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COUNTY OF AYR.



THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE COUNTY.

WITH
**Annual Reports on the Burghs of
Saltcoats, Largs, Stewarton,
Cumnock, Troon, Galston,
Darvel, and Girvan.**

BY
C. R. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.),
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1923.

PRINTED AT "AYR ADVERTISER" OFFICE.

MCMXXIV.

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**To the Scottish Board of Health and to the Ayrshire
County Council and Local Authorities.**

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the Local Government (Scotland) Act and the Regulations of the Scottish Board of Health, I beg to submit my Thirty-third Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the County.

It is satisfactory to note that notwithstanding the unsettled conditions and unemployment which prevailed in 1923, the general death-rate for the year had been the lowest on record. The lower rates for 1923 compared with the preceding year are especially marked under infantile mortality and influenza, pneumonia, and other respiratory diseases.

With the exception of a prevalence of scarlet fever, generally of a mild type, the County had been comparatively free from epidemics during the year, and although enteric fever has been nearly absent for the past number of years an outbreak of paratyphoid fever in the County has to be recorded for the first time.


The preventive measures dealing with Tuberculosis, Maternity and Child Welfare, Supervision of Midwives, and other public health matters had been receiving due attention during the year under notice, and though the provision of houses for the industrial classes is still inadequate there is a prospect of an improvement in this respect during the coming year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. R. MACDONALD.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
AYR, June, 1924.



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COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1923.

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PART I.—THE COUNTY.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION AND AREA.—The population of the County (non-burghal), as estimated by the Registrar-General at the middle of 1923 was 130,520. The natural increase of the population—*i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths—in the four County Districts in 1923 was 1651, as compared with 1606 in the preceding year.

Table I. gives the population of the County, exclusive of burghs, for the past two censuses, with the estimate for 1923, and also the area in acres.

TABLE I.

Population and Area of County Districts.

DISTRICTS.	POPULATION.			Area in Acres.
	Census, 1911.	Census, 1921.	Estimated, 1923.	
Northern ...	47,403	50,385	50,143	121,279
Kilmarnock ...	23,979	24,843	24,441	118,349
Ayr ...	42,233	42,541	41,909	202,753
Carrick ...	12,996	14,053	14,027	270,326
County ...	126,611	131,822	130,520	712,707

It is probable that the estimated population of the County Districts for 1923 by the Registrar-General is on the whole lower than the actual figures. This is particularly the case in connection with the Ayr District. I communicated with the Registrar-General on the point, and in reply he stated that "the period middle 1922 to middle 1923 was a period of heavy emigration from Scotland, and all local estimates have been affected thereby." I do not think, however, that this affected our mining populations in the County to any great extent, especially if the occupation of houses is to be any guide on the matter.

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered in the four County Districts in 1923 was 3076 (1591 males and 1485 females), as compared with 3214 in the preceding year. The birth-rate for 1923 was 23.5 per 1000 of the population, as against 23.9 per 1000 in 1922. It will be observed that there has been a marked decline of the birth-rate since the 1891-95 quinquennium. The average birth-rates for the quinquennial periods since 1891 were the following:—

1891-95,	Birth-rate,	...	...	33.9	per 1000.
1896-1900,	"	...	...	32.6	"
1901-05,	"	...	...	32.0	"
1906-10,	"	...	...	29.7	"
1911-15,	"	...	...	27.1	"
1916-20,	"	...	...	25.0	"
1921,	"	...	...	26.8	"
1922,	"	...	...	23.9	"
1923,	"	...	...	23.5	"

DEATHS.—The number of deaths recorded in the County (non-burghal) for 1923 was 1425 (707 males and 718 females). These figures represent a death-rate of 10.9 per 1000, as compared with 11.9 per 1000 in the preceding year. This is the lowest death-rate that has been recorded for the County Districts.

The average death-rates for the quinquennial periods since 1891 are shown below.

1891-95, Death-rate,	17.0	per 1000.
1896-1900, ,,	15.7	,,
1901-05, ,,	14.5	,,
1906-10, ,,	13.8	,,
1911-15, ,,	13.4	,,
1916-20, ,,	13.4	,,
1921, ,,	11.9	,,
1922, ,,	11.9	,,
1923, ,,	10.9	,,

Table II. gives the quarterly mortality for the County and for the whole of Scotland in the past year.

TABLE II.

Quarterly Deaths and Rates per 1000 in County
Districts in 1923.

QUARTER.	Northern District.	Kilmarnock District.	Ayr District.	Carrick District	Total.	Death-Rate for County	Death-Rate for Scotland.
First	145	84	134	35	398	12.2	14.6
Second	119	68	120	39	346	10.6	13.3
Third... ..	143	59	101	27	330	10.1	10.6
Fourth	120	76	119	36	351	10.7	13.0
Year	527	287	474	137	1425	10.9	12.9

TABLE III.

The following were the quarterly and yearly death-rates in the County Districts:—

QUARTER.	Northern District.	Kilmarnock District.	Ayr District.	Carriek District.
First,	11·5	13·7	12·8	10·0
Second,	9·5	11·1	11·4	11·1
Third,... ..	11·4	9·7	9·6	7·7
Fourth, ..	9·5	12·4	11·3	10·2
Year,	10·5	11·7	11·3	9·8

TABLE IV.

Deaths at Different Ages and Percentages of Total Deaths.

DISTRICTS.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under 5.	Deaths 5·65.	Deaths 65 upwards.	PERCENTAGE.		
					Under 5.	5·65.	65 upwards.
NORTHERN	527	122	210	195	23·0	40·0	37·0
KILMARNOCK... ..	287	71	106	110	24·7	37·0	38·3
AYR	474	121	198	155	25·5	41·8	32·7
CARRICK	137	16	54	67	11·6	39·4	49·0
County	1425	330	568	527	23·2	39·8	37·0

Of the 568 deaths of persons of 65 and upwards 265 were between 65 and 75, 206 between 75 and 85, 51 between 85 and 95, and 5 between 95 and 100. None of the latter group completed a century, their ages being one 95, one 96, two 97, and one 98. Their domiciles were the parishes of Colmonell, Stevenston, Symington, Ochiltree, and Stewarton respectively. With one exception they were all women.

INFANTILE DEATH-RATE.—The deaths of infants under one year of age registered in the County (non-burghal) during 1923 numbered 222, as against 304 in the preceding year. The infantile mortality rate in 1923 was 72 per 1000 births, as compared with 94 per 1000 in 1922. The same death-rate for Scotland in 1923 was 79 per 1000 births, as compared with 101 per 1000 births in the previous year.

It will be observed that the infant mortality rate for 1923 was considerably lower than in the previous year, and was also the lowest rate recorded for the County Districts. The high mortality in 1922 was mainly due to a high death-rate in the first quarter of that year, when influenza and pneumonia and other respiratory diseases were very prevalent. The infantile mortality in the County was 97 per 1000 births for the first three months of 1923, while in the preceding year the rate was 130 per 1000 for the same period.

The following were the infantile mortality rates in the County Districts for the past six quinquennia;—

1891-95, Infant Death-rate,	...	107	per 1000 births.
1896-1900, " "	...	109	" "
1901-05, " "	...	101	" "
1906-10, " "	...	100	" "
1911-15, " "	...	98	" "
1916-20, " "	...	95	" "
1921, " "	...	77	" "
1922, " "	...	94	" "
1923, " "	...	72	" "

Of the 222 deaths of infants under one year of age 123 were certified as being due to congenital debility, atrophy, marasmus, and premature births, 22 to diarrhœa and enteritis, 31 to pneumonia, bronchitis, and other respiratory diseases, 9 to whooping-cough, 4 to measles, 4 to meningitis (non-tuberculous), 5 to tuberculous disease, and 24 to various other causes.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The deaths which occurred during the year from the ordinary infectious diseases were 1 from paratyphoid fever, 10 from diphtheria, 8 from scarlet fever, 16 from measles, and 19 from whooping-cough. In the previous year the deaths from measles were 19, and from whooping-cough 22. It may be noted that the mortality from measles and whooping-cough numbered nearly double that of diphtheria and scarlet fever together. There is no doubt that hospital accommodation should be provided for cases of measles and whooping-cough with pulmonary complications where the home conditions are unsuitable for their proper treatment. Where hospital treatment is not available it would be important to have the assistance of trained nurses for such cases.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.—There were 66 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis), and 44 from other forms of tuberculosis recorded in the County Districts in 1923, as compared with 67 and 37 deaths respectively in the preceding year. The mortality from phthisis in the County Districts in the past year was practically the same as in the preceding year, while that from non-pulmonary tuberculosis was somewhat higher.

The following table shows the quinquennial death-rates

per 1000 of the population from tuberculosis for the four County Districts since 1891:—

Years.	Other Tuberculous		Total.
	Phthisis.	Diseases.	
1891-95,	1.48	.86	2.34
1896-1900,	1.25	.66	1.91
1901-05, ... ..	.99	.59	1.58
1906-10, ... ..	.85	.58	1.43
1911-15, ... ..	.80	.47	1.27
1916-20, ... ..	.78	.38	1.16
1921, ... ..	.65	.29	.94
1922, ... ..	.51	.28	.80
1923, ... ..	.50	.33	.83

DEATHS FROM DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.—There were 107 deaths recorded from this group of diseases, which includes all the diseases of the organs of respiration except pneumonia, phthisis, and membranous croup. These figures are equivalent to a death-rate of .82 per 1000, as compared with .90 per 1000 for 1922.

DEATHS FROM PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZA.—Pneumonia is classified separately from bronchitis and other affections of the respiratory organs. The deaths from pneumonia in the County Districts in the past year numbered 79, representing a death-rate of .60 per 1000, as compared with .90 in the previous year. There were 14 deaths from influenza, as against 78 in 1922.

DEATH-RATE FROM CANCER.—The number of deaths ascribed to this disease during the past year was 143, as against 137 for the previous year. The death-rate for 1923 was 1.09 per 1000. This is now a higher death-rate than that from tuberculosis, while twenty years ago the tuberculosis mortality was 37% higher than the rate from cancer. The cause of the disease is still unknown, although certain authorities allege that it is a disease of civilisation and that its incidence in a community is in proportion to the

departure by the community from the habits of man in those regions where the restraints and luxuries of civilisation have not yet arisen. In the meantime, however, the only treatment which seems to afford a reasonable chance of success is the early removal of the malignant growth, or radiotherapy treatment in inoperable cases. It is, therefore, most important, that skilled medical advice should be obtained whenever any tumour or other indication of cancer manifests itself, especially in persons over 45 years of age.

DEATH-RATE FROM DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.—This group of diseases accounted for 182 of the deaths occurring during the year, being a death-rate of 1.39 per 1000, as against 1.57 in the preceding year.

DEATH-RATE FROM DISEASES OF THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.—The number of deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart and other organs of circulation was 236, giving a death-rate of 1.80 per 1000, as compared with 1.86 in 1922.

TABLE V.

TABLE V.
Infectious Diseases Notified during 1923, with rate per 1000 of Population.

