

**[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Sutton].**

**Contributors**

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**Sutton (Surrey)**

**Urban District Council.**



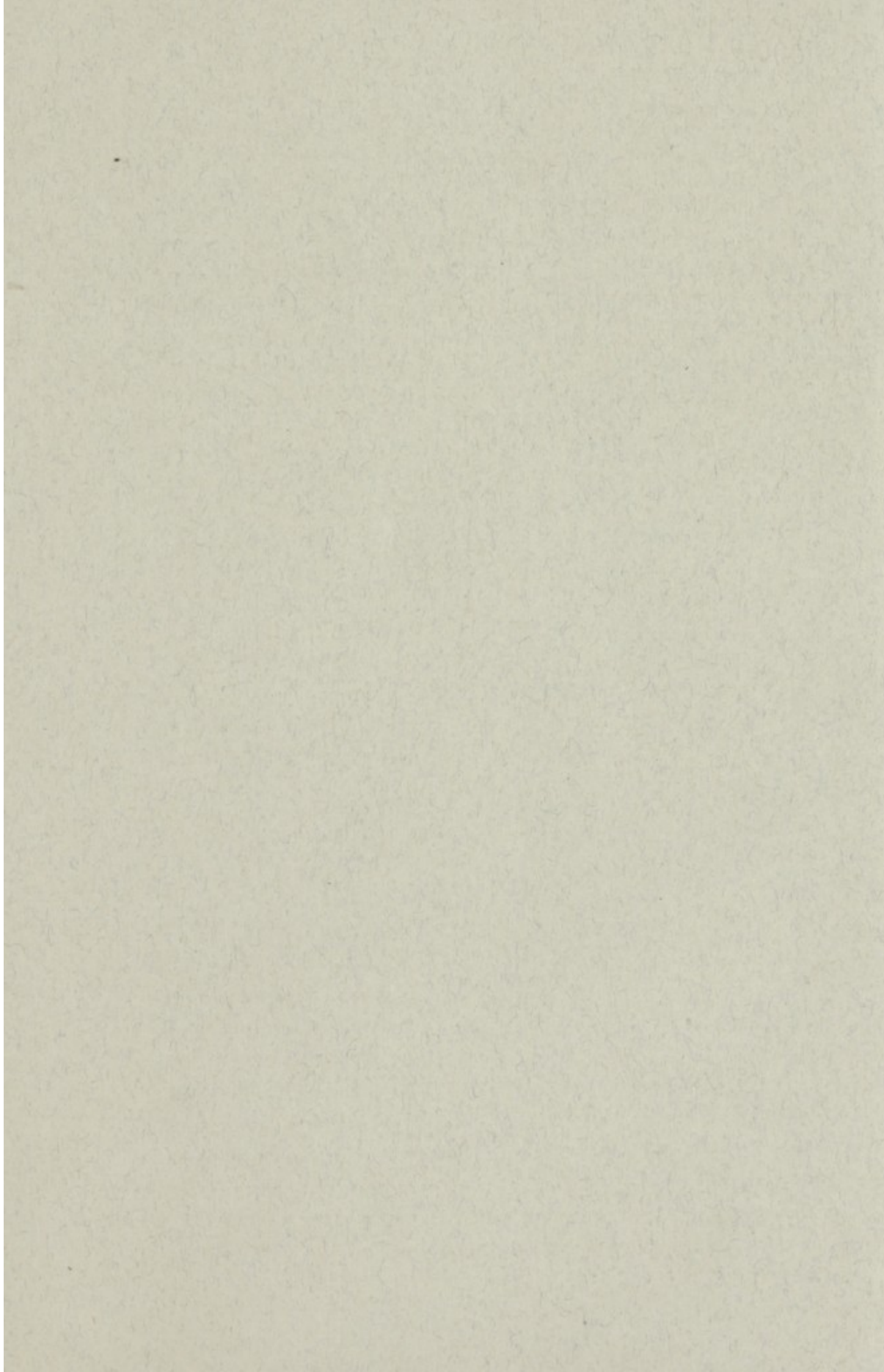
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR

**THE YEAR 1925.**



**ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.**

*To the Members of the Sutton Urban District Council.*

By the direction of the Ministry of Health the report for the year 1925 has to be a **Survey Report**, which should deal with the measure of progress made during the previous five years in the improvement of the public health, and the extent and character of the changes made during that period in such public health services as housing, water-supply, sewerage, scavenging or refuse disposal, food inspection, maternity and child welfare, etc., etc.

These matters are dealt with in the body of this report.

For the purpose of estimating the birth and death rates the **Registrar-General** has stated the **population** of the District to be **21,320**.

The population at the **last Census**—1921—was 21,063. This gave an average of 4.66 persons per dwelling; a smaller number than at any previous Census. It is not unlikely that on the occasion of the last Census householders, who had sublet for gain and thereby caused overcrowding, failed to include all the occupants on the prescribed form. It is not unusual when an inspection is being made by the Public Health Department to meet with considerable reticence on the part of a tenant in stating the number of his family and lodgers. In making these inspections several cottages of 4 or 5 rooms have been found to have an average of seven persons above the age of twelve years and four below that age.

