

With Compliments



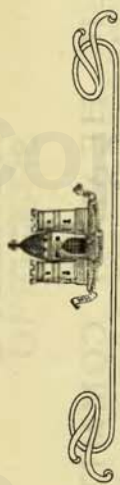
YEAR 1912.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
CITY OF LIMERICK.

MICHAEL S. McGRATH,
Medical Superintendent Officer of Health.

LIMERICK :
PRINTED BY THE CITY PRINTING COMPANY,
11 RUTLAND STREET.

1913.



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OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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EDMOND BARRY.

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE CITY OF LIMERICK.

YEAR 1912.

18 THE CRESCENT,
Limerick, 25th, June 1913.

To the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
County Borough of Limerick.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Once again it affords me great pleasure to present the Annual Report on the Health of the City, and Sanitary Condition of your County Borough, which deals with the year 1912, and to be able to congratulate you on its continued good state of health.

With the exception of an outbreak of Measles among Children last Autumn, we were comparatively free from infectious disease in Epidemic form during the year. This epidemic broke out in various parts of the United Kingdom, but in Ireland appeared in its worst form in Belfast and in Limerick. The number of deaths from this disease alone in the City was 127, or 3.29 per 1000 of the population, and here, as elsewhere, those deaths were in the main due to complications, chiefly Broncho-pneumonia. This complication arises in every case where the necessary nursing attention cannot be devoted to the patient and its absence was more marked in the poorer classes, amongst whom the disease proved most fatal.

This epidemic in a large measure accounted for the increased death rate in the City, which was 20.4, as compared to 16.8 for the previous year. It is, however, gratifying to be able to report that only three deaths occurred from Diphtheria, whereas this disease was fatal in 37 cases in the previous 12 months.

The Birth rate, 25.3, is somewhat lower than that of last year, which was 27.4, but compares favourably with Londonderry, 24.5; Cork, 24.8 and Waterford, 24.3.

The Sanitary Officers and the Inspectors of Drugs continue to discharge their duties efficiently. In this connection I have to report with regret the retirement of Mr. James J. Forrest, who had acted for a long term as Meat Inspector and had always given complete satisfaction. He has been succeeded in that office by his son, Mr. Patrick J. Forrest, who should prove a useful Inspector, as he took a special course of instruction of Meat Inspection in Dublin prior to his taking up duty.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Population	...	38,518
Area	...	2,386
Density	...	18.2
Births	...	976
Birth Rate	...	25.3
Deaths	...	795
Death Rate	...	20.4
Death Rate from principal Epidemic Diseases	...	4.5
Infantile deaths under one year of age	...	14.8
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	3.3
Phthisis Rate	...	2.05
Excess of Births over Deaths	...	181

DENSITY.

By this term is meant the number of persons living on each acre. In Limerick the density is 18.2 persons, and this is very small, taking the city as a whole.

Limerick County Borough, comprising an area of 2,386 acres, is divided into eight Wards for the purpose of municipal representation in the Council, and into three dispensary districts for the Registration of Births and Deaths, etc.

AREA, HOUSES AND POPULATION.

Area in 1911, and houses and population in 1891, 1901 and 1911, in the City of Limerick; also the General Valuation in 1911:—

WARD	Areas in Statute Acres in 1911	HOUSES				POPULATION				Valuation of Houses Lands, &c in 1911. £ s d.					
		1891	1901	Total	Un- inhab- ited	1891	1901	Persons	Males		Females				
Abbey Ward	823	770	684	815	776	37	2	4818	4467	5085	2334	2751	5568	5	0
Castle Ward	711	849	925	949	901	41	7	4739	5439	5179	2485	2694	7732	0	0
Customhouse Ward	51	402	367	415	339	56		3288	2981	3264	1674	1590	7595	0	0
Dock Ward	441	1392	1006	1322	1244	66	12	9136	7247	8125	3843	4282	16879	5	0
Glentworth Ward	166	489	845	831	779	52		2816	4757	4489	2204	2285	10135	0	0
Irishtown Ward	63	926	1103	904	849	54	7	5390	6545	5643	2801	2842	4884	10	0
Market Ward	74	423	384	492	415	77		3387	3673	3219	1548	1671	10098	14	0
Shannon Ward	57	575	533	577	484	92	1	3581	3651	3514	1813	1701	11425	7	0
Total	2386	5826	5937	6305	5807	475	23	37155	31151	36518	18702	19816	74318	1	0

THREE DISPENSARY DISTRICTS.