DISEASES REPORTED UNDER THE NOTIFICATION ACT.	DISTRICTS.								COUNTY.	
	NORTHERN, Population, 10,113.		KILMARNOCK, Population, 21,441.		AYR, Population 41,902.		CARRICK, Population, 14,027.		NON-BURGHAL, Population, 130,520.	
	Cases Reported.	Cases per 1000.	Cases Reported.	Cases per 1000.	Cases Reported.	Cases per 1000.	Cases Reported.	Cases per 1000.	Cases Reported.	Cases per 1000.
Smallpox	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Diphtheria	79	1.57	34	1.59	54	1.28	12	0.85	179	1.37
Membranous Group ..	0		0		0		0		0	
Erysipelas	27	0.53	20	0.81	24	0.57	10	0.71	81	0.62
Scarlet Fever	170	3.39	103	4.21	172	4.10	103	7.34	548	4.19
Typhus Fever	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
*Enteric Fever	5	0.09	3	0.20	21	0.57	1	0.07	33	0.26
Continued Fever	0		2		0		0		2	
Puerperal Fever	6	0.11	3	0.12	3	0.07	1	0.07	13	0.09
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.02	0	0.00	1	0.00
Total	287	5.72	165	6.75	278	6.63	127	9.05	857	6.56

* Including Paratyphoid Fever.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION.—No case of smallpox occurred in the County during the past year. The returns furnished by the local Registrars of "conscientious objection" to vaccination in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907, do not show any diminution in the number of unvaccinated infants. During the past year the names, ages, addresses, and declarations of 916 children in the County Districts were received from the registrars in terms of the Act, being equivalent to 29.8 per cent. of the births registered, as compared with 29.3 per cent. for the preceding year.

DIPHTHERIA (including MEMBRANOUS CROUP).—During the year 179 cases were notified in the County Districts, as compared with 236 cases in the preceding year. Ten of the cases proved fatal, representing a case mortality of 5.6 per cent., as against 5.9 per cent. for the previous year. The disease was somewhat prevalent in certain parts of the County during 1923, though it did not assume epidemic proportions. The spread of the infection appeared to have been chiefly due to mild unrecognised cases, while in one or two outbreaks the infection appeared to have been disseminated by carriers.

ERYSIPELAS.—The cases of this disease which were reported in 1923 numbered 81, as against 71 in the previous year. Two of the cases notified in the past year died, being equivalent to a case mortality of 2.5 per cent. Although this contagious disease of the skin is caused by a germ we rarely find it spreading to other members of the same household.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 548 cases of scarlet fever reported in the County during the year, as compared with 354 in the preceding year. The disease on the whole was of a mild type, only 8 cases proving fatal. These are equivalent to a case mortality of 1.4 per cent. As in

former years, the outbreaks appeared to have been due to personal infection.

TYPHUS FEVER.—No case of typhus fever was reported in the County Districts during the year.

ENTERIC AND PARATYPHOID FEVERS.—In the past year 11 cases of enteric fever were notified, in addition to 2 cases of "continued fever" and 22 of paratyphoid B. The latter occurred in the Ayr District of the County. It may be stated that paratyphoid fever seems to be a form of enteric or closely allied to it, although it differs from it bacteriologically. Paratyphoid B is the usual form met with in this country. It is probably also somewhat milder than the ordinary enteric, while its incubation in a few cases which came under notice seemed to be shorter than is generally the case in enteric fever. The first outbreak of paratyphoid which occurred was in the parish of Auchinleck. In the end of July a school girl living at a farm a few days after returning from a fortnight's holiday was admitted to the Pute Hospital at Cumnock where she was operated on by a Glasgow surgeon for appendicitis. Subsequently it was considered advisable to have her blood tested, when it was found that she was suffering from paratyphoid fever. After her recovery she returned to her home at the farm, and from 23rd August to 25th September five cases of paratyphoid fever were notified in Auchinleck. All these cases obtained milk from a dairyman who bought part of his milk supply from the farm where the girl lived after her recovery from paratyphoid. On 26th September the farm in question was visited, and it was learned that a servant had gone home with "influenza." Examination of her blood showed that she was suffering from paratyphoid fever, while an examination of the blood of three milkers gave a result which raised a suspicion that they also had suffered. The sale of milk from this farm was then stopped on behalf of the Local Authority in terms of Section 60 of the Public

Health (Scotland) Act, 1897. No further cases occurred in the village of Auchinleck up to the end of the year, but two cases occurred in the Burgh of Cumnock and one in Glasgow. These were supplied with milk from the same farm, while on 18th October two sons of a neighbouring farmer were reported as suffering from paratyphoid. In the case of the latter it appears that about eight days before they fell ill they spent a day at the suspected farm where they had several meals.

Subsequent tests of excreta have proved that the original case is a urinary carrier of the casual organism of paratyphoid fever. To allow of the sale of milk to be resumed the girl was sent away to stay with relatives, but bacteriological examinations made up to the end of the year showed that she had been still a "carrier."

On 18th August, a boy, aged 14, was notified from Monkton as suffering from paratyphoid, while between 28th August and 20th October 10 cases were reported from the parish of Tarbolton (9 of them being in the mining village of Mossblown), and 1 in the parish of Stair. The source of infection in these cases was not clear, but the spread of the disease in Mossblown might have been due to flies.

Of the 22 cases reported, 12 were males and 10 females. Their ages were as follow:—One 7 years, two 8, one each 9, 11, 14, and 15, three 17, one 19, two 20, one each, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 30, 35, 45, and 54 years. They were all removed to hospital, and the whole of them recovered with the exception of a woman of 22, who had some other complications.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—There were 13 cases of puerperal fever reported in the past year, 6 of them terminating fatally.

It may be noted that the mortality rate of puerperal cases has not fallen in recent years as much as might have been expected, but it is hoped that with the better training of midwives and the observance of careful ante-natal precautions an appreciable improvement in this respect will be found in the near future.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—Only one case of this disease, which proved fatal, was reported in the County Districts in the past year.

CHICKENPOX.—Owing to an epidemic of smallpox in England, chickenpox was made compulsorily notifiable throughout Scotland from 23rd July to 31st December. This was considered advisable as mild cases of smallpox have often been mistaken for chickenpox. The number of cases reported in the County Districts during the period that the notification of chickenpox had been in force was 85.

ACUTE PRIMARY PNEUMONIA AND INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA —Owing to the absence of hospital accommodation very little action has been taken in connection with cases of pneumonia, but since the close of the year under review, when influenza was prevalent, several cases of acute primary pneumonia and of influenzal pneumonia where the home conditions were not suitable were removed to Heathfield Hospital, Ayr.

Although ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA ("Sleepy Sickness") has not been made compulsorily notifiable in the County it may be noted that 5 deaths were registered from this disease during 1923. Two of these were in the Northern District, 2 in the Ayr District, and 1 in the Carrick District. The ages of these were one under 5, two between 5 and 10, and two between 25 and 35 years of age, the whole of them being males. In certain parts of the kingdom the disease assumed an epidemic form.

In addition to the foregoing cases reported in terms of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, the following diseases, which were made notifiable by Regulations of the Board of Health were also reported:—52 cases primary pneumonia, 5 cases influenzal pneumonia. 1 case dysentery, and 11 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum.

The following were the cases notified, exclusive of tuberculosis, for the past four years:—

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Smallpox,	5	0	0	0
Diphtheria,	229	283	232	179
Membranous Croup,	5	5	4	0
Erysipelas,	86	97	71	81
Scarlet Fever,	452	461	354	548
Typhus Fever,	1	0	0	0
*Enteric Fever,	18	6	6	35
Puerperal Fever,	12	2	7	13
Cerebro-Spinal Fever,	1	0	2	1
Primary Pneumonia,	72	42	62	52
Influenzal Pneumonia,	6	12	12	5
Malaria,	13	2	0	0
Dysentery,	3	1	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum,	12	7	11	11

* Including 11 typhoid, 22 paratyphoid, and 2 " continued fever."

THE ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis received from the four County Districts, under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, was 166, as compared with 182 during the preceding year.

The following is the number of cases of pulmonary

tuberculosis reported in the County Districts since the voluntary notification of the disease was adopted in 1907:—

YEAR.			MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
1907, ...	...	...	31	34	65
1908, ...	...	...	26	12	38
1909, ...	...	...	30	25	55
1910, ...	...	...	46	53	99
1911, ...	...	...	58	55	113
1912,*...	...	...	118	104	222
1913, ...	...	...	130	133	263
1914, ...	...	...	148	135	283
1915, ...	...	...	110	116	226
1916, ...	...	...	135	150	285
1917, ...	...	...	109	123	232
1918, ...	...	...	64	93	157
1919, ...	...	...	93	120	213
1920, ...	...	...	102	118	220
1921, ...	...	...	91	107	198
1922, ...	...	...	91	94	182
1923, ...	...	...	82	84	166

* Compulsory Notification in force since 1st August, 1912.

The following table shows the number of cases notified in each of the districts in every month of the year:—

MONTH.	Northern District.	Kilmarnock District.	Ayr District.	Carriek District.	County (non-burghal)
JANUARY,	5	2	2	1	10
FEBRUARY,	10	4	1	1	16
MARCH,	7	3	5	1	16
APRIL,	16	7	1	0	24
MAY,	9	1	5	2	17
JUNE,	11	3	3	1	18
JULY,	6	4	3	3	16
AUGUST,	2	2	2	0	6
SEPTEMBER,	5	4	0	0	9
OCTOBER,	2	5	5	1	13
NOVEMBER,	7	2	2	0	11
DECEMBER,	5	1	3	1	10
Totals,	85	38	32	11	166

The age-periods to which the cases belonged are shown in the subjoined table. It is to be observed that 53 per cent. of the cases were under 20 years of age.

Age Periods.	Northern.	Kilmarnock.	Ayr.	Carrick	County (Non-Burghal)
0-5	4	2	1	0	7
5-10	10	5	7	2	24
10-15	10	8	3	1	22
15-20	15	8	9	2	34
20-25	12	1	3	1	17
25-30	12	2	0	0	14
30-35	9	2	0	1	12
35-40	4	2	5	0	11
40-45	3	5	0	1	9
45-50	1	0	0	1	2
50-55	1	2	2	0	5
55 & up.	4	1	2	2	9
Totals.	85	38	32	11	166

The occupations of the notified cases were very varied, nearly every trade being represented.

MALES.—Schoolboys, 22; miners, 11; labourers, 5; farm workers, 3; pithead workers, 3; millworkers, 3; shop assistants, 3; joiners, 2; engineers, 2; electricians, 2; hawker, 1; printer, 1; dentist, 1; postman, 1; bank accountant, 1; surveyor, 1; motor driver, 1; fisherman, 1; porter, 1; traveller, 1; fireman, 1; butcher, 1; watchman, 1; carter, 1; moulder, 1; steel worker, 1; contractor, 1; ice-cream vendor, 1; curling stone worker, 1; quarryman, 1; no occupation, 6—total, 82.

FEMALES.—Housewives, 24; school girls, 24; mill workers, 9; domestics, 8; shopkeepers, 3; clerkesses, 2;

dynamite workers, 4; farm servants, 1; dressmaker, 1; teacher, 1; milliner, 1; no occupation 8—total 94.

Of the cases notified, 14.5 per cent. lived in single apartment houses, 49.4 per cent. in two-apartment houses, and 19.3 per cent. in three-apartment houses. While these figures suggest that the incidence of phthisis is greater in two-apartment houses than in those of one-apartment, it may be noted that a greater portion of the population lives in houses of two apartments. The number notified as suffering from phthisis per 1000 of the population living in one-apartment houses was 2.0; in two-apartment houses, 1.4; and in houses of three apartments or more, 1.2.

Calculating the notification rate on the number of persons per inhabited room, it is found that of 1000 persons living two or less in a room 1.2 were notified as suffering from phthisis; while of 1000 persons living more than two in a room 1.4 were notified.