Keeping, however, to the Census average of 4.66 persons per dwelling, and allowing that average to be applied to the 407 houses erected since the Census [the overcrowding in many of the older cottages will

balance any deficiency in numbers in the new] the population occupying the 4,921 dwellings in this District would be 22,932. In addition, there is a resident staff of 127 at the Downs Hospital for Children, and 46 at the Belmont Institution; these bring the **net population** to 23,105; and, with these Institutions' inmates (339 and 954) the **gross population** to 24,398.

For estimating the birth and death rates the Registrar-General's figures, 21,320, must be used.

The Birth-rate is 14·9 [corresponding figure for England and Wales 18·3].

The Death-rate is 11·3 [corresponding figure for England and Wales 12·2].

This Death-rate is reduced by 0·1 when standardised to what it would be if the sex and age constitution of the population were identical with that of England and Wales, the standardising factor being 0·99. At the 1911 Census this factor was 0·9359.

This Death-rate is higher than usual, the average rates for the last 20 years, in 5-year periods, being 10·4, 10·0, 10·9, 10·4. As can be seen in a table in the body of this report the reduced number of deaths under 5 years of age is balanced by an increase of deaths at 65 years of age and above. In this year of 1925, no less than 54 per cent. of the total deaths occurred at 65, or more, years of age.

As a single cause of death cancer heads the list. A table referring to this is placed in the body of this report. There was no death from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, or Enteric Fever, and four only from Influenza.

The Infant Mortality rate—deaths per 1,000 births—is higher than usual [57 to England and Wales's 75], but one-half of the deaths occurred before a week of life had been completed. As to the future: more

cottages at reasonable rents are required; the rent charged for the new buildings causes tenants to meet it by taking lodgers.

I still hold the opinion that for the improvement of the public health a knowledge and use of what is proper for food is the important thing.

The defects of nutrition so common amongst the children attending the elementary schools will persist so long as their parents will not realise that, as the means at their disposal compel them to make bread the chief article in the daily diet, by using a bread deprived of the indispensable food values contained in the germ, and—to a slighter degree—in the coat of the wheat grain, they are excluding from the children's food that which is absolutely necessary for healthy growth.

This is no longer a matter of conjecture; it has been proved many times by the experimental feeding of both birds and animals.

An objection has been raised that flour containing the germ will not keep well. If that be so, then let the wheat grain be imported whole and labour be employed in milling it in this country.

No matter how efficiently the people be housed, how well they be clothed, if they be not properly fed physical defects will follow; the first requirement of all living things is that they get adequate nourishment.

W. HABGOOD.

## SUTTON URBAN DISTRICT.

### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Area (in acres) ... ..	...	...	...	...	1836
Population (Census 1921) ... ..	...	...	...	...	21063
(Estimated 1925) ... ..	...	...	...	...	21320

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

Sutton is situated 11 miles south of Whitehall in the watershed of the Thames in the north-east portion of the County of Surrey, the centre of the town being a little above the line where the chalk of the London Basin comes to the surface to form the North Downs. A narrow band of the London Tertiaries, running due east and west, appears between the chalk and the clay.

Towards the north and north-west and on the clay is the lowest land—81 feet above sea level—and through it runs the Pyl Brook, receiving the chief part of the surface water of the whole district and the outflow from the sewage works. The rest of the surface water drains into a small brook discharging on the north-east into the Wandle. Further north, where the London and Brighton Road crosses the border, the ground rises to 147 feet. This is the most rural part. Southwards, on the chalk, towards Banstead Downs, there is a gradual ascent to 293 feet.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) ... ..	...	...	...	...	4514
Number of Families of Separate Occupiers (1921) ... ..	...	...	...	...	4793
Rateable Value ... ..	...	...	...	...	£188183
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	...	...	...	...	£750

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

A large proportion of the residents is engaged in business in London. The remainder consists chiefly of tradesmen and their assistants, gardeners, domestic servants, laundry workers, and employees of the London General Omnibus Company, which has recently erected an extensive garage in the town.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

#### BIRTHS:

		Total.		M.		F.
Legitimate	... ..	306	...	140	...	166
Illegitimate	... ..	11	...	6	...	5
		—		—		—
Total	... ..	317		146		171

Birth Rate: 14·9.

#### DEATHS: 241.

Death-rate	... ..					11·3
<i>Death-rate corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population</i>						
						$10·2 \times 0·99 = 11·2$
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—						
From Sepsis	... ..	...	...	...	...	—
From other causes	... ..	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births						
	... ..	...	...	...	...	57
						18
Legitimate, 18; Illegitimate, 0; Total						
Deaths from Measles (all ages)						
	... ..	...	...	...	...	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	...	...	...	...	—
,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	... ..	...	...	...	...	2

**Amount of Poor-Law Relief—£2082 12s. 6½d.**

**Gratuitous Medical Relief.**—The number of non-paying patients admitted to the Wards of the Sutton Hospital was 306.

There were also 81 operations for tonsils and adenoids performed in this Hospital for the Surrey Education Committee.