DISPENSARY	HOUSES				POPULATION		
	1901	1911		1901	1911		Fe- males
		Total	In- habited		Unin- habited	Persons	
LIMERICK No. I.	...	1980	2234	2123	101	13258	6938
LIMERICK No. II.	...	1545	1462	1264	107	9872	5032
LIMERICK No. III.	...	2412	2609	2420	177	15388	7846

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Births to the number of 976 children were registered, as compared with 1053 for the previous year, equal to an annual birth rate of 25.3 per 1,000 inhabitants. This must be looked upon as quite satisfactory, considering the great falling off of the birth rate throughout England and many foreign countries.

There were 795 deaths registered in the city during the year, as against 644 for the previous one, making a death rate 26.6 per 1,000 inhabitants.

INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 148, or 33 more than the preceding year. The increase is accounted for by the Measles Epidemic already referred to. Apart from this a considerable proportion of deaths occurred before the completion of the first year of life, which must be accounted for by the giving up of breast feeding, and the consequent adoption of artificial methods now so general—as well as the want of necessary instructions to mothers, particularly young mothers of the working class. In Germany, where they pay a good deal of attention to their babies, they have health visitors, whose duty it is to visit those about becoming mothers and give them oral instructions as to how babies should be properly fed and nursed. If the proposed establishment of a Babies Club in Limerick comes to pass much good in this direction should thereby be accomplished. I have referred in former reports to the desirability of co-operation between the Women's National Health Association and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children on this subject, and I trust that the near future will see such co-operation producing excellent results.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

There were submitted to Sir Charles Cameron, C.B., our City Analyst, 757 specimens of food for analysis, of which 513 were sent by Serjeant Kennedy, R.I.C., ex-officio Inspector, and 244 by High Constable Forrest. Of the specimens 8 were adulterated with added water, 2 of the specimens of butter contained excess of water, and 4 of the samples of produce were defective.

The subjoined table shows the number of analyses made during the year 1912 and the four preceding years:

DESCRIPTION	1912		1911		1910		1909		1908	
	Specimens Analysed	Adulterated or Defective	Specimens Analysed	Adulterated or Defective	Specimens Analysed	Adulterated or Defective	Specimens Analysed	Adulterated or Defective	Specimens Analysed	Adulterated or Defective
Milk	485	8	457	14	384	9	388	14	419	9
Butter	170	...	155	10	116	4	148	10	131	20
Buttermilk	21	...	11	...	16	2	13	...	48	...
Whiskey	38	4	55	1	28	2	35	4	34	2
Cheese	8	...	10	...	10	...	8	...	6	...
Skim Milk	5	...	4	...	...	...	5	...	7	1
Margarine	5	...	7	...	8	...	7	...	5	...
Jam	4	...	4	...	4	...	5	...	5	...
Kum	...	...	3	1	...	...	2	...	4	...
Lard	...	...	1	...	3	...	3	...	7	...
Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	...
Water	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	...
Sherry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Cream Powder	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cream of Tartar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Bread	2	...	4	...	...	...	9	...	3	...
Port Wine	3	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...
Sugar	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Cream	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Tea	9	...	9	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Ice Cream	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Condensed Milk	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brandy	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Separated Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Corn Flour	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Confectionery	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Dripping	1	...	6	...	3	5	...	...	...	...
Cider	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Slym	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marmalade	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lager Beer	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fruit Cake	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nutter	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mustard	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Treacle	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Drug	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	757	12	590	23	635	29	683	32	645	33

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1899.

During the year 33 cases of infectious disease were notified. The number of these cases and the deaths arising from them for the past five years are as follows:—

DISEASE	1912		1911		1910		1909		1908	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cholera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Membranous Croup	5	-	7	3	8	4	6	4	14	4
Erysipelas	2	-	1	-	6	-	5	-	11	-
Scarlatina	21	-	48	-	21	-	60	5	101	6
Typhus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	4	-	14	5	23	2	21	6	16	4
Relapsing do	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Continued do	1	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	2	-
Puerperal do	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	33	-	72	8	60	6	103	15	144	14

This return of 33 cases shows a decrease of 39 from the previous year, and as only seven of these proved fatal the result can be looked upon as satisfactory.

SCARLATINA.