Of the cases reported in the County Districts during the year, 99, or 60 per cent., received institutional treatment at the instance of the Joint Tuberculosis Committee. In addition, 46 cases notified in previous years were admitted to the various institutions of the Joint Committee; many of these had already received institutional treatment in previous years.

Of the 166 notified cases, 28 died during the year, 9 had been in sanatoria before, either in this or in other districts, and 5 were only temporarily resident in the district.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 98 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in the County Districts under the Public

Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations (Scotland), 1914. They were distributed as follows:—

	No. of cases notified.
Northern District,	46
Kilmarnock ,,	20
Ayr ,,	31
Carrick ,,	1
	—
Total,	98
	—

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the different cases:—

	No. of cases.
Glands,	27
Abdomen,	23
Bones and joints (excluding spine),	22
Cerebral Meninges,	1
Eyes,	2
Skin,	2
Spine,	11
Genito-urinary organs,	4
Glands and genito-urinary organs,	1
Bones and abdomen,	1
Glands and abdomen,	1
Glands and bones,	1
Glands and eyes,	2
	—
Total,	98
	—

In addition 6 cases notified as pulmonary tuberculosis were notified also as having non-pulmonary tuberculosis, the parts affected being:—

	No. of cases.
Abdomen,	2
Glands,	2
Bones and joints (excluding spine),	2

Of the 98 cases, 70, or 71 per cent., were under 20 years of age. Institutional treatment was granted to 29 of the cases at the expense of the Joint Committee.

The following table shows the cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in the County Districts since its notification came into force, with the percentages that were sent to an institution for treatment:—

	Cases notified.	Percentage receiving institutional treatment.
1914 (from July 1st), ...	54	7%
1915,	93	14%
1916,	110	14%
1917,	44	36%
1918,	55	36%
1919,	59	37%
1920,	88	47%
1921,	83	30%
1922,	92	24%
1923,	98	30%

Numerous cases, however, received treatment in a general hospital independently of the Committee.

THE AYRSHIRE JOINT TUBERCULOSIS COMMITTEE.

This Committee controls the administration of the Tuberculosis Scheme of the County, including the contained Burghs, and the County Medical Officer, as Tuberculosis Officer, deals with all cases of tuberculosis in the County and contained Burghs, excluding the Burghs of Ayr and Kilmarnock.

There were dealt with during the year 301 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, of whom 149 were males and 152 females. Of these 301 cases, there were admitted to the

Ayrshire Sanatorium (Glenafton), 134; to Heathfield Tuberculosis Hospital, 27; to Kaimshill Tuberculosis Hospital, 13; to Cuninghame Tuberculosis Hospital, 6; to Carrick Home, Maybole, 1. Domiciliary treatment was granted also to a considerable number of cases after their return home from an institution. Of the 301 cases, there died during the year 46, while 12 had had sanatorium treatment previously either here or in other districts, and 6 were only temporary residents.

During the year 148 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported. Of these 7 were sent to the Biggart Memorial Home; 1 to Kilmarnock Infirmary; 1 to Ayr County Hospital; 2 to Kaimshill Tuberculosis Hospital; 1 to Cuninghame Tuberculosis Hospital; 4 to Ayrshire Sanatorium; 2 to Heathfield Tuberculosis Hospital; 20 to Seafield Hospital; and 2 to Bridge-of-Weir.

In addition 41 cases were either recently discharged from or were waiting admission to various voluntary hospitals:—Glasgow Royal Infirmary, 10; Ayr County Hospital, 10; Kilmarnock Infirmary, 8; Glasgow Western Infirmary, 7; Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, 2; Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow, 1; Glasgow Eye Infirmary, 1; Bute Hospital, Cumnock, 1; and Davidson Hospital, Girvan, 1.

The cases of pulmonary tuberculosis reported to the Ayrshire Joint Tuberculosis Committee during the year 1923 were the following:—

County (including smaller burghs),	301
Ayr Burgh,	56
Kilmarnock Burgh,	30
<hr/>	
Total notifications for Ayrshire, ...	387
<hr/>	

The deaths and death-rates in Ayrshire from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year were:—

County (including smaller				
burghs),	...	...	101 = 4.3	per 10,000 of population.
Ayr Burgh,	...	...	21 = 5.8	„ „
Kilmarnock Burgh,	...	...	22 = 6.0	„ „

Total Phthisis Mortality

for Ayrshire, ... 144 = 4.7 per 10,000 of population

Total Phthisis Mortality

for Scotland, ... 3995 = 8.1 „ „

TABLE VI.
Infectious Diseases Notified Monthly in the County (Non-Burghal) during 1923.

DISEASES REPORTED UNDER THE NOTIFICATION ACT.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total Cases.
SMALLPOX, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRAN- OUS CROUP,	18	23	25	12	16	5	6	9	13	17	20	15	179
ERYSIPELAS,	6	9	6	3	6	4	3	9	6	11	15	3	81
SCARLET FEVER,	44	29	24	52	38	23	36	37	72	71	70	52	548
TYPHUS FEVER, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ENTERIC AND CONTINUED FEVERS, .. ...	...	...	1	3	...	1	3	7	10	7	3	...	35
PUERPERAL FEVER,	2	1	1	3	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	1	13
CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER, ...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL,	70	62	57	73	60	34	48	63	104	106	109	71	857

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITALS.

The cases of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis and ophthalmia neonatorum) removed to hospital from the four districts of the County during the year numbered 647, being 75.5 per cent. of the 857 cases notified. Table VIII. shows the number admitted to the various hospitals from the districts outwith the burghs.

TABLE VII.

Hospitals and Cases Isolated in them in 1923.

HOSPITALS.	Smallpox.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric and Continued Fevers.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Total Admitted.
DAVIDSHILL,	42	2	101	...	4	1	...	150
KILWINNING,	23	...	35	...	1	3	...	62
Irvine,
LARGS,	5	...	17	...	...	...	...	22
‡KILMARNOCK,	28	3	92	...	4	1	...	128
*AYR,	46	1	48	...	10	3	...	108
CUMNOCK,	4	...	106	...	9	...	...	119
CUMNOCK SMALL-POX,
DINVIN SMALL-POX,
GIRVAN,	10	...	48	...	...	...	...	58
CROFTHEAD, SMALLPOX,
TOTAL,	158	6	447	...	28	8	...	647

* Includes 12 cases of scarlet fever from the Carrick District.

‡ 1 case of scarlet fever was removed from Ayr District to Kilmarnock Fever Hospital.

COUNTY LABORATORY.

The number of specimens examined in the laboratory during the year was 2723, including 630 examined under the Ayrshire Venereal Diseases Scheme.

The following table shows the number of specimens examined annually in the laboratory:—

Specimens Examined in Laboratory—1907-1923.

YEAR.		Sputa for Tubercle Bacillus.	Swabs for Diph- theria Bacillus.	Bloods for Widal Reaction.	Bloods for Malaria Parasites.	Bloods for Wasser- mann Reaction.	Smears, etc., for Gonococci.	Miscellaneous.	TOTALS.
1907*	...	63	40	32	...	...	...	41	176
1908	..	127	100	78	...	...	...	18	323
1909	...	245	133	106	...	..	...	6	490
1910	...	217	195	244	...	...	...	45	701
1911	...	329	344	171	...	...	...	16	860
1912	..	391	553	129	...	...	...	28	1101
1913	..	415	375	126	...	...	...	13	929
1914	...	414	607	140	...	...	2	22	1183
1915	...	438	368	85	...	...	...	18	909
1916	...	396	514	52	...	...	2	6	970
1917	...	328	460	33	...	...	10	13	844
1918	...	327	306	36	...	...	1	3	673
1919	...	380	601	66	30	234	48	62	1421
1920	...	507	926	165	57	472	45	173	2345
1921	...	510	1248	76	219	468	70	141	2732
1922	...	435	1254	68	69	475	101	117	2519
1923	...	427	1123	293	12	523	107	238	2723

* From 13th February to 31st December.

The following shows in detail the specimens examined during 1923:—

PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIMENS.

427 specimens of sputum were examined for the tubercle bacillus, of which 61 (14.3 per cent.) were positive.

1123 swabs from the throat and nose were examined for the diphtheria bacillus, of which 286 (25.5 per cent.) were positive.

293 specimens of blood from cases of suspected enteric fever were examined for the Widal reaction; of these 31 proved positive with *B. Typhosus* and 49 with *B. Paratyphosus B.*, 199 negative, and 14 indefinite.

12 specimens of blood were examined for malaria parasites, etc.; benign tertian parasites were found in 1 and evidence of spleno-medullary leucocythæmia in 1.

4 specimens of pus were examined for tubercle bacilli and one was found to contain bacilli.

11 specimens of urine were examined for the tubercle bacillus, all of which were negative.

16 specimens of urine were examined culturally.

33 specimens of fæces, 29 of urine and 1 specimen of debris from gall bladder were examined for typhoid and paratyphoid bacilli; paratyphoid *B.* being isolated from one specimen of urine.

9 specimens of cerebro-spinal fluid were examined, of which 1 contained pneumococcus.

3 specimens of pleuritic fluid were examined for tubercle bacilli with negative result.

10 specimens were examined for the anthrax bacillus, of which 7 were positive.

8 scrapings were examined for parasites of parasitic mange of horses or of sheep scab; of these 3 were positive.

55 specimens of milk were examined for the tubercle bacillus, of which 5 were positive microscopically, and on inoculation of the remainder in guinea pigs, a further 3 were found to be positive.

21 specimens of milk were examined bacteriologically in connection with the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

10 samples of water were examined bacteriologically.

28 autogenous vaccines were prepared.

VENEREAL DISEASES SPECIMENS.

523 specimens of blood were examined for the Wassermann reaction, of which 219 were positive.

107 specimens were examined for gonococci, of which 75 were positive.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The area of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, which has been in operation since the beginning of 1919, embraces the whole of Ayrshire, with the exception of the Burghs of Ayr, Kilmarnock, and Irvine—the latter having schemes of their own.

At the end of 1923 there were 28 Child Welfare Centres established throughout the County. The attendance of mothers and infants at these Centres has

been on the whole satisfactory. Five of the Centres are open weekly, five fortnightly, and eighteen monthly, when a Health Visitor and a Voluntary Assistant are in attendance. A local doctor visits each Centre once a month to examine the children and see the mothers.

In addition to the Superintendent Health Visitor (Miss Eales), there were 4 whole-time and 40 part-time Health Visitors at the close of the year.

The following figures give an indication of the work carried out by the Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of first visits to infants,	3,985
„ subsequent visits,	46,869
„ ante-natal visits,	2,133
„ attendances of nurses at Centres,	495
„ attendances of children at Centres,	7,444

Milk had been supplied free to a number of necessitous mothers and infants, while glaxo and virol were supplied for infants at cost price.

Seafeld Maternity and Children's Hospital had been fairly well occupied during the year. The number of women admitted in 1923 was 114, being as undernoted:—

Ante-natal cases,	62
Abnormal presentations and complications during labour,	24
Caesarean sections,	9
Unsuitable home conditions,	19

The number of births that occurred in the hospital during the year was 84. There were 128 children admitted for treatment, 117 being discharged as cured or improved. The usefulness of this institution is becoming more apparent as the number of patients admitted has been gradually

increasing. The accommodation in the maternity wards on several occasions had been somewhat strained, while the children's wards approached their quota on more than one occasion.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES.

The midwives who have up to 31st January, 1924, given notice, under Section 16 of the Act, of their intention to practise in the four County Districts and eight Burghs for which the County Medical Officer is Medical Officer of Health numbered 61. In the previous year 57 gave similar notice.

