total visits	3103
		————
To Children 1—5 years ...	Visits	4295
		————
To Expectant Mothers ...	Visits	115
		————

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

The number and designation of the Child Welfare Centres remain the same. The premises used for the main Welfare Centre in New South Watt Street are, as previously reported, unsatisfactory. The question of securing more suitable accommodation has been under discussion by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, but partly owing to the difficulty of securing suitable premises, and partly on account of the cost, the matter is still in abeyance.

A Voluntary Committee of ladies do noble work in connection with the Welfare Centres. Three members of this Voluntary Committee are co-opted members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee of the Council.

MILK ASSISTED SCHEME.

Dried milk is available for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, also for Infants under one year and up to five years. The milk is sold at cost price to those who are in a position to pay according to the scale laid down; for others, whose income is below the scale, the milk is sold at half price or given free. The amount of dried milk sold for the year was 4,435 lbs., and given free according to scale, 5,052 lbs.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total Number 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Chicken-pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4
Scarlet Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria and Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
Convulsions	2	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	1	5
Laryngitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis ... ..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	1	..	1	2	1	1	5	2	11
Diarrhœa ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Gastritis ... ..	..	1	4	..	5	1	3	1	2	12
Suffocation, overlaying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Atelectasis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	2	2	..	..	4	2	2	..	..	8
Congenital Malformations	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	6	..	1	1	8	1	..	..	..	9
Influenza ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
TOTALS ..	13	5	6	2	26	9	11	7	11	64

MIDWIFERY SERVICE IN THE BOROUGH.

The number of trained midwives practising at the end of the year was three, and untrained three. In order to place at the disposal of the community a satisfactory means of attendance of midwifery cases and to prevent the employment of inexperienced handy women, the Council has appointed a Municipal Midwife to act on the staff of the Health Department under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

The midwife commenced duties on the 8th June and the number of cases engaged for has gradually increased. A scale of fees for the services of the Municipal Midwife has been drawn up by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee and is waiting approval of the Ministry of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF PARTURIENT WOMEN, INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

There was no case of Puerperal Fever during the year.

During the epidemic of Measles^s which occurred in the latter part of the year there were four deaths from this disease among infants under one year and 12 deaths among children between 1-5 years of age. Practically all the Infants' Departments of the Elementary Schools in the Borough were affected by the epidemic. School closure was not adopted during this epidemic because the general consensus of opinion is that school closure is useless in checking the spread of the epidemic. The rules of School closure for Measles in the "Memorandum on closure of, and exclusion from School" issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education were adopted. Extracts from this Memorandum state with regard to Measles:—"It appears certain that in populous

districts School closure for Measles has but little value as a public health measure"—“There is a general consensus of opinion that except in the case of scattered rural populations it (School closure) is useless as a means of checking the spread of the disease”—“In thinly populated districts, where the homes are comparatively isolated and children have long distances to come to School, School closure may on the other hand have a definite value, in preventing the spread of Measles from one village to another and in reducing the risk of exposure to bad weather of those children who are already in the early stages of the disease.”

The lay mind will therefore understand that although it may be advisable with some degree of success for a County Medical Officer to recommend closure of the Schools in the scattered rural districts whereas in a populous Borough, such as Workington, such procedure would have little value as a public health measure and be useless in checking the spread of this disease.

Passing from the matter of School closure it cannot be too strongly emphasized that Measles is a very dangerous disease among children. The attack rate is highest in the third, fourth and fifth years of life and the death-rate in the second year of life. The dangerous complication which often occurs during an attack of Measles and which is nearly always the cause of fatal cases, is Pneumonia. I have made it my duty to point out to Mothers attending the Infant Welfare Centres and Mothers attending Medical Inspections in School that all should regard an attack of Measles with some anxiety, but in spite of this there are still a large number of parents who look upon this disease far too lightly and with that old-fashioned idea that “It is only Measles.”