There has been nothing specially noteworthy to record regarding causes of sickness or invalidity.

### Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales - - -	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London - - - -	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0
SUTTON - - - -	14.9	11.2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.14	6.3	57	92.1	7.9	0.0

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1925.

	Total.	Under 1 year.	1--2 years.	2--5 years.	5--15 years.	15--65 years.	65 and above.	Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
Enteric Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small-pox .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza .. ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	12	—	—	—	1	11	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	4	—	2	—	—	2	—	2
Cancer .. ..	30	—	—	—	—	9	21	1
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	4	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
Diabetes .. ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Cerebral Hæmorrhage .. ..	17	—	—	—	—	3	14	1
Heart Disease .. ..	29	—	—	—	—	11	18	17
Arterio-sclerosis .. ..	14	—	—	—	—	2	12	13
Bronchitis .. ..	13	2	—	—	—	1	10	3
Pneumonia .. ..	8	2	—	—	—	5	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis .. ..	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	3
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Nephritis .. ..	6	—	—	—	—	4	2	2
Puerperal Sepsis .. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases & accidents of Pregnancy .. ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth .. ..	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	1
Suicide .. ..	4	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Violence .. ..	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other Defined Diseases .. ..	70	3	—	1	1	21	44	14
TOTALS .. ..	241	18	2	1	4	85	131	69

NOTE.—Nine out of the sixty-nine deaths in Public Institutions belong to this District.

Of the total 241 persons dying : 65 were from 65—74 years old,  
49     "     75—84     "  
17     "     85 and above.

The deaths occurring at 65 years, and above that age, amount to 54 per cent. of the total deaths at all ages. In recent years, for England and Wales the deaths above 65 have been 36 per cent. of the total deaths.

**Inquests** were held on 19 deaths:—

Violence	...	...	...	...	2
Suicide	...	...	...	...	4
Natural Causes	...	...	...	...	13

**Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infant Mortality-rate during the last 20 Years.**

Quinquennial Periods.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1906—1910	23	10·4	72
1911—1915	19	10·0	77
1916—1920	15·8	10·9	52
1921—1925	16·1	10·4	42

**Deaths at various age periods in the four quinquennial periods of the last 20 Years.**

Period.	Total Deaths.	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—65 years.	65 and above.	Percentage to total deaths				
							Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—65 years.	65 and above.
1906—1910	952	151	74	30	373	324	15·3	7·8	3·2	39·2	34
1911—1915	1016	149	44	29	408	386	14·6	4·4	3·0	38	38
1916—1920	1112	89	46	44	438	495	8·0	4·0	4·0	39	45
1921—1925	1095	71	26	26	447	525	6·5	2·4	2·4	40	48

## CANCER DEATHS.

Five-Year Periods.	Total Number of Deaths from all Causes.	Deaths from Cancer.	Deaths from all causes at 65 years of age and upwards.	Percentage of deaths from Cancer to total deaths.	Percentage of deaths at 65 years and upwards to total deaths.	Percentage of deaths from Cancer to deaths from all causes at 65 years of age and upwards.
1906—1910	952	74	324	7·8	34	23
1911—1915	1016	109	386	10·7	38	28
1916—1920	1112	147	495	13·2	45	30
1921—1925	1095	133	525	12·6	48	26

### INFANT MORTALITY, 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
	Premature Birth ..	4	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
Debility at Birth ..	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Congenital Defects ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
Convulsions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Asphyxia at Birth ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Gastro Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	8	1	—	—	9	2	3	4	—	18

Nett Births registered during the calendar year	legitimate	140	166	306	Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of	legitimate infants	18
	illegitimate	6	5	11		illegitimate infants	—
Totals		146	171	317			Mortality = 57 deaths per 1000 births.

**Table showing in quinquennial periods the Infant Mortality-rate [Deaths per 1,000 Births] for the past 20 Years.**

It can be seen that the <sup>in</sup>crease of infant life at ages under one month has been slight; above that age the mortality of 1921-5 is 58 per cent. below the figure for 1911-15.

The Infant Welfare Centre began its work in 1916.

Quinquennial Periods.	Number of births.	Number of deaths.	Infant mortality rate.	Number of deaths under 1 month.	Death rate.	Number of deaths 1-12 months	Death rate.
1906-1910	2075	151	73	56	27	95	46
1911-1915	1923	149	71	57	30	92	41
1916-1920	1735	89	51	41	25	45	26
1921-1925	1688	71	42	43	25	28	17

**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.**

**Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority.**

**Fever.**—The Cuddington Isolation Hospital is a Joint Hospital serving the Urban Districts of Sutton, Carshalton and Leatherhead, and the Rural District of Epsom. It is within a mile of the South border of Sutton.

The accommodation is 76 beds, providing for those suffering from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Cholera, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis and Influenzal Pneumonia.