The total number of births registered in the area during 1923 was 3076 in the County Districts and 872 in the Burghs—in all 3948.

The total number of deaths of new-born children (within 10 days) was 111. The actual number of births attended by midwives was 552. Twenty-three births were attended by uncertified women. No deaths of new-born children occurring in the practice of midwives came under observation during 1923. Twenty-three births occurred which were not attended by either a doctor or midwife, and no deaths occurred amongst these.

The cases of ophthalmia neonatorum which came under observation during the year were 18. The whole of these occurred in the practice of doctors and all recovered.

There were 14 cases of puerperal sepsis notified during the year, of which 8 died. The patients were all attended by medical practitioners.

The total number of still-births which came under observation during 1923 was 72. Four of these occurred in the practice of midwives.

The cases of emergency occurring in which medical practitioners have been called in under Section 22 of the Act numbered 33. These comprised 8 of delayed labour, 3 uterine inertia, 3 mal-presentation, 1 placenta prævia, 1 dangerous feebleness of infant, 2 rise of temperature, 6 ruptured perineum, 4 still-births, 1 contracted pelvis, and 2 post-partum hæmorrhage.

The Assistant Inspector of Midwives (Miss Eales) made 112 inspections to midwives at their homes with the object of seeing that they kept a satisfactory record of their work and that their appliances were kept in proper order. She also made inquiry in connection with all the cases of ophthalmia neonatorum reported and saw that arrangements were made as to their proper treatment. She likewise investigated the cases of puerperal sepsis coming under observation. In one instance a midwife who was in contact with cases of infection was kept off duty until all danger of conveying infection was past.

The Midwives Act appeared on the whole to have worked fairly satisfactory during the year under notice. But, as was pointed out in the previous report, until the majority of the handy women who had been placed on the Roll in virtue of having been in bona-fide practice before the Act came into force are replaced by trained midwives, the working of the Act cannot be expected to prove quite satisfactory.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

At the Centre at Heathfield Hospital, Ayr, during the year there were treated as out-patients 259 new cases of venereal disease (161 of syphilis, and 98 of gonorrhoea). The total attendances, including those of old cases carried on from the previous year, were 3401. There were administered during the twelve months 1016 doses of salvarsan substitutes. A number of cases were also treated as in-patients.

At the Centre at the Cuninghame Combination at Irvine 25 new cases were treated as out-patients (16 for syphilis and 10 for gonorrhoea). The total attendances, including those of old cases, were 568—303 being for syphilis and 265 for gonorrhoea. There were administered during the twelve months 200 doses of salvarsan substitutes. A number of cases were also treated as in-patients.

At the Centre at Kilmarnock, there were treated as out-patients, 31 new cases (21 for syphilis and 10 for gonorrhoea). There were administered 190 doses of salvarsan substitutes.

GENERAL SANITATION.

HOUSING.—Although a certain number of new houses have been erected throughout the County within the last year or two, there seems to be no appreciable diminution in the need of more dwellings, especially in the industrial centres. There are also a number of houses which could be closed or abolished if their present occupiers could obtain any better accommodation. There is, however, good prospects of the erection of a considerable number of houses in the County during 1924, arrangements having been completed for this in various districts.

Considerable attention was given to the housing of potato diggers during the past year, and the conditions found were generally satisfactory so far as the accommodation provided for these seasonal workers was concerned. There appeared, however, to have been some difficulty in enforcing the byelaws as to the manner in which the accommodation provided under these byelaws was used by the workers.

WATER SUPPLIES.—It may be stated that the water supplies on the whole were fairly satisfactory during the past year, and although no new schemes had been introduced several extensions and improvements were

carried out in the County. There are still a number of places throughout the County in need of an improved supply, and those are under the consideration of the respective Local Authorities.

DRAINAGE AND SCAVENGING.—With the exception of a drainage scheme which is in course of construction at Lugar, no new drainage works were carried out, and no special scavenging districts, under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, were formed during 1923, but certain places in the County are being considered with a view to improving their drainage and scavenging.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.—There had been no serious complaints regarding the pollution of rivers and streams in the County during the year, although many of these were more or less contaminated, as had been pointed out in former reports. While the pollution of streams may not be a menace to the public health unless in cases where the water of such streams is utilised for domestic purposes without efficient purification, there is no doubt that all reasonably practical means should be adopted to minimise the pollution so that the water could be used for other purposes than those of drinking, cooking, and washing. The preservation of fish life and the amenity of the streams should receive some consideration. It may be stated that the Scottish Board of Health some time ago issued to County and Burghal Public Health Authorities special forms of inquiry as to the pollution of the rivers and streams throughout the kingdom, and it is to be hoped that some improvement will result from the information supplied to the Board.

MILK SUPPLY.—Under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, the number of persons licensed in the County to supply graded milk, in terms of the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, during the past year was nine in all—

namely, 1 Certified Milk, 7 Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk, and 1 Grade A Milk. No application was received for a licence in connection with the sale of Pasteurised Milk. Those licensed were all producers of milk, with the exception of two, who were licensed as dealers of Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk. The quantity of milk represented by the nine dairies referred to is approximately 120,000 gallons per annum, while the total milk supply of the County may be roughly estimated at 25 million gallons a year. It appears, therefore, that the quantity of graded milk is at present slightly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total milk produced. There are already signs that the demand for graded milk is increasing although somewhat slowly. It is to be regretted, however, that a minimum standard has not been prescribed for all producers of milk, so that all classes of the consumers might have a certain guarantee as to the purity of the various supplies.

It may be stated that during the past year the Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow notified that several samples of milk from Ayrshire examined in Glasgow were found to contain tubercle bacilli. On making a veterinary inspection of the herds at the farms from which the milk was forwarded to Glasgow one or more cows were generally found with suspicious signs of tuberculosis, such as induration of the udder, while in nearly all the cases a further bacteriological examination confirmed the tuberculous nature of the disease. Arrangements were invariably made to prevent the further use of milk from these animals. The farmers in a number of these cases might have noticed that the cows affected suffered from some abnormality, and it was clearly their duty to satisfy themselves that the cases were not of the nature of tuberculosis, as they are liable to prosecution for the sale of tubercle-infected milk. In the annual report of Dr Macnaughton, County Medical Officer for Kincardineshire, an interesting case is described in which the Local Authority instituted a prosecution in terms of Section 5 of

the Milk and Dairies Amendment (Scotland) Act, 1922, on the ground that the dairyman should by reasonable care have ascertained that the cow was suffering from tuberculosis. Evidence was led in the Sheriff Court at Stenhaven on 16th May, 1923, when the Sheriff found the charge proved and imposed a penalty of £10. In giving his judgment, the Sheriff stated that "the Act was quite clear in that it put the onus upon the seller to exercise ordinary care to make certain that he did not sell milk which would cause the spread of this disease. Ordinary care meant the exercise of common sense. The Act did not put the onus on the farmer of diagnosing whether a cow was suffering from tuberculosis, but it certainly put the onus on the farmer of exercising ordinary care to secure expert advice whenever suspicious symptoms occurred."

It appears to be an important matter to have all dairy cattle regularly examined by a veterinary inspector, but this would be impracticable without an addition to the present veterinary staff of the County.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—In the County Districts there are 4 public slaughter-houses—all in the Northern District—and 37 private ones. With the exception of the Burgh of Stewarton, which has four private slaughterhouses, all the Burghs in the County have provided public slaughter-houses. It may be observed that it is only in public slaughter-houses under the control of the Local Authorities that it is practicable to have proper inspection of the carcasses of animals killed for human food. It is, therefore, desirable that, with perhaps certain exceptional cases in sparsely populated rural areas, private slaughter-houses should be abolished and replaced by public ones. Some of the existing private slaughter-houses might be converted into public ones, while in certain cases County and Burghal Authorities might combine in providing joint public slaughter-houses. It is difficult in County Districts

to have any satisfactory scheme for the uniformity of meat inspection with the existence of the present private slaughter-houses, but it seems that so long as the private slaughter-houses conform to the Local Authorities' bye-laws fresh legislation would be necessary for their abolition.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

During 1923 there were 278 samples taken for analysis by the County Sanitary Inspectors. Of these, 259 were certified to be genuine and 21 adulterated. Legal proceedings were taken in connection with 12 cases, ten of these being successful. The majority of samples dealt with were those of milk, the others being of butter, margarine, tea, coffee, rice, flour, cream of tartar, etc.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The registered workshops in the four County Districts and eight Burghs for which the County Medical Officer has to report number in all 712. These include the premises of bakers, dressmakers, tailors, milliners, boot and shoemakers, blacksmiths, joiners and cabinetmakers, saddlers, laundry-keepers, and other works. The number of inspections made to these by the Sanitary Officers during the year under notice was 1070, and it may be stated that they were, on the whole, found satisfactory. The majority of defects met with were cases of want of cleanliness and of whitewashing of the walls of bakehouses, which, as a rule, were rectified by the occupiers on receiving notice from the Sanitary Inspectors. In connection with the requirements of Section 61 of the Factory and Workshops Act, which prohibits the employment of women in a factory or workshop within four weeks after child-birth, the nurses of the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme kept the matter under their observation, but no contravention of this Section of the Act was reported.

**Statement by Chief Sanitary Inspectors of
Proceedings under the Public Health and
Other Acts, during 1923.**

	Northern District	Kilmarnock District	Ayr District	Carriek District	Total
Subordinate Sanitary Inspectors employed...	2	1	2	0	5
<i>I.—Nuisances.</i>					
Complaints received	81	25	61	3	170
Intimations served under Section 19 ...	718	216	584	56	1634
Notices served under Section 20	3	20	2	1	26
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceeding were successful,	0	0	0	0	0
<i>II.—Workshops.</i>					
Inspections	354	91	164	30	639
Notices served under Section 2 (3) of Factory and Workshops Act, 1901... ..	12	3	0	0	15
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were successful	0	0	0	0	0
<i>III.—Tents and Vans.</i>					
Inspections	717	39	47	315	1118
<i>IV.—Underground Dwellings.</i>					
Number Reported to Local Authority ...	0	0	0	0	0
Notice to Owners (Section 74)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>V.—Common Lodging Houses.</i>					
On Register at 31st December, 1923 ...	2	0	0	0	2
Common Lodging Houses belonging to the Local Authority,	0	0	0	0	0
Inspections between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. ..	27	0	0	0	27
Inspections between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. ..	0	0	0	0	0
Intimations of Irregularities sent to Keepers	0	0	0	0	0
Cases of Infectious Disease reported to Medical Officer, Section 97	0	0	0	0	0
Unregistered Premises dealt with	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken (Breaches of Bye-Laws, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were suc- cessful (Breaches of Bye-Laws, etc.) ...	0	0	0	0	0

STATEMENT BY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTORS OF PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE
PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER ACTS DURING, 1923—(*Continued*).