The number of cases of this disease notified was 21, or 27 less than the previous year. This disease chiefly attacks children, and has many avenues by which to spread. It is conveyed from one person to another, particularly by children in the schoolroom; it is also conveyed by clothes. Cases are on record of mothers putting by their children's clothes without having them properly disinfected, and after a lapse of many months, on again bringing these clothes from the drawers or wardrobe, of starting Scarlatina afresh, thus showing how long the germs of this disease can live. The old belief that it was most infectious in the peeling stage is now discarded, the discharge from the mouth, nose and ears being looked upon as the sources which contain the virus of the disease. It has been well known for the past 20 years that outbreaks of Scarlatina are spread by milk. This can occur by either the person who is handling milk having the disease on him at the time, or by the milk from cows suffering from inflammatory disease of the udder.

Of the 21 cases above-mentioned most have been isolated in hospital, which is unquestionably the best treatment to adopt, unless in exceptional circumstances.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The return of four cases of Enteric (no less than last year) is the lowest on record. No doubt the attention that is being paid to the scavenging of the streets and lanes, with the concreting of the latter, and the large amount of flushing of the channel courses carried out throughout the city have improved the sanitary condition of Limerick.

DIPHTHERIA.

Five cases of this disease (which includes Membranous Croup) were notified. This shows a decrease of 200 as compared with 1911 and is quite a satisfactory number for the entire year.

This disease is spread very much by the same methods as Scarlatina, such as personal communication between the person affected and the healthy, and indirectly by means of utensils used for eating and drinking. The germs of the disease may be harboured for a considerable time in such articles as wearing apparel and toys. There are also now on record several epidemics of Diphtheria in which it has been clearly proved that the infection has been conveyed in milk. Up to recent years the fatality from this disease was very high, but now, fortunately, things are altered. Through the discoveries by Berling and Kitasato of an anti-toxin, deaths from Diphtheria have been reduced from 30 to 5 per cent. This treatment is now carried out all over the world, and is by far the most satisfactory method known, particularly so, if adopted in the early stages of the disease.

CONSUMPTION.

The number of deaths caused by pulmonary tuberculosis and other forms of consumption was 91 as against 89 the previous year; those from Phthisis being 80, and 11 the total from all other forms. This subject has been so fully dealt with in former reports of mine, that there is no need of further elaboration. I cannot, however, help again directing your special attention to the number of deaths caused by Consumption in the city of Limerick since 1900. They are as follows:—

Year	Number of Deaths	
	From Phthisis	Other Forms
1900	119	-
1901	131	-
1902	144	-
1903	120	-
1904	109	-
1905	102	-
1906	124	-
1907	103	37
1908	88	60
1909	79	35
1910	87	22
1911	75	14
1912	80	11
TOTALS	1,361	206

From the above figures it will be seen that as many as 1,567 persons have succumbed to the disease during those 13 years. For some time past it has been recognised that consumption is a preventable disease, and in many countries it has been made compulsorily notifiable. So far as I can ascertain, Compulsory Notification will be introduced into Ireland

before very long. It has come to be recognised that nothing short of combined international action will ever succeed in the endeavour to put a stop to the fearful mortality from this preventable disease.

According to a return prepared by the Insurance Commissioners in connection with a scheme for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Dispensary, the total number of cases of Tuberculosis in the County Borough is 616, and although this estimate differs considerably from that previously made by Sir William Thompson, Registrar-General for Ireland, it is evident that with such a large number of persons affected it is most necessary that practical steps should be taken, according to present day methods of treatment and prevention, to lessen the ravages of this disease.

The following Report was submitted by me last autumn when the question was postponed until it was possible to ascertain definitely the amount of money at the disposal of the Borough Insurance Committee.

SANATORIUM BENEFITS

To the Public Health Committee of the Corporation of Limerick

Gentlemen,

In compliance with your instructions, I beg to submit schemes for the proper carrying out, within the Borough, of the Sanatorium Benefits under the Insurance Act, which include a Tuberculosis Dispensary, Domiciliary treatment, and the provision of beds in a Sanatorium

and the probable proportion likely to be affected with Tuberculosis.