**General Hospital.**—The Local Authority contributes an amount equal to the rate paid for the year. The sum in 1925 was £35 15s. 4d. The hospital has 10 male, 15 female, and 6 children's beds, and 2 private wards. It is situated in the middle of the town.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—The Isolation Hospital has a motor ambulance. For general purposes an ambulance is kept by the proprietor of a motor garage, for the use of which a charge is made.

#### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

**Maternity and Child Welfare** are accommodated in the Public Hall, which belongs to the Council.

School Clinics, Tuberculosis Dispensary are held by the County Council in rooms adjoining the Public Hall.

#### **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer; he also acts as an Assistant Medical Officer to the Surrey Education Committee.

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. F. W. Kain, A.R.S.I., is a whole-time Officer, and has a whole-time Assistant.

Health Visitor—Miss C. L. Jew, C.M.B. and A.R.S.I.

There is a whole-time Junior Clerk for office work.

Mr. G. M. Vincent, M.R.C.V.S., is the Veterinary Inspector for examining the cows in the District. He was appointed, as from 1st December, 1925, as Inspector under the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924.

These offices are part-time.

#### **Professional Nursing in the Home.**

(a) **General.**—Private associations of the joint parishes of St. Nicholas and St. Barnabas, and the Parish of All Saints', Benhilton, each provide one nurse. The latter of these acts also as a midwife.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—None is provided.

**Midwives.**—The Local Authority neither employs or subsidises Midwives. There are three certified Midwives practising.

### Legislation in Force.

<i>Adopted Acts.</i>	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases [Prevention] Act, 1890 ... ..	1890
Public Health Acts [Amendment] Act, 1890 ... ..	1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892 ...	1892
Baths and Washhouses Acts, 1846-99	1894
Public Libraries' Act, 1892 ...	1902
Public Health Acts [Amendment] Act, 1907 (Parts of) ... ..	1908
Public Health Act, 1925 ... ..	1926

### *Bye-Laws.*

Powers conferred on Sanitary Com- mittee ... ..	1886
Whirligigs and Swings ... ..	1894
Telegraph and Other Wires ...	1894
Nuisances ... ..	1894
Regulations as to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops ... ..	1899
Houses Let in Lodgings ... ..	1902
Baths ... ..	1903
Regulations as to Allotments ...	1903
Streets and Buildings ... ..	1906
Sutton Green ... ..	1912
Nuisances ... ..	1913
Manor Park ... ..	1915

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.**—The supply is from deep wells in the chalk. The Sutton District Water Company have their pumping station in the town. The water is softened in settling tanks by the lime process, and is re-carbonated before distribution.

The softening is compulsory by Act to nine degrees of hardness. The supply is constant, practically all dwelling houses are supplied direct. Twelve old cottages are served by means of stand-pipes, and some wooden huts that have been erected contrary to the Bye-laws have no direct supply.

The chemical and bacteriological reports on the supply show the water to be of good quality.

**Rivers and Streams.**—A very small stream, the Pyl brook, receives nearly all the surface water and also the sewage works outflow. This stream runs outside the District into the Beverley brook, and so to the Thames.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The District is sewered except in the outlying sparsely populated parts on the clay where cesspools are used. The local authority pumps these out on to the land as occasion arises.

Mr. Grieves, the Surveyor, has reported that plans are being prepared for the sewerage of the North-West part of the District, embracing an area of about 200 acres, the estimated cost being £21,000.

**Sewage Disposal.** — There are 10 revolving sprinklers dealing with a daily flow of 950,000 gallons. A new 100ft. sprinkler, detritus tank and screening chamber is to be constructed.

During the year, a Smith's rotary screen and a fixed screen with detritus tanks have been constructed at both the high and low level works.

**Closet Accommodation.**—Water closets are in use throughout the District, excepting in the case of the few wooden huts that have been erected contrary to the Byelaws, where earth closets are used.

**Scavenging.**—The Surveyor reports that the whole of the house refuse is collected by motor transport, except from the High Street, which is done by horse

haulage. Motor transport has proved more speedy and economical than horse, the whole of the District's refuse being collected in 4 to 5 days.

**Refuse Disposal.**—The new pulverising plant is now in full working order and deals with all refuse. It comprises a 24in. x 20in. Jeffery pulveriser, driven by a 35 h.p. motor, with a 5 h.p. motor conveyor, which passes the refuse to a hopper, whence it is taken by lorries to the sludge lagoons.

The movable ashbin is the only form employed for household use.

#### **Rainfall at the Sewage Farm.**

Total 27·49 inches. In 1924, the fall was 37·02. Rainy days, 153. In 1924 there were 168 rainy days.

On one day only, February 12th, did more than one inch of rain fall in 1925.