	Northern District.	Kilmarnock District.	Ayr District.	Carriek District.	TOTAL.
<i>VI.—Houses Let in Lodgings.</i>					
On Register at 31st Dec., 1923 ..	9	5	0	0	14
Inspections	29	10	0	0	39
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were successful	0	0	0	0	0
<i>VII.—Infectious Disease.</i>					
Visit of Enquiry, etc.,	548	221	322	149	1240
Patients Removed to Hospital ...	235	131	231	71	688
Persons Removed to House of Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Notices served under Sec. 50 (2) } Notices served under Sec. 53 (2) }	438	137	458	92	1125
Intimations to School Boards, Teachers, etc.	369	93	159	74	695
Houses or Premises disinfected ...	252	159	145	113	669
Sets of Clothing, Bedding, etc., disinfected or destroyed ...	0	158	25	0	183
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were successful	0	0	0	0	0
<i>VIII.—Burials.</i>					
Burials undertaken in terms of Sec. 69	1	0	3	0	4
<i>IX.—Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops.</i>					
On Register at 31st Dec., 1923 ...	541	542	411	186	1678
Inspections	732	805	691	89	2219
Contraventions of Orders or Regu- lations dealt with	2	8	12	0	22
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were successful	0	0	0	0	0

STATEMENT BY CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTORS OF PROCEEDINGS
UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND OTHER ACTS DURING 1923

(Continued).

	Northern District.	Kilmarnock District.	Ayr District.	Carrick District.	TOTAL.
<i>X. Slaughter-houses and Offensive Trades.</i>					
Applications under Sec. 32 for sanction to establish	1	0	0	1	2
Applications granted	1	0	0	1	2
Applications under Sec. 33 for License or Renewal of License	5	5	20	10	40
Applications granted	5	5	20	10	40
Public Slaughter-houses (if any) belonging to Local Authority	4	0	0	0	4
Private Slaughter-houses,	1	5	20	11	37
Unlicensed Slaughter-houses dealt with	0	0	0	0	0
Inspection of Slaughter-houses	180	238	258	48	724
Inspections of other Offensive Businesses	15	0	0	0	15
Number of such other Offensive Businesses at 31st December, 1923	3	0	0	0	3
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken (Breaches of Bye-Laws, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
Cases in which legal proceedings were successful (Breaches of Bye-Laws, Etc.)	0	0	0	0	0
<i>XI.—Unsound Food.</i>					
Inspections under Sec. 43—(a) Meat	864	879	272	60	2075
(b) Other Foods	0	150	0	0	150
Seizures of Unsound Food—(a) Meat	14	49	6	0	69
(b) Other Foods	0	4	0	0	4
Animals or Carcases or Articles of Food destroyed with owner's consent by, or at the instance of, the Sanitary Inspector	14	21	69	0	104
Cases in which Owners of Unsound Food were prosecuted	0	0	0	0	0
Convictions in connection with above cases	0	0	0	0	0
<i>XII.—Food and Drugs Acts.</i>					
Samples procured for Analysis	128	52	60	38	278
Certified to be genuine	119	44	58	38	259
Certified to be adulterated	11	8	2	0	21
Cases in which legal proceedings were taken	5	6	1	0	12
Cases in which legal proceedings were successful	3	6	1	0	10
<i>XIII.—Bye-Laws.</i>					
Inspections in carrying out Bye-laws relating to					
(a) Pigstyes	206	329	14	45	594
(b) Public Conveyances	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Buildings	792	199	101	74	1166
(d) Cleansing in Special Scavenging Districts	0	0	0	12	12
(e) Other Sanitary matters	0	54	608	0	662

TABLE VIII.

Births and Deaths occurring in the County (non-Burghal) during the Year 1923.

DISTRICT.	Estimated Population	Area in Acres.	Registered births.	DEATHS AT SUBJOINED AGES.				MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.																					
				At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 Years and upwards.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers	Puerperal Fever	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Digestive Diseases.		Tuberculous Diseases		Septic Diseases.	Pneumonia.	Diseases of Respiratory System.	Influenza.	Cancer.	Diseases of Nervous System.	Diseases of Circulatory System.	Violence.	All other Certified Causes.	Uncertified Causes.
																Diarrhoea	Other Digestive Diseases.	Phthisis.	Other than Phthisis.										
Northern,.....	50,143	121,279	1085	527	82	40	40	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	12	21	24	19	5	22	42	4	47	71	82	22	142	0
Kilmarnock. .	24,441	118,349	536	287	4	23	216	3	1	0	0	1	0	6	4	6	13	15	10	4	11	30	4	29	34	43	9	63	1
Ayr.....	41,909	202,753	1109	474	79	42	353	1	4	0	1	3	1	9	8	18	19	22	13	5	33	30	3	50	52	84	26	88	0
Carriek	14,027	270,326	286	137	13	3	121	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	4	5	2	2	8	5	3	17	25	27	6	28	0
Total of County	130,520	712,707	3076	1425	222	108	1095	10	8	0	1	6	1	16	19	36	57	66	44	16	79	107	14	143	12	236	63	3.1	1

TABLE IX.

Density of Population, Birth-Rate, Infantile, and Other Death Rates.

DISTRICT.	Persons to the Acre.	Birth Rate.	Deaths under 1 year of Age per 1000 Births.	DEATH RATE PER 1000, FROM																			
				THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.									Digestive Diseases.		Tuberculous Diseases.		Septic Diseases	Pneumonia.	Diseases of Respiratory System.	Influenza.	Cancer.	Diseases of Nervous System,	Diseases of Circulatory System
				All Causes.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric & Paratyphoid Fevers.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Other Digestive Diseases.	Phthisis.	Other than Phthisis.								
Northern ..	0.41	21.6	75	10.509	0.009	0.039	..	0.0.9	..	..	0.119	0.239	0.118	0.478	0.378	0.099	0.438	837	0.179	0.337	1.415	1.635
Kilmarnock	0.20	21.9	89	11.7.2	0.122	0.040	..	0.040	..	..	0.163	0.215	0.531	0.613	0.400	0.163	0.450	1.227	0.163	1.186	1.391	1.759
Ayr ..	0.20	27.8	67	11.3.0	0.023	0.095	0.023	0.071	0.023	0.214	0.190	0.429	0.463	0.524	0.310	0.119	0.908	0.715	0.071	1.193	1.240	2.004	
Carrick ..	0.05	20.3	45	9.766	0.071	0.071	..	0.071	..	0.071	0.071	..	0.285	0.353	0.142	0.142	0.570	0.356	0.213	1.211	1.78	1.924	
Total for 192:	0.18	23.5	72	10.217	0.076	0.061	0.007	0.045	0.007	0.122	0.145	0.275	0.436	0.505	0.337	0.122	0.605	0.819	0.107	1.095	1.394	1.808	

PART II.—THE DISTRICTS.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in the district in 1923 numbered 1085, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 21.6 per 1000 of the population. The birth-rate in the preceding year was 22.3 per 1000.

DEATHS.—There were 527 deaths recorded in the district in the past year. These figures represent a death-rate of 10.5 per 1000, as compared with 12.7 per 1000 in the previous year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 82, giving an infantile mortality rate of 75 per 1000 births, as against 103 per 1000 for the previous year.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The deaths from the ordinary infectious diseases were 5 from diphtheria, 2 from scarlet fever, and 6 from whooping-cough—in all 13, as against 39 deaths in 1922.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.—The deaths ascribed to tuberculous diseases in 1923 were 24 from phthisis and 19 from other forms of tuberculous disease, giving a death-rate of .47 from the former and .37 per 1000 from the latter, as against .44 and .25 respectively in 1922.

The deaths and death-rates for other groups of diseases are given in Tables VIII. and IX.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN DISTRICT.

Table A shows the number of cases reported under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, and their distribution throughout the district during the past year. The total number was 287, as compared with 309 in 1922.

TABLE A.

Infectious Diseases Reported in District in 1923.

PARISHES.	Smallpox.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Total.
Ardrossan (non-burghal)	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Beith	16	...	4	36	...	1	...	...	...	57
Dalry	4	...	1	59	...	3	...	...	...	67
Dreghorn	7	...	6	15	...	...	...	2	...	30
Dunlop	1	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	7
Irvine (non-burghal)	1	...	1	4	...	...	...	1	...	7
Kilbirnie	28	...	8	19	...	...	...	...	...	55
Kilwinning (non-burghal)	...	2	...	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	8
Largs (non-burghal)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Stevenston (non-burghal)	..	13	...	1	8	...	..	...	.	..	22
Stewarton (non-burghal)	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	2
West Kilbride	5	...	2	22	...	...	...	1	..	30
Total of District	...	79	...	27	170	...	5	...	6	...	287

The cases of DIPHTHERIA notified during the year numbered 79, as compared with 147 in the previous year. The majority of these were in the parishes of Kilbirnie, Beith, and Stevenston. The cases generally were of a mild type, and it is probable the infection was chiefly spread by unrecognised cases.

The cases of ERYSIPELAS reported during the year numbered 27, as compared with 22 in 1922.

There were 170 cases of SCARLET FEVER notified in the district during the past year, as compared with 132 cases in 1922. One or more cases of the disease were reported from all the parishes in the district, except Largs and Stewarton. Only 2 cases proved fatal.

The cases of ENTERIC FEVER notified during the past year numbered 5. The whole of these recovered. Nothing of the nature of an epidemic of this disease has occurred in the District during the past number of years.

Six cases of PUERPERAL FEVER were reported in the district in the past year, one of which died.

No case of CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER was notified during the year.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Not much progress can be reported regarding the erection of dwellings under the Housing Schemes during 1923, although arrangements had been made for a number of new houses at Dreghorn, Beith, Dalry, and Stevenston. It is expected, however, that the building of a number of these will be completed during the current year.

Several improvements were carried out in connection with the drainage, sanitary accommodation, and other matters regarding existing houses during the past year.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supplies throughout the district were generally satisfactory during the year, and extensions were carried out in connection with several of these.

DRAINAGE AND SCAVENGING.—No new drainage scheme had been carried out and no special scavenging district was formed during the past year, so that there is nothing of any special importance to report under this heading. The existing drainage and scavenging of special districts have been on the whole satisfactory. The question of forming a special scavenging district at Dreghorn has been several times before the Local Authority, but the necessary requisition from the Parish Council or ten parish electors could not be obtained.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The public slaughter-houses at Beith, Dalry, Kilbirnie, and West Kilbride continue to be satisfactorily conducted, while the private slaughter-house at Skelmorlie had been found satisfactory.

WORKSHOPS.—The usual inspections of workshops were carried out during the year.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR.—NORTHERN DISTRICT.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.									
	At all ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.	
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.										
Typhoid or Enteric Fever, ..	5	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	5	..
Typhus Fever, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever and Scarlatina, ..	170	4	45	95	22	4	..	..	153	17
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup,	79	3	24	33	15	4	..	..	70	9
Erysipelas,	27	..	..	..	3	10	12	2	2	25
Puerperal Fever,	6	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	4	2
Cholera, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 73 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum, ..	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Chickenpox,	35	8	20	7	..	..	..	..	..	35
Malaria, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia, ..	17	..	..	..	4	9	4	..	1	16
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, ..	85	..	4	20	27	23	6	..	48	37
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, ..	46	..	15	12	10	6	3	..	16	30
Total of A and B, ..	475	18	108	168	85	69	25	2	300	175

KILMARNOCK DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in this district during the past year numbered 536, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 21.9 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 22.6 per 1000 for 1922.

DEATHS.—There were 287 deaths recorded in the district in 1923, giving a death-rate of 11.7 per 1000, as compared with 12.2 for the preceding year.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 48, being equivalent to an infant death-rate of 89 per 1000 births, as compared with 107 per 1000 for 1922.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—There were 14 deaths from the ordinary infectious diseases, namely, 3 from diphtheria, 1 from scarlet fever, 6 from measles, and 4 from whooping-cough. In the preceding year only 6 deaths occurred from these diseases.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.—The deaths ascribed to this group of diseases were 15 from phthisis or consumption and 10 from other forms of tuberculosis, giving a death-rate of .61 per 1000 from phthisis and .40 per 1000 from other forms of the disease. The deaths from phthisis in 1922, numbered 15, and these from other tuberculous diseases 7.