Looking at this question as a whole, we have to take into consideration our population and the average number of deaths per year, from Phthisis and other forms of Tuberculosis for the five years 1907 and 1911 inclusive, was 120, but as the decrease, especially for the past three years, has happily been very marked, I am justified in assuming that the number of deaths, in the future, will not average more than 80, or 9 less than the actual number for last year. According to the views of experts on this subject it is calculated that for one person who dies of the disease there are ten others suffering in some stage of the malady, and on this calculation there would be, approximately, 800 persons in the city affected by Tuberculosis. Of this number it is not likely that more than 250 would be in need of treatment. The majority of them would only require attendance for six months, either in the dispensary, in their own homes, or, as regards a small number, at a sanatorium.

The advantages of domiciliary treatment, particularly in a large central population like Limerick, are obvious; the patients can choose their own medical advisers, and secure the best and most up-to-date treatment for their complaint, securing at the same time, that secrecy which is so essential, for family and other reasons, in cases of this kind. Under this heading I should say that twenty patients should be under treatment for half the year, and twenty more for the other half year. On the assumption that each patient would be under treatment for six months, this would mean that forty patients would be treated in their own homes in the year, and the cost of this portion of the scheme would, therefore, be £260 per annum;

that is to say, twenty patients for six months at 5/- per week, comes to £130, and this for a year we arrive at £260.

As regards the Dispensary treatment, patients would attend at this Dispensary for diagnosis, and for such treatment as would be considered necessary by the medical staff. It is usual in such institutions, to provide a few beds for patients under observation, but, in the case of Limerick, the homes of the patients will be so comparatively near that beds on the premises will not be necessary for such observation.

I submit the following two schemes for this treatment:—

SCHEME A.

An all time medical officer	£500	0	0	a year
Nurse	100	0	0	"
Assistant Nurse	70	0	0	"
Clerk and Caretaker	100	0	0	"
Medicines, Tuberculin, etc.	100	0	0	"
Rent, Coal and Light	50	0	0	"
Total	£920	0	0	

SCHEME B.

Part time Medical Officer	£100	0	0	a year
Assistant Medical Officer	65	0	0	"
Matron, Caretaker and Secretary	100	0	0	"
Assistant Nurse	70	0	0	"
Servant	25	0	0	"
Male Attendant	25	0	0	"
Medicines, Tuberculin, etc.	100	0	0	"
Rent, Coal and Light	50	0	0	"
Total	£535	0	0	

Provision would have to be made in a Sanatorium for ten beds, five for acute and five for chronic cases. The fixed cost, in any recognised sanatorium, would be £65 per bed—per annum, £650.

The cost of the alternative schemes would, therefore, be £1,830 and £1,445.

The first is made up as follows:—

Domiciliary Treatment	£260	0	0	a year
Scheme A. Dispensary	920	0	0	"
Beds in Sanatorium	650	0	0	"
Total	£1,830	0	0	

The second works out in this way:—

Domiciliary Treatment	£260	0	0	
Scheme B. Dispensary	535	0	0	"
Beds in Sanatorium	650	0	0	"
Total	£1,445	0	0	

Coming to the question of income, I have received from the Irish Insurance Commissioners, to whom I wrote, an intimation to the effect, that the estimated number of insured persons, within the Borough, would be 9,600, producing, at the rate of 1/3 per head, an income of £600 per annum. The Act empowers Local Authorities to strike a rate not exceeding 2d. in the pound for the purpose of Tuberculosis benefits. When a rate is struck these benefits, which otherwise would be confined to insured persons, can be extended to those who are not insured, thus covering the entire population. The deficit, therefore, on the first scheme, mentioned above, would be £1,230 and on the second scheme £845. It is for you now to consider how the deficit on the scheme chosen is to be met, bearing in mind the fact that in the case of each deficit the Treasury undertakes to provide an equal amount to that levied by means of rate. A rate of 11d. in the pound would produce £444, and a similar amount from the Treasury would mean that £888 would be provided from these two sources. Adding this to the £600 already referred to, you have £1,488, or £43 more than the cost of the cheaper of the two schemes already described, and which may be safely set aside for unforeseen contingencies.

Your obedient servant,

M. S. MCGRATH.

18 The Crescent.

Limerick, 20th August, 1912.

In connection with this, I append the latest schemes submitted by the Insurance Commissioners:—

A scheme for the establishment of a Tuberculosis Dispensary and the election of a part-time Tuberculosis Officer for the County Borough of Limerick, pending the adoption of permanent arrangements by the County Borough Council.