#### **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

##### **Report of the Sanitary Inspector under Art. 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.**

Number of complaints received in writing	...	91
Number of premises inspected under Sec. 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875	... ..	257
Number of nuisances discovered	... ..	581
Number of nuisances discovered, remedied without being reported	... ..	16
Number of nuisances reported to the Sanitary Authority	... ..	565
Number of nuisances remedied after report	...	554
Number of preliminary notices served by the Inspector for the abatement of nuisances	...	219
Number of notices for the abatement of nuisances served by order of the Sanitary Authority	... ..	53

**Particulars of work done by owners or occupiers for  
the abatement of nuisances in compliance  
with notices.**

Number of privies, cesspools, ditches, pools, water courses, urinals, ashpits, and drains cleansed, and number of deposits removed ...	158
Number of new privies or water closets provided ... ..	—
Number of premises at which the drains were reconstructed, ventilated, trapped, or disconnected from the house pipes ... ..	16
Number of houses at which the water closets were provided with water under Sec. 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875 ... ..	—
Number of premises from which animals improperly kept were removed ... ..	1
Number of houses which were provided with efficient ventilation ... ..	40
Number of houses at which injurious overcrowding was abated ... ..	1
Legal proceedings taken under Sec. 96 for the abatement of nuisances (number of times)...	—
Houses closed as unfit for human habitation ...	—
Number of houses at which disinfection was carried out after notice, under Section 5 of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ... ..	29
Number of houses at which disinfection was carried out after Tuberculosis ... ..	29
Number of foul houses cleansed and white-washed, after notice under Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1875 ... ..	21
Number of premises from which offensive accumulations have been removed after notice, under Sec. 49 of the Public Health Act, 1875 ... ..	5
Surrender of unwholesome meat, fish, poultry, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, flour, or milk	5

Number of registered cowkeepers, dairymen, and purveyors of milk, carrying on business at the commencement of the year ... ..	22
Number since registered ... ..	2
Number who gave up or transferred their business during the year ... ..	3
Number of registered premises inspected during the year ... ..	24
Total number of visits paid during the year ...	62
Number of dairies and cowsheds at which improvements in the lighting, ventilation, paving, drainage, means of cleaning, or water supply, were made during the year ...	2
Number of cowsheds or dairies which were found in a dirty state ... ..	2
Number of premises at which the milk vessels were found in an unclean state ... ..	—
Number of new cowsheds erected ... ..	—

### 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	No. of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories .. .. . (including Factory laundries)	36	—	—
Workshops .. .. . (including Workshop laundries)	144	7	—
Workplaces .. .. . (other than Outworkers' premises)	11	—	—
Total .. .. .	191	7	—

### 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of defects.			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of cleanliness ..	6	5	—	—
Other Nuisances .. ..	2	2	—	—
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—
	9	7	—	—

### Outwork in Unwholesome Premises, Section 108.

Nature of Work. (1)	Instances. (2)	Notices served. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Nil.	—	—	—

**Smoke Abatement.**

There has arisen on need for action.

**Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Byelaws or Regulations.**

There are no bye-laws in force for houses let in lodgings, and no offensive trades being carried on in the district.

**Other Sanitary Conditions Requiring Notice.**

There are no conditions requiring comment beyond those dealt with in other parts of the Annual Report.

**Schools.**

The elementary schools are under the control of the County Council, and the inspection of children both at school and in their homes is done by a County Council Health Visitor.

**HOUSING.****1.—General Housing Conditions in the Area.**

- (1) The general housing conditions are good, apart from the fact that, owing to the high rent of the recently erected cottages, many of the older cottages are occupied by members of more than one family, although they are not suitably constructed for this purpose.
- (2) (a) The shortage is not great, and is being reduced.  
(b) *Vide* report placed at end of "Housing Statistics."
- (3) The establishment of a large garage by the London General Omnibus Company has caused an increased demand for small dwellings.

**II.—Overcrowding.**

- (1) EXTENT.—747 applications for cottages have been made, and of the forms sent to these applicants, 321 have been returned requesting a house.

There are at present no cottages to be rented.

There are 92 to allot for sale.

Overcrowding has been discovered in 31 cottages.

(2) CAUSES.—Increase of population; too high a rental for those cottages erected since 1918.

(3) MEASURES TAKEN.—*Vide* I. (2), (b).

(4) CASES.—*Vide* II. (1). No action as to overcrowding has been taken.

### III.—Fitness of Houses.

(1) (a) GENERAL STANDARD OF HOUSING :—With the exception of eleven cottages, the standard is reasonably good.

(b) GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO EXIST IN UNFIT HOUSES.—Of the eleven mentioned under (a), seven consist of one room on ground floor, a lean-to scullery behind large enough to contain steps leading to one bedroom; five others are similar, but have a larger scullery and staircase and two bedrooms. In the case of the seven and the five cottages, there is a water standpipe for common use,\* and the common use of five water-closets. Any marked unfitness in the cottages is due chiefly to defects in roofs, guttering, and the plaster on inside walls, and, to slighter extent, dampness in walls.

(c) There is rarely any difficulty in getting the owners to execute the necessary repairs. There is a considerable amount of dirty walls due to neglect by tenants; sub-letting also causes further dirt and neglect.

(2) GENERAL ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES UNDER—

(a) *The Public Health Acts* :—Serving notices on owners and seeing them carried out.

(b) *Vide* "Housing Statistics."

- (3) The difficulty of the careless tenant is being partly met by the sale of new cottages on the instalment plan. In this district it is rare to have to issue a summons against an owner.
- (4) Water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal are satisfactory.