The deaths and death-rates for other groups of diseases are given in Tables VIII. and IX.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN DISTRICT.

Table B shows the number of cases reported under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in the various parishes in 1923. The total numbered 165, as compared with 134 in 1922.

TABLE B.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES REPORTED IN DISTRICT IN 1923.

PARISHES.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Total.
Craigie ... ..	..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dund'n'ld (non-burghal)	4	...	2	13	...	...	...	...	...	19
Fenwick ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	..	...	1	...	2
Galston (non-burghal)	1	...	5	10	...	...	...	2	...	18
K'lm'rn'k (non-burghal)	6	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	13
Kilmaurs	10	...	1	32	...	1	...	...	...	44
Loudoun (non-burghal)	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Mauchline	5	...	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	18
Riccarton (non-burghal)	7	..	3	11	...	...	1	...	..	22
Sorn ... ..	...	...	3	17	...	2	1	...	...	23
Symington	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL OF DISTRICT ...	34	...	20	103	...	3	2	3	...	165

There were 34 cases of DIPHTHERIA reported, as compared with 38 in the previous year. The disease had been less prevalent in the district during 1923 than in the four preceding years.

The number of cases of ERYSIPELAS notified during 1923 was 20, as against 25 in 1922.

The cases of SCARLET FEVER reported in the district during the year were 103, as compared with 67 cases in 1922. The type of the disease had been very mild, only 1 case proving fatal. The disease was prevalent throughout the district, but a larger proportion of cases occurred in the parish of Kilmaurs.

Three cases of ENTERIC FEVER were reported in 1923, the whole of these recovered.

Three cases of PUERPERAL FEVER were notified in 1923. In the preceding year the same number had been reported.

No case of CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER was reported in the district in the past year.

GENERAL SANITATION.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.—There is not much to add to my former annual reports on the house accommodation in the Kilmarnock District. During the past year plans were submitted and approved for 1 house of nineteen apartments, 1 of 8 apartments, 5 of five apartments, 11 of four apartments, 20 of three apartments, and 4 of one apartment. In addition to these several apartments were added to existing houses.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supplies appeared to have been on the whole fairly satisfactory during the year,

although in a dry season several supplies would probably have been somewhat inadequate.

DRAINAGE AND SCAVENGING.—As stated in my former report, the drainage and cleansing in the Special Districts have been carried out much the same as in the preceding years, and in several places the sewage-treatment works do not appear to receive the attention necessary for their efficient working. This applies especially to Catrine, Hurlford, and Crookedholm, while Kilmaurs and Crosshouse would be considerably benefitted by proper drainage and scavenging systems.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The private slaughter-houses in the district were regularly inspected during the year. As pointed out in previous reports, the inspection of meat at slaughter-houses, shops, and elsewhere in the district is carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, while the County Veterinary Inspector has also been appointed Meat Inspector under the Public Health (Meat Infection) Regulations of 1923.

WORKSHOPS (including Bakehouses).—These have been already referred to.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—KILMARNOCK DISTRICT.

DISEASE,	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.							Cases Removed to Hospital.	Cases not Removed to Hospital.	
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.			
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	1
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	103	1	22	66	12	2	..	..	91	12
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	34	..	10	18	5	1	..	..	28	6
Erysipelas	20	..	..	..	2	11	7	..	3	17
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	2
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 73 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Chickenpox	13	3	7	3	..	..	..	..	..	13
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	18	..	2	4	5	7	..	..	..	18
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	..	2	13	9	11	3	..	19	19	
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	..	2	5	7	5	1	..	2	18	
Total of A and B	256	5	45	109	42	44	11	..	149	107	

AYR DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—There were 1169 births registered in the district during the past year, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 27.8 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 27.4 per 1000 for the preceding year.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths recorded in 1923 was 474, giving a death-rate of 11.3 per 1000, as against 11.4 in 1922.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 79, being equivalent to an infant rate of mortality of 67 per 1000 births, as against 83 per 1000 in the previous year. The average infant mortality rate for the five years 1917-22 was 88 per 1000 births.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The deaths attributed to the ordinary infectious diseases numbered 24. These consisted of 1 diphtheria, 4 scarlet fever, 1 paratyphoid fever, 1 cerebro-spinal fever, 9 measles, and 8 whooping-cough. In the preceding year there were 15 deaths from these diseases.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.—The number of deaths assigned to this group of diseases during the year was 22 to phthisis and 13 to other forms of the disease, giving a mortality rate of .52 for the former and .31 for the latter, as against .52 and .32 per 1000 respectively in 1922.

The deaths and death-rates for other groups of diseases are given in Tables VIII. and IX.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN DISTRICT.

Table C gives the number and distribution of the cases reported under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act in the district during 1923. The total number was 278, as against 158 in 1922, and 294 in 1921.

TABLE C.

Infectious Diseases Notified in District in 1923.

PARISHES.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Paratyphoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	TOTAL.
Auchinleck	3	...	1	27	...	..	10	...	...	41
Ayr (non-burghal) ...	2	...	...	7	...	...	...	1	...	10
Coylton	1	...	1	8	...	...	...	1	...	11
Dalmellington ...	13	..	2	6	...	1	...	1	...	23
Dalrymple	4	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	11
Monkton ... ..	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	..	...	3
Muirkirk ... ..	...	...	10	11	...	...	...	...	1	22
New Cumnock	1	...	2	28	...	1	...	...	...	32
Ochiltree	1	...	1	50	...	...	...	...	...	52
Old Cumnock (non-burghal)	...	...	1	15	...	...	...	...	...	16
Stair	1	...	...	8	...	..	1	...	...	10
Tarbolton	28	...	4	5	...	...	10	...	...	47
TOTAL OF DISTRICT	54	...	24	172	...	2	22	3	1	278

There were 54 cases of DIPHTHERIA reported in 1923, as compared with 43 cases in the preceding year. The disease did not assume an epidemic form in the district in the past year, although one or more cases occurred in each parish, except Monkton, Muirkirk, and Old Cumnock.

The cases of ERYSIPELAS reported during the year numbered 24, as against 19 in 1922.

The number of cases of SCARLET FEVER reported in the district in the past year was 172, as against 92 in 1922. The disease was somewhat prevalent throughout the whole district. It did not appear to have had any connection with a milk supply, but was evidently spread by personal infection.

No case of TYPHUS FEVER occurred in the district during the year.

Two cases of ENTERIC FEVER were notified during the past year. There was 1 case reported in the preceding year. Although only 2 cases were reported as enteric fever in 1923, an outbreak of PARATYPHOID occurred, consisting of 22 cases. This has already been described on page 17 of the Report.

Three cases of PUERPERAL FEVER were notified in 1923, as against 1 case in the preceding year.

One case of CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER was notified in the district during the past year.

GENERAL SANITATION.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.—There is still a demand for more house accommodation at certain places throughout the district, although a number has been erected under the Housing Schemes. Arrangements are being made for the erection of a good many during 1924.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supplies throughout the District have been on the whole satisfactory, although two or three places outwith the Special Water Districts have not satisfactory supplies. These, however, are under the consideration of the Local Authority.

DRAINAGE AND SCAVENGING.—There were no new drainage schemes carried out in the district during the year, with the exception of the mining village of Lugar, where a proper scheme of drainage, with sewage disposal work, is being introduced.

The cleansing within the Special Scavenging Districts was generally carried out fairly satisfactorily during the year. In certain other places ash-pits were not cleansed as frequently as they should be.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—No complaints were received during the past year in connection with the private slaughter-houses in the district. As pointed out in former reports, the inspection of meat in slaughter-houses, shops, etc., is primarily carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, similar to what obtains in the Kilmarnock and Carrick Districts of the County. The County Veterinary Inspector has also been appointed Meat Inspector under the Meat Inspection Regulations of 1923.

WORKSHOPS (including Bakehouses).—The sanitary condition of these have been already referred to.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—AYR DISTRICT.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.							Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.				
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.												
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	*24	..	..	1	8	12	3	..	19	5
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	172	3	54	96	17	2	..	..	143	29
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup..	54	2	14	23	12	3	..	..	50	4
Erysipelas	24	..	..	1	3	11	8	1	1	23
Puerperal Fever	3	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	3	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*With the exception of 2 Cases all were Paratyphoid B.												
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health Scotland Act, 1897.												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Chickenpox.. ..	32	6	17	9	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Dysentery	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	15	..	..	..	3	6	3	..	..	12
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	32	..	1	10	12	5	4	..	25	7		
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	31	..	9	12	6	3	1	..	11	20		
Total of A and B	392	16	95	152	63	46	19	1	254	138		
C.—Diseases to which the Provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act have been extended by the Local Authority.												
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

CARRICK DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in the district during the past year numbered 286, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 20.3 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 22.0 per 1000 for the preceding year.

DEATHS.—There were 137 deaths recorded in the district in 1923, giving a death-rate of 9.7 per 1000, as against 10.0 per 1000 for the previous year.

INFANTILE DEATHS.—The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 13, giving an infantile mortality rate of 45 per 1000 births, as compared with 82 per 1000 in 1922. The average infant mortality rate for the 5 years 1916-22 was 68 per 1000 births.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The deaths that occurred from the ordinary infectious diseases in the district during the past year were 1 from diphtheria, 1 from scarlet fever, 1 from measles, and 1 from whooping-cough.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOUS DISEASES.—During the past year 5 deaths were attributed to phthisis and 2 to other forms of tuberculosis, being equivalent to a mortality rate of .35 from phthisis and .14 from other tuberculous disease, as against .41 and .20 per 1000 respectively in 1922.

The deaths and death-rates for other groups of diseases are given in Tables VIII. and IX.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN DISTRICT.

Table D shows the number of cases of infectious disease reported in the district, with their distribution, during the past year.

TABLE D.

Infectious Diseases Notified in District in 1923.

PARISHES.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	TOTAL.
Ballantrae ... ..	...	..	...	13	...	..	...	1	...	14
Barr ... ..	...	...	..	6	...	...	...	...	...	6
Colmonell	10	..	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	21
Dailly	1	..	8	43	...	..	...	...	...	52
Girvan (non-burghal),	1	...	...	3	...	..	...	...	...	4
Kirkmichael ... ..	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	5
Kirkoswald ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Maybole (non-burghal)	...	...	...	22	...	1	..	...	...	23
Straiton ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	1
TOTAL OF DISTRICT	12	...	10	130	...	1	...	1	...	127

As will be seen from the above table, 127 cases were notified in the district in the past year in terms of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, as compared with 75 in 1922. The increase of cases in 1923 was chiefly due to a greater prevalence of scarlet fever of a mild type.

GENERAL SANITATION.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.—Some progress was made during the year in connection with the Housing Scheme in the Carrick District, as arrangements have been completed for the erection of houses at Dailly, etc.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supplies had been generally satisfactory throughout the district during the year, although a few places have generally a somewhat restricted supply in the summer months. Kilgrammie is still without a satisfactory supply.

DRAINAGE AND SCAVENGING.—Under this heading there is nothing of material difference to note from what is mentioned in previous annual reports.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The 11 private slaughter-houses in the district were generally found in good order during the past year. But so far as the proper inspection of the carcasses is concerned this could only be satisfactorily carried out in public slaughter-houses. The County Veterinary Inspector has been appointed Meat Inspector under the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1923.