SCHEME.		
Population, 1911	...	38,518
Number of Insured persons	...	10,660
Estimated number of Insured persons suffering from Tuberculosis	...	168
Estimated number of Insured persons and Dependents	...	336
Total number of cases of Tuberculosis in County Borough	...	616
Capital Grant	...	£1,055
Valuation of County Borough	...	47,318
1/3d. in the £	...	150
Income of Insurance Committee at 1/3	...	666
One Part-time Tuberculosis Officer	...	£200 0 0
One Whole-time Nurse	...	100 0 0
Two Assistant Nurses	...	100 0 0
Rent of Dispensary and Medicines	...	100 0 0
Fees to Sanatoria, to Hospitals and Houses for advanced cases, etc.	...	466 0 0
		£966 0 0

It is proposed that the Insurance Committee, out of the funds available for Sanatorium Benefit, would pay half the salaries of the Tuberculosis Officer and Nurses, the other half to be borne by the Corporation and Treasury in equal parts, provided that the expenditure of the County Borough Council would not exceed 1/3d. in the £.

It is also provided that the Tuberculosis Officer for the salary above stated would discharge the duties of Medical Adviser to the Insurance Committee.

Income of Insurance Committee	£666 0 0
Contribution by Corporation	150 0 0
Contribution by Treasury	150 0 0
	£966 0 0

It will be noted that the Commissioners have adopted the principle of appointing a part-time tuberculosis officer, which formed a feature of Scheme B submitted by me. In my report I provided for 10 beds in a sanatorium, at a cost of £650. In the Commissioners' Scheme a sum of £466 is set aside under the heading: Fees to sanatoria, to Hospital, and homes for advanced cases, etc. The number of beds is not given, and it would be well to have this point made plain. "Domiciliary" treatment, the advantages of which are set forth in my report, is not provided for in this Scheme, and in my opinion the omission detracts from its usefulness. However, the Commissioners' Scheme, so far as it goes, should, I think, prove to be workable, and for this reason deserving of the attention of the Corporation.

DISINFECTION.

There were 144 houses disinfected after infectious disease, or for other causes. As usual, the disinfectant used was Formaldehyde, either in its gaseous form or in solution.

CLEANSING OF THE CITY.

As regards the cleansing of the streets, the work has been carried out as well as circumstances permit, but so long as the system of macadamising is continued, it would be next to impossible to have the streets properly cleansed. However, as the blockpaving scheme proceeds, this unsatisfactory state of things will gradually disappear, and as it is now on record that Nelson street, Boherbuiy, Carey's road, and the Dock road have been paved recently, and that William street is in progress, a more satisfactory state of things will, by degrees, be brought about.

Excellent work continues to be done by the two night carts, in removing the night soil, and also in removing refuse from the dust bins in the morning. I would like to see an extension of the latter work, so that as the increase of dust bins will render ashpits unnecessary, the cleansing staff will be enabled to devote their energies to securing better sanitation in the more congested parts of the City, and in this way help to prevent contamination by flies, which are now well known to be carriers of infectious disease.

The following return shows the number of loads of manure and mud removed off the streets and lanes of the City, and also the number of loads of water put out in dusty weather during the year—

MANURE—		Loads
Removed to Singland Depot	5655	
“ Thomondgate Depot	6,187	
Total No. Loads of Manure	11,842	
MUD—		
Carted to Depots at Cockamree, Prospect and Garryowen	14,858	
Carted to Depots at Farranshane, Corbally and Clare street	8,217	
Total No. Loads of Mud	23,075	
WATER—		
Put out on North or Lower Division	3,168	
“ South or Upper	5,237	
Total No. Loads of Water	8,405	
Grand Total No. of Loads	43,322	

RECORD OF SANITARY WORK.

The record of sanitary work performed in the City for the year ended 31st December, 1912, and the four previous years is shown below—