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	146
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, 1923, or 1924 :—						
(i) By the Local Authority	...					56
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...					90

#### 1. Unfit Dwelling Houses—Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	182
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	43
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	11*
(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	...	29

\* This applies only if the parents have children living with them.

**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	... ..	139
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------	-----

**3. Action under Statutory Powers :—**

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

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	... ..	—

**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	43
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—		
(a) By owners	... ..	41
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—

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

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

**Report on Housing by Mr. W. H. Grieves, the Council's Surveyor.**

At the end of 1923, No. 2 Housing Scheme of 34 houses in Clensham Lane and Collingwood Road was begun, and completed by November, 1924. Of these houses 22 were parlour type and 12 non-parlour. Cost, £17,600.

No. 3 Housing Scheme began November, 1924, for 34 houses in Clensham Lane and Collingwood Road: 16 parlour and 18 non-parlour. Cost £18,308.

No. 4 Housing Scheme commenced in July, 1925, for 68 houses in Benhill and Erskine Roads, and No. 5 Scheme for 24 houses in Constance and Oliver Roads. Cost of No. 4 estimated at £37,930; of No. 5 at £13,517.

These schemes have all been carried out under the Chamberlain Act, and the houses are sold to owner-occupiers on the instalment plan.

On the completion of No. 5 Scheme, the total number of houses built by the Council (including 72 built under the Addison Scheme), will be 232.

### **Rental of New Cottages.**

ASSISTED (ADDISON) SCHEME.—19/-, 20/-, 21/-, including rates; 13/-, 14/-, 15/- excluding rates.

Flat rate of 6/- per week, afterwards adjusted so that 11d. is generally returned.

BY PURCHASE.—£550, parlour; £475, non-parlour. Deposit of £5 and upwards, balance over 20, 25 or 30 years. On this basis the lowest rental works out at 15/6—21/-, inclusive of rates. The weekly cost will vary according to the amount left on mortgage and the period of years over which repayment is spread.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **(a) Milk Supply.**

The quarterly reports of the Veterinary Inspector give a yearly average of 44 cows in milk. Some supply comes from farms in the immediate neighbourhood, but it is small compared to that which comes by rail.

The seven cowkeepers have kept their cowsheds reasonably clean, and exercised care to prevent fouling of the milk, either from the cows' quarters or the milkers' hands.

- (i.) Three cows were found to be tuberculous by the Veterinary Inspector, and confirmed by post-mortem examination.
- (ii.) Three licences were granted for the sale of certified milk.

There has been no application for a licence of any apparatus for pasteurising.

(iii.) There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk.

(iv.) Samples of certified milk were sent to the Clinical Research Association in May, July and October. In no sample was *Bacillus Coli* found. The presence of other organisms was as follows :—

<i>Quantity.</i>	<i>May.</i>	<i>July.</i>	<i>October</i>
1/10 c.c. ...	181 ...	121 ...	166
1/100 c.c. ...	17 ...	13 ...	17
1/1000 c.c. ...	2 ...	2 ...	2

The demand for the graded milks of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, is very small, and the only graded milk sold by the retailers is that known as Certified, the cost of which is double that of ordinary milk.

#### **(b) Meat.**

(i.) Inspection at the time of slaughter is made by Mr. G. M. Vincent, M.R.C.V.S. Tuberculosis of the throat glands was found in one heifer, and the head was condemned. Condemned meat is removed to the Sewage Farm and buried.

(ii.) Stalls, shops, stores and vehicles have been kept under observation, but no special action has been taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

(iii.) There is no public slaughter-house.

#### PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	5	5	5
Licensed ...	1	1	1

**(c) Other Foods.**

Boxes of fish have been surrendered and condemned on five occasions.

The thirteen bakehouses, of which three only were not provided with motor power, have been kept reasonably clean. In four cases the owners were required to whitewash and in one case to repair a stopped drain.

**(d)** No case of food poisoning has been reported.

**(e)** The following report is from the County Medical Officer:—

Articles	Analysed.			Adulterated or Deteriorated			Prosecutions	Convictions
	For- mal	In- formal	Total	For- mal	In formal	Total		
Milk .. ..	48	1	49	2	—	2	—	—
Preserved Cream ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Butter .. ..	12	4	16	—	—	—	—	—
Spirits .. ..	5	—	5	1	—	1	1	1
Other Articles ..	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. ..	65	8	73	3	—	3	1	1

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Infectious Diseases Generally.

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the five years 1916-1920 and the five years 1921-1925 is shown in the following table:—

Quinquennial Periods.	NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.																						Reported by Schools and Health Visitor.					
	Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Enteric Fever.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.		Pneumonia.		Dysentery.		Malaria.		Encephalitis Lethargica.		Anterior Poliomyelitis.		Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.		Ophthalmia Neonatorum.		Measles.	Whooping Cough.		
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.		
1916—1920	153	3	134	9	7	1	2	2	14	3	67	80	2	—	3	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	8	—	928	7	69	5
1921—1925	126	—	95	5	18†	—	5	1	8	—	94	47	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	16	—	448	2	436	6

† Ten cases of Para-typhoid B in February and March, 1923, due to food.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis became notifiable on 1/9/12.