CRIPPLE SCHEME

A Scheme for treatment of cripples under 5 years of age as recommended in my report of the previous year has now been adopted by the Local Authority. The Scheme is similar to that arranged by the Local Education Committee for the treatment of cripples among school-children. At the end of the year 14 infants under 5 years were on the list for treatment. These cases consisted of Deformities due to Rickets, Birth Palsies and Tuberculosis. The results of treatment have in all cases been very beneficial and the Scheme is in all respects one of the utmost importance as a preventive measure. The number of cases as the Scheme progresses will no doubt increase but the treatment of deformities at the early stages in the first few years of life will reduce the number found during School age and the results of treatment will be more successful.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There was only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year, the details of which are as follows :—

Notified	Cases Treated at Home	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
1	1	1	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

1.—THE CHARACTER AND THE EXTENT OF THE CHANGES MADE DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

(a) HOUSING.

The Council purchased 116·97 acres of land as a site for a Housing Scheme at Salterbeck. The land is situated to the South West of the Borough. Subsequently an area of this land equal to 25·80 acres was apportioned to the Burial Board for the purpose of a new Cemetery, leaving 91·16 acres of the site for a Housing Scheme.

Schemes and Plans have been approved by the Ministry of Health, and 100 hundred houses are now in course of construction, which is an instalment of a larger Housing Scheme. At the end of the year 1925, some of the houses had been completed and occupied.

On account of the shortage of houses, overcrowding has not been improved.

The following figures show the extent of overcrowding in the Borough:—

In 1922 a census was taken of 1,383 houses. Of this number, 19·6 per cent. were overcrowded and had two families.

A further census of the whole town was made by the Town Clerk's Department. The following is a summary of this census:—

No. of Houses.	No. of Occupants.	Over-crowded Houses.	Houses occupied by two or more families.
5,424.	26,861.	251.	591.

Number of Houses overcrowded which are occupied by two or more families	76
Number of Houses overcrowded which are occupied by one family	175
	<hr/> 251 <hr/>

Again, owing to the shortage of houses, it has not been possible to deal with areas which were sheduled by my predecessor under the Housing Acts. Ordinary repairs to houses have been carried out as a routine matter, but an extensive programme of repairs has been impossible owing to the continued depression of the industrial condition of the town.

During the five years, thirteen houses have been demolished. During the same period only eight houses and two bungalows have been built by private enterprise.

(b) WATER SUPPLY.

An additional main has been laid between Stainburn Road and the Workington Bridge in order to improve the water supply to the Seaton Ward, which was previously of low pressure.

(c) MILK SUPPLY.

In carrying out the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Act, four milk sellers were removed from the Register, and four applications were refused registration by the Local Authority.

One milk purveyor in the Borough retails certified milk.

In reference to cowsheds within the Borough, several recommendations have been made to improve the conditions under which milk is produced. This has

resulted in more satisfactory conditions in several instances.

The quantity of milk produced inside the Borough, and the amount brought in from surrounding districts, shows that 66 per cent. of the milk supply to the town is obtained from sources outside the boundary, in districts of another Authority.

There has been an increasing standard of cleanliness in the Dairies. Where Dairies exist in shops, certain undesirable articles are not sold, and restrictions are placed on the kind of articles to be sold on such premises.

All milk carts have to possess a covered receptacle in which to carry the milk measures. Furthermore, milk purveyors have been asked to refrain from carrying in the milk carts, anything of a dusty nature, such as potatoes, etc.

(d) SEWERAGE.

During the last five years, 1,223 yards of sewers have been laid in different parts of the town.

In the Northside area a complete change has been made, and the water carriage system has been adopted for the disposal of the sewage.

One hundred and thirty-four outlet gullies have been removed during the last five years.

(e) SCAVENGING. OR REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The conditions and arrangements for refuse disposal remain the same.

(f) FOOD INSPECTION.

The adoption of the Meat Regulations has increased and emphasized the inspection of meat and its products.

The meat stalls in the market are complying with the Regulations by providing adequate coverings and screens, together with glass screens in front of the stalls.

Improvements have been made in Fish and Chip Shops by the adoption of modern cooking appliances.

(g) OTHER SERVICES.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION. Adequate office accommodation has been provided for the Medical Officer of Health and his department, together with clerical assistance. Furthermore, provision has been made in the Medical Officer's Department for a Bacteriological Laboratory, which is fully equipped for the ordinary bacteriological examinations.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. An additional Health Visitor has been appointed.