WORK DONE	YEARS				
	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908
Orders or Notices to abate Nuisances, make connecting Drains or perform other Sanitary work served	378	411	541	457	454
Prosecutions for Neglect of Orders or notices	199	176	223	148	165
Convictions	109	128	17	35	64
Fines imposed by order of Justices	£13 15 0	£16 11 8	£20 12 8	£7 3 6	£17 8 0
Samples of Food and Drugs submitted for Analysis	757	747	590	635	683
Prosecutions for sale of Unwholesome or Adulterated Food	8	1	15	19	13
Convictions obtained	7	1	13	16	6
Fines imposed in respect of Unwholesome or Adulterated Food	£5 8 6	£0 2 0	£1 15 0	£4 8 0	£2 2 6
Unwholesome Food seized and destroyed, lbs.	—	10	878	70	63
Houses, yards, and premises inspected by S.S. officers	9516	8514	9199	8149	9711
Houses, rooms, or premises linedwashed	1646	457	1541	1541	1204
Dwellings disinfected	44	111	55	107	166
Disinfecting Chamber used by persons	—	—	3	1	1
Articles of Clothing disinfected therein	—	—	63	6	6
Clothing and Bedding destroyed to the value of	—	£1 5 0	—	—	—
Orders or Notices complied with	317	296	370	293	306
Reports sent to Medical Officers of Health	341	349	513	469	296
Reports received from Medical Officers of Health	185	102	329	432	176
Drains constructed	59	89	62	49	56
Water Closets constructed	94	111	170	93	82

TENEMENTS.

As regards congestion in Limerick, the following table will be of interest:—

TENEMENTS ONE ROOM—OCCUPIED BY

Total Number in the City	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons	persons upwards
247	243	178	121	98	60	28	19	8	1	1	1	1

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

A brief history of the work done by the Corporation in providing houses for the working classes of the City will be of interest.

In the year 1887 a sum of £2,400 was borrowed from the Treasury for building 24 cottages at Sir Harry's Mall and Athlunkard street. These houses were completed in 1889 and 15 of them were let at 3/- and 9 at 3/6 each per week.

Another loan of £1,100 was obtained in 1894 for 7 houses, which were built in Mary street and Gaol lane; the cottages in Mary street were let at 3/6 and those in Gaol lane at 3/- each per week.

The site and buildings of the old Newgate Brewery were acquired from the Harbour Commissioners in 1895 at the nominal rent of 1/- per year, and a third loan was sought for and obtained by the Corporation of £2,000 for converting the old stores into 13 two-story dwellings, which were completed during the Mayoralty of our present esteemed Town Clerk, and named "Nolan Cottages" after him by the Council. The rent of each house is 4/- per week, and the upper floor is allowed to be sublet at 2/9 per week.

An Improvement Scheme was made by the Council in 1896 in respect of the unhealthy areas at Nicholas street and John street, and these districts were cleared, roadways and foot-paths formed, and sewers laid down at a cost of £8,096. The Nicholas street area was sold to the Thomond Dwellings Co. for £1,000, and on it they have built 58 cottages which let at rents from — to — weekly.

In the year 1911 the Council built 17 houses on the John street area and six at Miller's row, under a loan of £4,700. The weekly rents of these houses are 3/4, 3/6, and 4/- per week for three-, four-, and five-roomed cottage respectively.

Under the Housing Scheme of 1912 the Council have in progress at present 66 houses, viz.: 48 at Prospect hill and 18 in the Haymarket at Garryowen. The latter lot are expected to be ready for occupation in September and the others later on. The weekly rents proposed to be charged will be 4/- for four-roomed and 4/6 for five-roomed cottages.

It may be said that in many cases the above rents cannot be paid by the very poor, and whilst this is true, it must be remembered that the houses vacated by those who move into the new dwellings will be at the disposal of some of the dwellers in the tenements above referred to, thus decreasing the congestion to a considerable extent.

Progress in this direction will be accelerated when the scheme for 66 additional houses in Garryowen has been completed. However, so long as the wretched tenements to be found in Limerick continue to exist, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to eradicate tuberculosis, because a moment's reflection will convince anyone that the bringing back of a tuberculous family from the paradise of a sanatorium to their old room in Palmerstown will give free play to the deadly work of the tubercle bacilli.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The condition of the public Urinals continues to be unsatisfactory, the absence of cleansing and flushing being only too apparent in this connection. It is gratifying to be able to state that one of the worst of these eyesores in Lower Cecil Street has been removed and replaced by an up-to-date lavatory with ample accommodation. The exposed position of the Urinal in Bank place suggests the idea of planting a few trees near by, and the erection of a few more much-needed Urinals in other parts of the City is desirable.

WATER SUPPLY.

I am pleased to be able to report that a vast and much-needed improvement in the water supply of the City has been effected by the putting down at Khebhogue of extensive filter beds. The result is that no unfiltered water whatever will be supplied to the citizens, and I expect that the enterprise of the Corporation will be rewarded by a very marked improvement in the public health of the City.

BATHS AND WASH HOUSES.