Polio-myelitis became notifiable on 1/9/12.

Pneumonia, Malaria and Dysentery became notifiable on 1/7/19.

Encephalitis Lethargica became notifiable on 1/1/19.

Measles became notifiable on 1/12/15; rescinded 31/12/19.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during  
1925.**

Disease.	Under 1 Year.	1 Year.	2 Years.	3 Years.	4 Years.	5 Years.	10 Years.	15 Years.	20 Years.	35 Years.	45 Years.	65 Years.	Totals.	Removed to Hospital.	Died.
Small Pox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1*
Scarlet Fever ..	—	3	5	2	2	13	11	3	3	—	—	—	47	40	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	2	3	—	—	—	10	10	—
Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	—	6	—	8
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
<b>TOTALS ..</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>

\*Vide Note "Small-pox.

**The months in which they occurred.**

	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
January	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
February	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
March ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
April ..	—	6	1	1	—	—	1
May ..	1	12	—	1	—	—	1
June ..	—	5	—	1	—	—	—
July ..	—	9	1	—	2	—	—
August	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
October ..	—	3	2	1	—	—	—
November	—	6	2	—	—	—	—
December	—	4	1	1	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

**The Distribution of the Cases of Scarlet Fever,  
Diphtheria and Pneumonia.**

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia
One case in one household .. ..	19	6	6
Two cases in two households ..	4	—	—
Three cases in two households ..	6	—	—
Four cases in one household ..	4	—	—
Total of Sutton cases .. ..	33	6	6
London Children in the M.A.B. Downs Hospital .. .. .	14	4	—

**SMALL POX.**

The explanation of this case appearing on the list of notifiable infectious diseases is as follows:—

A young woman, a waitress in a London underground restaurant, came—on account of a breakdown in health—to spend a few days with friends in this district. She soon became so ill that a doctor was called in who, as her condition rapidly worsened, had her removed to the Sutton Hospital. The physician on duty realised her serious condition, and found her high temperature was accompanied with pleurisy. An eruption was noticed on the eve of her second day in hospital resembling, in the opinion of two members of the medical staff, that of Small-pox. I saw the patient with them the next morning, and we agreed that, although her serious state was not due to Small-pox, yet as the eruption so closely resembled this disease, the safest course would be to remove her for observation to a Small-pox hospital, and she was

removed within an hour by the Metropolitan Aslums Board. It was not until the 3rd day after her removal, by which time she had died, that I was informed that the physician in charge of the Small-pox hospital had diagnosed the eruption as purely septic. In the meantime all the usual preventive precautions, such as vaccination of contacts, disinfection or destruction of clothing, had been taken.

As to this final diagnosis of the eruption :—I accepted the opinion of a physician having so extensive an experience of Small-pox. On the other hand, the two members of the medical staff of the Sutton Hospital declined to withdraw their diagnosis.

After communicating with the Ministry of Health, I was instructed to report the case in the return of Infectious Diseases, made weekly to the Registrar-General, as one of Small-pox, and thus it must appear in this Annual Report.

#### Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The following cases were reported by school teachers and by the District Council's Health Visitor :

1925	Whooping Cough.	Measles.	German Measles	Chicken Pox.	Mumps.
January ..	—	—	—	3	—
February ..	2	—	—	2	—
March ..	5	—	—	26	5
April ..	2	4	—	9	1
May ..	9	—	—	1	3
June ..	13	1	—	2	5
July ..	28	—	—	2	2
August ..	17	—	—	—	—
September ..	20	1	1	—	4
October ..	16	3	1	—	5
November ..	15	16	—	4	50
December ..	17	37	1	1	82
Totals ..	144	62	3	50	157

The prevalence of infectious diseases since 1920 is shown in a preceding table. Measles and Whooping-cough are the most predominating, the latter being three times more fatal. No death arose from the 126 cases of Scarlet Fever, and five from 95 cases of Diphtheria. The case mortality of Pneumonia indicates that the notification of this disease is partially neglected, and the same applies to Puerperal Fever.

### Bacteriological Specimens.

Disease.	Cases.	Report.	
		Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria .. ..	26	—	26
Tuberculosis .. ..	16	4	12

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

Influenza caused four deaths at 65 years or above, out of a total of 241 deaths. In the previous four years the deaths were seven out of 199, six out of 216, none out of 221, and eight out of 218 total deaths.

### Tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Ages.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
15	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	5	4	—	—	—	1	—	1
35	6	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
45	2	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
55	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	17	8	4	4	8	4	3	1

Of these 33 cases, the first information received of six of them was on their admission to a hospital or sanatorium.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF  
TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS.

No case of Tuberculosis was notified in any person to whom these regulations apply.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

No action was taken under this Section.

**MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

Infant Welfare Meetings are held in the Public Hall on Tuesday afternoons, under the superintendence of Miss Edith Hoole, a member of the District Council, and for expectant mothers the meetings are monthly, on Tuesday mornings—Miss Ethel Vernon, M.D., B.S., Lond., is the physician in charge.