The Council have further adopted a very important scheme, namely, improving the Midwifery Service of the district, by appointing a Municipal Midwife acting under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

3. HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. A motor ambulance has replaced the old type horse drawn ambulance, and is much more satisfactory.

Two huts have been provided by the Corporation as additional accommodation, especially for observation purposes. The huts have accommodation for nine patients.

A new up-to-date Washington Lyon Steam Disinfecter with separate room for infected clothing and clean clothing, has been installed to replace the worn out disinfecter which had only one room to deal with infected and clean clothing.

4. SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE. The Education Committee has provided improved accommodation for the School Clinic, also premises for a Dental Clinic, and has also appointed an additional School Nurse to carry out the extra duties involved.

2.—ANY FURTHER ACTION OF IMPORTANCE CONTEMPLATED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY? OR CONSIDERED ADVISABLE BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

(a) Although arrangements have been made for the completion of a hundred houses at Salterbeck, according to overcrowding in the town, more houses will be necessary to relieve the present shortage.

(b) To further improve the Midwifery Service in the Borough, Maternity Wards are required to deal with abnormal conditions at child-birth, and to make provision for cases which are occurring in most unsatisfactory and undesirable surroundings. Negotiations are in progress between the Local Authority and Infirmary Committee on this matter.

(c) To make arrangement for ante-natal work by providing adequate accommodation for such important work in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Health Department. Provision for such has been discussed by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee at different times, and when the opportune time arrives serious consideration should be given to bring all the Clinics and Welfare Centres under one central building.

(d) Improvement in the scavenging and method of refuse disposal, such as :—

(a) Provision of efficient coverings for the ash carts.

- (b) The use of a uniform type of sanitary ash-bin.
- (c) Limitation of the tipping area.
- (d) Arrange for a scheme to cover the tip with soil, with a view to its cultivation by the Corporation or temporary allotment-holders.

Other matters for consideration are :—

1. Public Lavatories.
2. Swimming Baths.
3. Paving of back streets.
4. Undeveloped and unfenced building sites in the town.

3.—CASES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY WHICH HAVE BEEN SPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY IN THE TOWN FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

There have been no exceptional epidemic except in the outbreak of Smallpox, which occurred in epidemic form in 1924, when the total notified cases numbered 105.

The continued depression in trade, especially the local industry which is mainly connected with iron and steel, has accounted for unemployment to a very high degree. The result of this is, on examination of the children in the elementary schools, that the figure for malnutrition has risen, and general physical development and mental acuteness has been adversely affected.

**4.—CONDITIONS OF OCCUPATION AND ENVIRONMENT
WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE HAD A PREJUDICIAL EFFECT
ON HEALTH.**

There does not seem to be any conditions of occupation which is generally lowering the physical fitness of the manual worker. A large sector of the community is now suffering from an accumulative effect of many years unemployment which is having not only an effect on the physical condition of the body, but is producing a form of mental stagnation.

5.—HOSPITAL PROVISION.

(a) ORDINARY INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The hospital for infectious diseases is Ellerbeck Hospital, situated about one mile from the centre of the town. The staff consists of a matron, two senior nurses, two probationers, and a male ambulance driver. There is also a small domestic staff.

The number of beds the hospital has provided for is 40, and a further nine patients can be accommodated in two adjoining huts in the hospital grounds.

The following type of case is admitted:—Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever.

(b) SMALLPOX.

Workington is one of the districts representing the Derwent Joint Smallpox Hospital Board, the governing authority for the Smallpox Hospital. The Hospital is situated at Camerton. This Hospital is being enlarged to accommodate 100 cases, and is nearly completed.

6.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.

A motor ambulance is provided by the Corporation, and is stationed at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, for the removal of the ordinary cases of Infectious Diseases.

A motor ambulance is also provided by the Derwent Joint Board for the removal of Smallpox cases to the Derwent Joint Board Smallpox Hospital at Camerton.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.

The Local Infirmary is provided with a horse drawn ambulance to deal with their cases.

The Cumberland Colliery Owners' Association and the United Steel Companies Ltd., are each provided with motor ambulances.

7.—

1.—CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Water examinations, when considered necessary, are carried out by the County Council's Analyst.

2.—BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The bacteriological examinations of Sputa, Swabs and Blood are examined in the Municipal Laboratory in the Medical Officer's Department.