The complete absence of wash houses and baths, other than those on the Island Bank, which can be used only in Summer, are matters that call for attention, as no community can be said to be properly equipped from a public health point of view, so long as it does not possess such means of securing personal cleanliness.

MID-DAY MEAL FOR POOR CHILDREN.

There is another matter linked up with the health of the City to which I again would like to refer: I mean the providing of a mid-day meal for poor children attending school; this in a limited way is done by the Sisters of Mercy, and also by the Presentation Nuns, but the extension of the practice to other schools attended by poor children is most desirable. In England such meals are provided at the public expense, and if it were possible to have this done in Ireland a vast boon would be conferred on the children of the poor at a comparatively small cost.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 24 bakehouses in the City, all of which are now in good sanitary condition, and the men working in them are all in good health.

THE MORGUE.

The demolition of the City Morgue, which is a disgrace to any civilised community, is an urgent necessity, as the present building, which can be compared to nothing but the Black Hole at Calcutta, is quite unsuitable for the holding of post-mortem examinations. I would again strongly advise that no further time should be lost in providing a Morgue that would be in keeping with the purposes which it is meant to serve.

Attention has been called to this matter during the year more than once by Coroner's juries, but nothing has as yet been done to remove the cause of their complaints.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Of the 24 Slaughter houses in the City the majority are now an improvement on their former conditions, but in the case of a few there is still great room for improvement, as their situation and sanitary condition are anything but what they ought to be.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The trade carried out in the City which may be considered as offensive comprise: Tripe dressers, 9; gut scrapers, 5; tallow melters, 2; knackers' Yards, 2; marine stores, 7. No complaints have been received of any of these places during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging houses in the city, of which there are 30, are regularly inspected and frequently reported on by the responsible officers.

AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance rendered assistance on 241 occasions during the year, as compared with 266 and 193, respectively, for each of the two preceding years.

	AMBULANCE CALLS.	
	1912	1911
	Accidents	Sickness
January	10	20
February	10	18
March	9	22
April	17	19
May	13	20
June	7	6
July	15	23
August	11	20
September	11	19
October	18	18
November	15	15
December	13	16
Total	152	206
	241	193

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, I have to report as follows:—

1—INSPECTION.

Premises	Inspections	Number of— Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories	...	122	1
Workshops	...	160	1
Total	...	282	1

2—DEFECTS FOUND.	
Particulars	Number of Defects Found
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—Want of Cleanliness, etc.	1
3—HOME WORK.	1

Nature of Work	Outworkers' Lists		Section 107 List received from Employers
	Twice in the year Lists	Once in the year Lists	
Wearing Apparel—Making, etc.	2	28	—

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.	
Workshops on the Register at the end of the year	Number
No. 1 District	26
No. 2 District	102
No. 3 District	52
Total number of Workshops on Register	180

WEATHER.

The Rainfall returns in the City for the past year is as follows :—

Weather Report taken at Garryowen Bacon Factory, Limerick, during 1911.

Month	RAINFALL		Date	Wet Days	BAROMETER		TEMPERATURE	
	Total Inches	Maxin.			Maxin.	Min.	Maxin.	Min.
January	3.17	.65	7th	19	30.30	29.20	52	24
February	2.71	.65	18th	18	29.80	28.65	58	17
March	3.97	.50	27th	23	30.05	28.75	64	34
April	1.04	.73	21st	8	30.37	29.75	68	36
May	1.43	.42	18th	14	30.30	29.70	70	40
June	6.14	1.13	9th	26	30.00	29.44	72	42
July	5.26	1.23	21st	17	30.20	29.35	78	42
August	3.38	1.42	22nd	21	30.05	29.30	67	39
September	.68	.15	26th	10	30.45	29.30	68	40
October	3.36	.48	14th	21	30.50	28.98	64	30
November	2.24	.44	24th	22	30.35	29.00	52	26
December	4.63	.68	17th	23	30.00	29.30	57	26
Total	37.85		Total	222				

Actual Highest Barometer	...	...	30.50 in October
Do. Lowest	...	...	28.65 in March
Do. Highest Thermometer	...	...	78 in July
Do. Lowest	...	...	17 in February

I have again to express my very best thanks to the different Medical Practitioners of the City, to the City Surveyor and his Assistant, for their kind co-operation in maintaining the public health of the City.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. S. McGRATH,

Medical Superintendent Officer of Health.