WORKSHOPS (including Bakehouses).—These have been already referred to.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—CARRICK DISTRICT.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.								
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	

A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

Typhoid or Enteric Fever	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	103	..	29	62	11	1	..	60	43
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup..	12	..	3	7	2	..	..	10	2
Erysipelas	10	..	..	..	1	6	3	..	10
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of
the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Chickenpox,	3	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	5	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	5
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	3	3	2	1	2	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	1	1	1

Total of A and B	149	2	33	75	18	12	7	2	77	72
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PART III.—POLICE BURGHS.*

BURGH OF SALTCOATS.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of Saltcoats at the 1921 census was 13,477. As there was a considerable number of visitors at the date of the recent census, the estimated normal population for 1923 was 10,400.

There were 249 births registered during the year, giving a birth-rate of 23.9 per 1000, as compared with 22.9 per 1000 for the preceding year.

The deaths which occurred during the year numbered 130, being equivalent to a death-rate of 12.5, as against 13.1 for 1922. The deaths of infants under 1 year of age numbered 19, giving an infant mortality rate of 76 per 1000 births, as against 104 per 1000 for the preceding year. The average annual infant mortality for the last 10 years was 87 per 1000 births. Of the total deaths 32 were of children under 5, 50 between the ages of 5 and 65, and 48 over 65, the oldest being 89 years of age.

The deaths from the common infectious diseases were 1 from diphtheria, 1 from enteric, 1 from measles, and 4 from whooping-cough. Two deaths were attributed to phthisis, and 2 to other tuberculous diseases.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—There were 60 cases reported during the past year, in terms of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, as against 51 in 1922. The cases in 1923 comprised 20 of diphtheria, 2 of erysipelas, 33 of scarlet fever, 5 of enteric fever, and 2 of chickenpox, in addition to 26 of phthisis, 5 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 of acute primary pneumonia, and 1 of ophthalmia neonatorum, notified under the Board of Health Regulations.

* Only the Burghs that have appointed the County Medical Officer as their Medical Officer of Health are given here. These are Saltcoats, Largs, Stewarton, Cumnock, Troon, Galston, Darvel, and Girvan.

GENERAL SANITATION.—As stated in my former reports, the general sanitary condition of the Burgh, including water supply, drainage, cleansing, etc., may be considered satisfactory. Some of the older houses which were not in a good state of repair were reported with a view to be dealt with either under the Public Health Act or Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, but until other houses are provided for the occupants of these houses—such as those at Auchendarvie Row—there is a difficulty in closing the defective dwellings.

The public slaughter-house was found satisfactory during the past year. As pointed out in former reports, the Veterinary Inspector, in addition to the Sanitary Inspector, regularly visits the slaughter-house, and also all the butchers' premises and other places where meat is sold within the Burgh.

The re-built and extended Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital of the Burghs of Ardrossan and Saltcoats, which was burnt down some years ago, has been giving much satisfaction.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the past year the names, ages, addresses and dates of declarations of 99 children in the Burgh were received from the registrars in terms of subsection 2 of section 1 of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907, being equivalent to 40 per cent. of the births for the year.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—BURGH OF SALTCOATS.

DISEASE.	No. of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											
	At all ages.	At Age—Years.							Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.				
A.—Notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.												
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	5	..	..	..	2	3	..	..	5	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	33	..	9	18	4	2	..	..	33	..
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup ..	20	..	6	10	2	2	..	..	20	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Notified in term of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Chickenpox,	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	26	..	1	10	4	10	1	..	15	11		
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.. ..	5	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	4
Total A and B	95	2	17	40	14	20	2	..	74	21		
C.—Diseases to which the Provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act have been extended by the Local Authority.												
Cerbro-Spinal Fever,| .. ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1

BURGH OF LARGS.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of Largs at the recent census was 9450, as compared with 3724 at the census of 1911. For statistical purposes the normal population for 1923 is estimated at 4104.

The births registered in the Burgh during 1923 numbered 51, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 12.4 per 1000, as compared with 15.1 per 1000 in 1922.

After allocating the deaths registered to their respective domiciles, and adding others belonging to the Burgh which occurred elsewhere, 52 deaths were recorded during the year. Of the total deaths 2 were under 5, 18 between 5 and 65, 12 between 65 and 75, 17 between 75 and 85, and 3 between 85 and 90. These figures are equivalent to a total death-rate of 12.6 per 1000. There were 62 deaths in the preceding year. There were 2 deaths under one year of age, the infant death-rate being only 39 per 1000 births. The average annual infantile mortality for the preceding 10 years had been 72 per 1000 births.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—During the past year 24 cases were reported in the Burgh, as compared with 30 cases in the preceding year. Those in 1923 comprised 4 diphtheria, 5 scarlet fever, 5 enteric, 4 pulmonary tuberculosis, and 6 non-pulmonary tuberculosis. All the cases of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and enteric were removed to hospital. No death occurred from any of the ordinary infectious diseases.

GENERAL SANITATION.—As stated in former reports, the general sanitary condition of the Burgh, including the house accommodation, water supply, drainage, cleansing, etc., may generally be considered satisfactory.

The public slaughter-house, which is regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector, has been proving satisfactory. As stated in my former reports, the arrangements for the inspection of meat are that the Superintendent of the slaughter-house examines the carcasses of all animals slaughtered there, and reports to the Veterinary Surgeon or Sanitary Inspector any suspected of being unsound. The Sanitary Inspector inspects meat in the shops in the Burgh.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Clark Hospital was generally found in a satisfactory condition.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the year the registrar furnished 9 names in the Burgh, in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907, being equivalent to 17.6 per cent. of the births registered.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, &c.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR.—BURGH OF LARGS.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	5	..	..	2	..	1	2	..	5	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina,	5	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	5	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup..	4	..	1	2	..	1	..	..	4	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	..	..	2	1	1	..	1	3	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.. ..	6	..	1	1	2	1	1	..	1	5	
Total of A and B	24	..	5	5	5	5	4	..	16	8	

BURGH OF STEWARTON.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of the Burgh at the 1921 census was 2853. The census for 1911 was 2841, and the population has been estimated for 1923 at 2809.

There were 54 births registered during the past year, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 19.2 per 1000, as compared with 17.9 per 1000 for the preceding year.

The number of deaths recorded in 1923 was 42. These figures give a death-rate of 14.9 per 1000, as against 13.8 per 1000 for the previous year. There were 4 deaths of children under 1, giving an infant death-rate of 74 per 1000 births, and an average of 90 per 1000 for the preceding 10 years. Of the total deaths, 5 were of children under 5. There were no deaths from the ordinary zymotic diseases or from tuberculosis in the past year.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—The cases reported during the past year were 3 of erysipelas, 8 of scarlet fever, and 1 of chickenpox. Of these, 7 cases of scarlet fever were removed to hospital.

The general sanitary condition of the Burgh is much the same as stated in former reports. During the past year the water supply continued satisfactory. The new drainage scheme and sewage disposal works have been proving successful. As there is now an ample water supply with drainage facilities, it would be an improvement to substitute water closets for all the privies in the Burgh. The house accommodation is much the same as last year, but schemes have been prepared by the Local Authority for the erection of new houses, which are much needed.

The four private slaughter-houses in the Burgh were fairly well kept and regularly inspected during the year, but a public slaughter-house, properly supervised, would be a marked improvement on the existing slaughter-houses.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the past year the registrar furnished 28 names of children in the Burgh in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907. These are equivalent to 51.8 per cent. of the births registered in the year.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—BURGH OF STEWARTON

DISEASE.	Number of cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	
A.—Notified under the ^r Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever
Typhus Fever
Smallpox
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	7	1	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup
Erysipelas	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	3	..
Puerperal Fever
Cholera
Relapsing Fever
Continued Fever
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations, made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Chickenpox	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Malaria
Dysentery
Trench Fever
Acute Primary Pneumonia
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Total of A and B.. ..	12	1	8	..	1	1	1	1	7	5	..

BURGH OF CUMNOCK.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of the Burgh of Cumnock at the recent census was 3541, having been 3417 at the census of 1911. The estimated population for 1923 is 3506.

There were registered during the year 89 births, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 25.3 per 1000 of the population, as against 25.2 per 1000 in 1922.

The number of deaths recorded during the year was 46, giving a death-rate of 13.1 per 1000, as compared with 14.1 per 1000 for 1922. There were 8 deaths of children under 1, giving an infant mortality of 89 per 1000 births, as compared with an average of 98 per 1000 for the previous 10 years. There were 11 deaths of children under 5. There were no deaths due to any of the ordinary infectious diseases in the past year. There were 1 death ascribed to phthisis and 3 to other tuberculous disease.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—The diseases reported in the Burgh during the year consisted of 23 cases of scarlet fever, 1 of diphtheria, 2 of paratyphoid fever, 2 of chickenpox, 1 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, and 2 of erysipelas. Of the cases notified 19 of scarlet fever, 1 of diphtheria, and 2 of paratyphoid were removed to Cumnock Fever Hospital.

GENERAL SANITATION.—The general sanitary condition of the Burgh may on the whole be considered fairly satisfactory with the exception of a number of old houses which need improvements. The water supply, which had been more or less inadequate, has now been augmented by increased storage, etc. A number of new houses, under the housing scheme, have been erected, and it is proposed to build more.

The public slaughter-house has been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, who also inspects places where meat is exposed for sale within the Burgh. It has been suggested that this slaughter-house might be made available for Auchinleck.

As stated in former reports, the Cumnock Fever Hospital, belonging to the Ayr District Committee, is available for the isolation of cases of infectious disease occurring within the Burgh, and it has always been found satisfactory.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the past year the registrar furnished the names, etc., of 34 children in the Burgh in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907. These are equivalent to 38.2 per cent. of the births registered.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED,
&C, DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—BURGH OF CUMNOCK.

DISEASE.	No. of cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	*2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	23	..	4	14	3	2	..	..	19	4
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophtbalmia Neonatorum .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox,	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Total of A and B	31	..	5	16	6	4	..	..	22	9
* These were cases of Paratyphoid B.											

BURGH OF TROON.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of Troon, which was 6628 at the census of 1911, was 9474 at the recent census, but for statistical purposes the normal population is estimated at 8492 for 1923.

The births registered during the year numbered 140, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 16.4 per 1000, as compared with 17.0 per 1000 for 1922.

After adding the deaths of persons belonging to Troon that occurred in public institutions and elsewhere outwith the Burgh, and deducting those belonging to other districts which occurred within the Burgh, 76 deaths were recorded during the year, giving a death-rate of 8.9 per 1000. The number of deaths which occurred in the previous year was 97. The deaths of children under 1 year were 14, giving an infant mortality of 100 per 1000 births, as compared with 75 for 1922, and an average of 80 per 1000 for the preceding 5 years. Of the total deaths 18 were of children under 5. The deaths from the ordinary zymotic diseases were 2 from measles. There were 3 from influenza, 3 from phthisis, and 1 from other tuberculous disease.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—The cases reported during the past year under the Infectious Disease Notification Act were 22 diphtheria, 5 erysipelas, 22 scarlet fever, 3 enteric, and 1 puerperal fever. Of the cases notified 11 diphtheria, 4 scarlet fever, 1 enteric, and 1 puerperal fever were removed to Hospital. There were notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations 16 cases of phthisis and 8 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Of these 9 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases were removed to institutions. One case of ophthalmia neonatorum was reported.

GENERAL SANITATION.—As stated in previous reports, the general sanitary condition of the Burgh as to housing, water supply, drainage, cleansing, etc., may on the whole be considered satisfactory.