The number of examinations for the year 1925 was :-

	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Sputa	69	10	59
Swabs	105	6	99
Blood	3	—	3

SERUMS.

The Local Authority provides Diphtheria Anti-toxin for the use of General Practitioners, and other serums when required.

8.—METHOD OF DISINFECTION EMPLOYED IN THE BOROUGH.

(a) FOR PREMISES.

When an Infectious Disease has occurred, the premises are dealt with by one of the following methods:—

1. Sprayed with formalin.
2. Fumigation with Formalin or Sulphur.
3. Combination of 1 and 2.

(b) FOR ARTICLES OF CLOTHING, ETC.

Infected articles of clothing are chiefly dealt with by steam disinfection at the Borough Hospital, and articles of clothing which cannot be so treated are sprayed or fumigated with formalin.

9.—THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ADOPTED ACTS.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention Act) 1890.

Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Parts 5, 6 and 10; Sections 15 to 18, 20 to 25, and 27 to 33 of Part 2; Sections 34 to 38, and 43 to 51 of Part 3; Sections 52 to 60, 62 to 65, and 67 of Part 4; of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

10.—WATER SUPPLY.

Source—Crummock Lake.

Possibilities of contamination—remote.

Sufficiency—ample and constant in the Borough.

Quality—excellent.

All the houses in the Borough are supplied direct from water mains, except houses at Findlay Place, which are supplied from storage tanks. This latter supply is obtained from the River Derwent, the water percolating into a well, and is then pumped to the storage tanks.

11.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**(a) SUFFICIENCY.**

Generally speaking, the town is provided with sufficient drainage and sewerage system. There are, however, two areas which are liable to flood when excessive rainfall occurs, together with a high tide.

(b) METHOD OF DISPOSAL.

Water carriage system is in operation throughout the Borough, with the exception of a small outlying area at Barepot, and a few isolated houses on the outskirts of the town.

The drainage is discharged into the sea without treatment by six main outlets at different points along the coast.

12.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**NO. OF WATER CLOSETS.**

In St. John's, St. Michael's and South Wards, there are water closets, 99.71%. In Seaton Ward there are water closets, 82%.

In St. John's, St. Michael's and South Wards, conservancy percentage is .29, and in Seaton Ward 17%.

One hundred and forty-one privies have been converted into water closets during the last five years.

13.—SCAVENGING.

(a) REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

There is a daily collection of refuse by ashcarts. The refuse, after collection, is taken to two tips—one on the Pottery Field and the other on the Cloffocks.

(b) CLEANSING OF EARTH CLOSETS, PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.

The privies in the Seaton Ward are emptied twice a week, and the ashpits at Findlay Place are emptied weekly.

(c) SANITARY ASHBINS.

No arrangements have been made for substituting sanitary ashbins for unsatisfactory refuse receptacles.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

No. of new houses erected during the year:—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Total including Nos. given separately under (b) | 10 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts: | |
| (i) By the Local Authority | 10 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | Nil |

1. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 383

- (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... 97
- (3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... Nil
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 89

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 286

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 6
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners ... Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

- (3) No. 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) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 1204
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—
- (a) By owners ... 1185
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... 3

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) No. of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... Nil
- (2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
- (3) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.. Nil
- (4) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil
- (5) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY
INSPECTOR, 1925.

TO R. W. MACPHERSON, ESQ., M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Sir,

I herewith submit the following statement showing the approximate number and nature of inspections, etc., during the year, also the number of notices served and the principal items dealt with:—

General Inspections	...	...	...	7,177
Inquiries re Infectious Diseases, Disinfection of Premises, etc.	...	...	...	296
Inspections, testing and re-testing drains				285
„ of Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	782
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	117
„ „ Workshops & Bakehouses	...	...	...	128
„ „ Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	125
„ „ Markets, Shops and Carts	...	...	...	752
„ „ Cinemas	...	...	...	51
Re-visits	...	...	...	1,602
Inspections of Caravans	...	...	...	46
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	88
Number of Houses Inspected and Recorded				97

NOTICES.