The Infant Welfare Centre was opened in 1916; the ante-natal at end of 1924. In 1925 the average weekly attendances were :—Mothers, 108; children, 123. At the ante-natal meeting the average was seven mothers. 2,037 visits were made to children under one year, of which 331 were first visits, and 1,863 visits were made to children between one and five years; 299 visits to expectant mothers, of which 82 were first visits. Enquiries were made into 14 infant deaths; in none of these had the mother attended the Welfare Centre. Enquiries were also made as to eleven still-born. In one case only had a mother attended the Centre in the early months of her pregnancy.

No case of *Puerperal Fever* was notified. There were two case of *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*. *Whooping-Cough* was prevalent in the last six months, and *Measles* in the last two months of the year, but caused no death.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

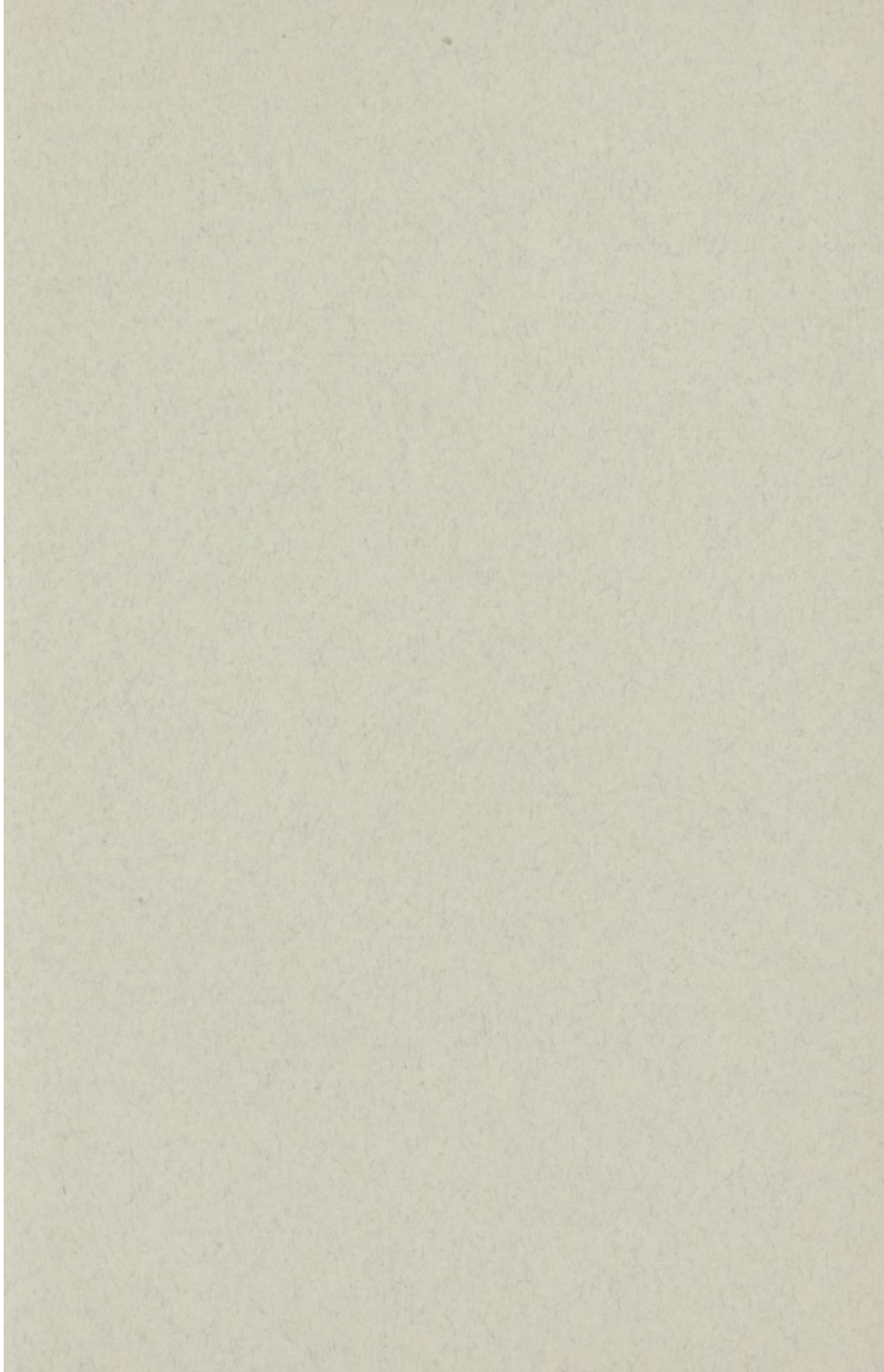
Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated.					
	At Home	In Hosp.				
2	2	—	2	—	—	—

Towards the close of the year arrangements were made for the dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers; children under five years of age are treated by a dentist at the Sutton Hospital.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Of the 316 registered as born in the district (28 of these belonging to other districts), 95 per cent. were notified.







1