As in previous years, the slaughter-house was regularly inspected and always found satisfactory. As stated in the previous reports, there is a caretaker, who is in daily attendance, and reports to the Sanitary Inspector anything that he considers requires attention. The Sanitary Inspector visits the slaughter-house weekly, while the Veterinary Inspector makes periodical visits. The latter, along with the Sanitary Inspector, inspects all the butchers' shops at least once a month.

The arrangements for isolating cases in the Infectious Diseases Hospital belonging to the Burgh of Kilmarnock have been proving satisfactory.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the past year the registrar furnished 28 names, etc., of children in the Burgh, in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907. These are equivalent to 20.0 per cent. of the births registered.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—BURGH OF TROON.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and Under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	2
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	10	..	1	6	2	..	1	..	4	6	
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	22	..	3	5	10	4	..	..	11	11
Erysipelas	5	..	1	..	1	2	1	..	..	5
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Notified in Terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Chickenpox,	11	2	6	3	..	..	..	..	..	11
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	..	..	1	3	10	2	..	9	7
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	..	1	3	3	1	..	..	3	5
Total of A and B	77	3	12	18	20	19	6	..	30	47	

BURGH OF GALSTON.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of Galston, which was 5296 at the 1911 census, was 4977 at the 1921 census, and is estimated at 4836 for 1923.

The births for the year numbered 103, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 21.2 per 1000 of the population. In the previous year 106 births were registered.

There were 74 deaths recorded during the year. These figures give a death-rate of 15.3 per 1000, as against 13.7 per 1000 in 1922. There were 10 deaths of children under 1, being equivalent to an infant death-rate of 97 per 1000 births, as compared with an average of 105 per 1000 for the previous 5 years. Of the total deaths, 17 were of children under 5. With the exception of 1 death from diphtheria, no deaths occurred from the ordinary zymotic diseases. There were 1 from influenza, 2 from phthisis, and 2 from other forms of tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—The cases reported during the year, under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, were—9 diphtheria, 18 erysipelas, 7 scarlet fever, 1 paratyphoid fever, and 1 puerperal fever—in all 36 cases, as against 29 in 1922. 2 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of diphtheria, and the paratyphoid case were removed to hospital. 6 cases of phthisis and 5 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were reported under the L. G. B. Regulations.

GENERAL SANITATION.—The general sanitary condition of the Burgh in the past year was much the same as stated in previous reports. The abolition of privy ashpits, with the substitution of water closets and ashbins, has been a marked

sanitary improvement. The water supply is being augmented, while the drainage and disposal work seem satisfactory.

The slaughter-house, which is regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, was found satisfactory during the past year. As stated in the previous reports in connection with the inspection of meat, the Sanitary Inspector visits the slaughter-house several times a week, and if he finds any suspicious animal or carcase he calls in the Veterinary Inspector. The meat exposed for sale in the butchers' shops is also periodically inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

As stated in former reports, the three Burghs of Galston, Newmilns, and Darvel have an arrangement for the joint use of 12 beds in the Infectious Diseases Hospital belonging to the Burgh of Kilmarnock, and also accommodation for smallpox in Crofthead Hospital, Ayr.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the past year the registrar furnished the names, etc., of 32 children in the Burgh, in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907. As the number of infants born in 1923 was 103, the unvaccinated constituted 31.0 per cent of the births, as against 46.2 per cent. in 1922.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, &c.,
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR—BURGH OF GALSTON.

DISEASE.	Number of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all ages.	At Age—Years,						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	
A.—Notified under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever, *	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Typhus Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	7	..	2	4	1	..	..	..	10	5
Diphtheria or Membranous Croup, ..	9	2	2	3	2	..	..	..	10	7
Erysipelas	18	..	..	1	..	4	9	4	..	18
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*Paratyphoid Fever.											
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chickenpox	11	..	5	5	..	..	1	..	..	11
Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery, .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	6	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis . ..	5	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	1	4
Total of A and B	58	2	10	17	11	4	10	4	12	46	

BURGH OF DARVEL.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of Darvel has been estimated by the Registrar-General at 3239 for the year under notice.

The births registered within the Burgh during the year numbered 61, giving a birth-rate of 18.8 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 18.4 per 1000 in 1922.

The number of deaths recorded during the year was 36, giving a death-rate of 10.6 per 1000. In the previous year the same number of deaths occurred. There were 5 deaths of children under 1, being at the rate of 81 per 1000 births, as compared with an average of 129 per 1000 for the preceding year. Of the total deaths 10 were under 5 years of age. With the exception of one from scarlet fever, no deaths occurred from the ordinary infectious diseases. One death occurred from phthisis, and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—The diseases reported in the Burgh during the year consisted of 9 cases of diphtheria, 4 of erysipelas, 12 of scarlet fever, 5 of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 2 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Of these, 4 cases of diphtheria and 7 of scarlet fever were removed to hospital. Four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 of non-pulmonary were admitted to Sanatorium.

As stated in my former reports, the general sanitary condition of the Burgh, including water supply, drainage, and cleansing, may on the whole be considered fairly satisfactory.

As pointed out in previous reports, the Sanitary Inspector, who acts as Superintendent of the slaughter-house, and visits the latter regularly, inspects the carcasses of animals slaughtered there, and also the meat sold in shops, etc., in the Burgh.

The hospital accommodation of Darvel is the same as for Galston and Newmilns, namely, the joint use by

Galston, Newmilns, and Darvel of 12 beds in the Isolation Hospital belonging to the Burgh of Kilmarnock, in addition to accommodation for smallpox in Crofthead Hospital.

STATUTORY DECLARATIONS OF CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO VACCINATION.—During the past year the registrar furnished the names, etc., of 39 children in the Burgh, in terms of the Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907. As the number of infants born during the year was 61, the unvaccinated constituted 64.0 per cent. of the births.

RETURN OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED, ETC..
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1923.

COUNTY OF AYR.—BURGH OF DARVEL.

DISEASE.	Numbers of Cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.						Cases removed to Hospital.	Cases not removed to Hospital.		
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.			65 and upwards.	
A.—Notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.											
Typhoid or Enteric Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Smallpox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina	12	..	4	8	..	..	..	..	7	5	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ..	9	..	1	4	..	4	..	..	4	5	..
Erysipelas	4	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	4	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
B.—Notified in terms of Regulations made under Section 78 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897.											
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Trench Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Primary Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	4	1	..
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..
Total of A. and B.	32	..	5	13	6	6	2	..	16	16	..

BURGH OF GIRVAN.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population of Girvan at the recent census was 7272, but as there was a considerable number of visitors at the time, the Registrar-General has estimated the normal population for 1923 at 5868.

The number of births registered during the year was 125, being equivalent to a birth-rate of 22.3 per 1000, as compared with 22.3 for 1922.

The deaths recorded during 1923 numbered 63, giving a death-rate of 10.7 per 1000, as against 12.8 per 1000 for the preceding year. There were 8 deaths of infants under 1, equivalent to an infantile mortality rate of 64 per 1000 births, as compared with 69 per 1000 for 1922. The only death from the ordinary infectious diseases was 1 from scarlet fever. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.—The cases reported during the past year were—27 of scarlet fever, 8 of diphtheria, 1 of enteric, 1 of paratyphoid fever, 1 of erysipelas, 1 of puerperal fever, 9 of pulmonary tuberculosis, and 2 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

GENERAL SANITATION.—The various sanitary conditions of the burgh were on the whole fairly satisfactory. There is still need of improvement in the matter of houses, and in addition to the new houses which were completed in the past year, it is proposed to erect 16 of two apartments and 12 of three apartments. Arrangements have also been made to augment the present water supply, which is hardly sufficient for all purposes, especially during the summer months.

The drainage, scavenging, slaughter-house, hospital, etc., were upon the whole satisfactory during the year under notice.

TABLE E
Births and Deaths occurring in eight Burghs during the year 1923

BURGHs.	Estimated Population.	Area in Acres.	Registered Births.	DEATHS AT SUB-JOINED AGES.				MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.																						
				At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 Years and Upwards.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Digestive Diseases.		Tuberculous Diseases.		Septic Diseases.	Pneumonia.	Diseases of Respiratory System.	Influenza.	Cancer.	Diseases of Nervous System.	Diseases of Circulatory System.	Violence.	All other Certified Causes.	Uncertified Causes.	
																Diarrhoea.	Other Digestive Diseases.	Phtisis.	Other than Phtisis.											
Saltcoats	..	10400	472	249	130	19	13	98	1	0	0	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	0	10	12	0	10	21	20	1	29	0		
Largs	..	4104	353	51	52	2	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	2	0	10	6	8	0	19	0		
Stewarton	..	2309	377	54	42	4	1	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	2	7	16	1	8	0		
Cumnock	..	3106	259	89	46	8	3	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	6	5	0	4	9	11	1	6	0		
Troon	..	8492	833	140	76	14	4	58	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	1	1	3	4	3	4	8	17	5	20	1		
Galston	..	4836	191	103	74	10	7	57	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	2	0	4	11	1	6	5	12	5	20	0	
Darvel	..	3239	455	61	36	5	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	3	3	0	5	5	5	2	7	0	
Girvan	..	5868	489	125	65	8	2	53	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	6	5	0	10	5	9	3	19	0	
Total of Burghs		43254	3429	872	519	70	31	418	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	5	4	17	12	11	1	35	48	4	51	66	98	18	138	1

TABLE F
DENSITY OF POPULATION, BIRTH RATE, INFANTILE, AND OTHER DEATH-RATES.

BURGHS.		Persons to the Acre.	Birth Rate.	Deaths under 1 year of Age per 1000 Births.	DEATH RATE PER 1000 FROM																	
					All Causes.	The Principal Zymotic Diseases.							Digestive Diseases.		Tuberculous Diseases.		Pneumonia	Diseases of Respiratory System.	Influenza.	Cancer.	Diseases of Nervous System.	Diseases of Circulatory System.
						Diphtheria & Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Other Digestive Diseases.	Phtisis.	Other than Phtisis.							Septic Diseases.
Saltcoats ..	22.0	23.9	76	12.500	0.096	0	0.096	0	0.096	0.966	0.384	0.192	0.288	0.192	0.192	0	0.961	1.152	0	0.961	2.019	2.923
Largs ..	11.6	12.4	39	12.670	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.974	0	0.487	0	0.243	0.487	0	2.436	1.461	1.949
Stewarton ..	7.4	19.2	74	14.951	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.711	2.135	0	0.711	2.491	5.635
Cumnock ..	13.5	25.3	89	13.120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.285	0.855	0	1.711	1.426	0	0.140	2.567	3.137
Troon ..	10.1	16.4	100	8.950	0	0	0.117	0	0.235	0	0	0	0.353	0.353	0.117	0.117	0.353	0.471	0.353	0.471	0.942	2.002
Galston ..	25.3	21.2	97	15.301	0.206	0	0.206	0	0	0	0	0.203	0.620	0.413	0.413	0	0.827	2.274	0.206	1.240	1.033	2.481
Darvel ..	7.1	18.8	81	11.114	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.308	0.308	0.617	0.308	0.308	0	0.926	0.096	0	1.543	1.543	1.543
Girvan, ..	12.0	21.3	64	10.786	0	0.170	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.340	0.511	0	0	1.032	0.852	0	1.704	0.852	1.533
Total for 1922.	12.6	20.1	80	11.998	0.046	0.023	0.046	0.023	0.069	0.115	0.092	0.393	0.277	0.254	0.023	0.809	1.122	0.092	1.179	1.525	2.265	