Informal Notices served	...	...	...	873
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	113

All but eight of the Statutory Notices have been attended to. About eight Informal Notices remain to be dealt with.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Defective drains	...	...	...	31
Choked drains	...	...	...	79
Choked W. C.'s	...	...	...	48

W.C.'s—Flushing cisterns out of order	...	325
„ —Supply pipes defective	... ..	141
„ —Doors, seats or roofs defective	... ..	122
„ —Cone joints defective	... ..	88
„ —Basins or traps defective	... ..	32
„ —Requiring cleaning and limewashing	... ..	122
„ —Defective trough closets	... ..	4
Defective—Rain water spouts	... ..	151
„ —Roofs, walls floors or windows	... ..	159
„ —Paving in yards	... ..	19
„ —Sinks or sink waste pipes	... ..	28
Dampness in walls and roofs	... ..	48
Yards requiring cleaning	... ..	60
Houses requiring cleaning	... ..	16
Oven and grates defective	... ..	51
Deficient water supplies	... ..	43
Accumulations of refuse to remove	... ..	21

HOUSE DRAINS.—41 house drains have been reconstructed, and the following new appliances have been provided during repairs &c. to drains and W.C.'s:—

59 Gullies.	88 Flushing cisterns.
61 Pedestal W.C.'s.	8 Ventilating Shafts.
32 W.C. Basins and Traps.	

FLIES.—As in previous years, a circular was sent out to Horsekeepers, to assist in the campaign against flies, by prompt removal of manure, and to keep their premises clean.

FISH AND CHIP SHOPS.—There are 33 such businesses, and with one exception the cooking ranges are of a modern type. Cleanliness is generally exercised, and the materials are good.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There have been no changes on the register. The major portion of our milk supply is produced in the rural areas. Improvements are being carried out to local cowsheds.

FOOD INSPECTION.—The Slaughter Houses and other premises on which food is prepared and sold are frequently visited. The premises are usually kept in a clean condition. The stalls, (5) are provided with proper screens and covers, and this includes a glass screen 18 inch deep on the front of the stall.

The Butchers continue their policy of purchasing cattle from auctions which insure them against loss, due to tuberculosis.

The undermentioned carcasses, and other foods have been condemned or voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

6 carcasses of beef.	1 cwt. of fish.
3 carcasses of mutton.	104 lbs. of frozen meat.
2 carcasses of veal.	24 lbs. of corned beef.
1 carcase of a pig.	

CINEMAS.—The cleanliness of these premises is being maintained.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—A reduction in the number of cases occurring from the principal infectious diseases was welcome. The increase in Scarlet Fever was more than counterbalanced by the reduction of Diphtheria cases and the absence of Small Pox.

Our method of disinfection continues:—removal of bedding etc. for steam disinfection, and fumigation of premises by formalin vapour. It is occasionally found necessary to deal with the whole of the interior of the house, when the premises are sealed up for 7 to 8 hours.

(Signed) MOSES JOHNSTONE.
Sanitary Inspector.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN WORKINGTON,
M.B., 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		MALES.	FEMALES.
	All Causes	206	190
1	Enteric Fever	—	—
2	Small-pox	—	—
3	Measles	10	7
4	Scarlet Fever	1	—
5	Whooping Cough	1	—
6	Diphtheria	1	—
7	Influenza	15	7
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	9	8
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	3
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	17	18
13	Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14	Diabetes	1	—
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c.	14	23
16	Heart Disease	12	25
17	Arterio-sclerosis	5	—
18	Bronchitis	14	14
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	27	21
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1
21	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1
22	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	6	6
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	1	1
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	2
26	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.		MALES.	FEMALES.
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ...	—	4
28	Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ...	12	4
29	Suicide ...	1	—
30	Other Deaths from Violence ...	7	2
31	Other Defined Diseases ...	42	42
32	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	—	1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:—

Total	...	41	23
Illegitimate	...	—	3
Total Births	...	278	250
Legitimate	...	269	240
Illegitimate	...	9	10
Population	...		27,300

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. 2,

MARCH, 1926.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES, INCLUDING INSPECTION MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Written or Verbal Notice.
Workshops and Workplaces		
Factories	128	9

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS OR WORKPLACE.

Nuisance such as—

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	8	8
„ Ventilation	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	—	—
Water Supply Insufficient ...	—	—
Abstract not up	1	1
	—	—
Total	9	9
	—	—

