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COUNTY OF BANFF.

THIRTY-THIRD

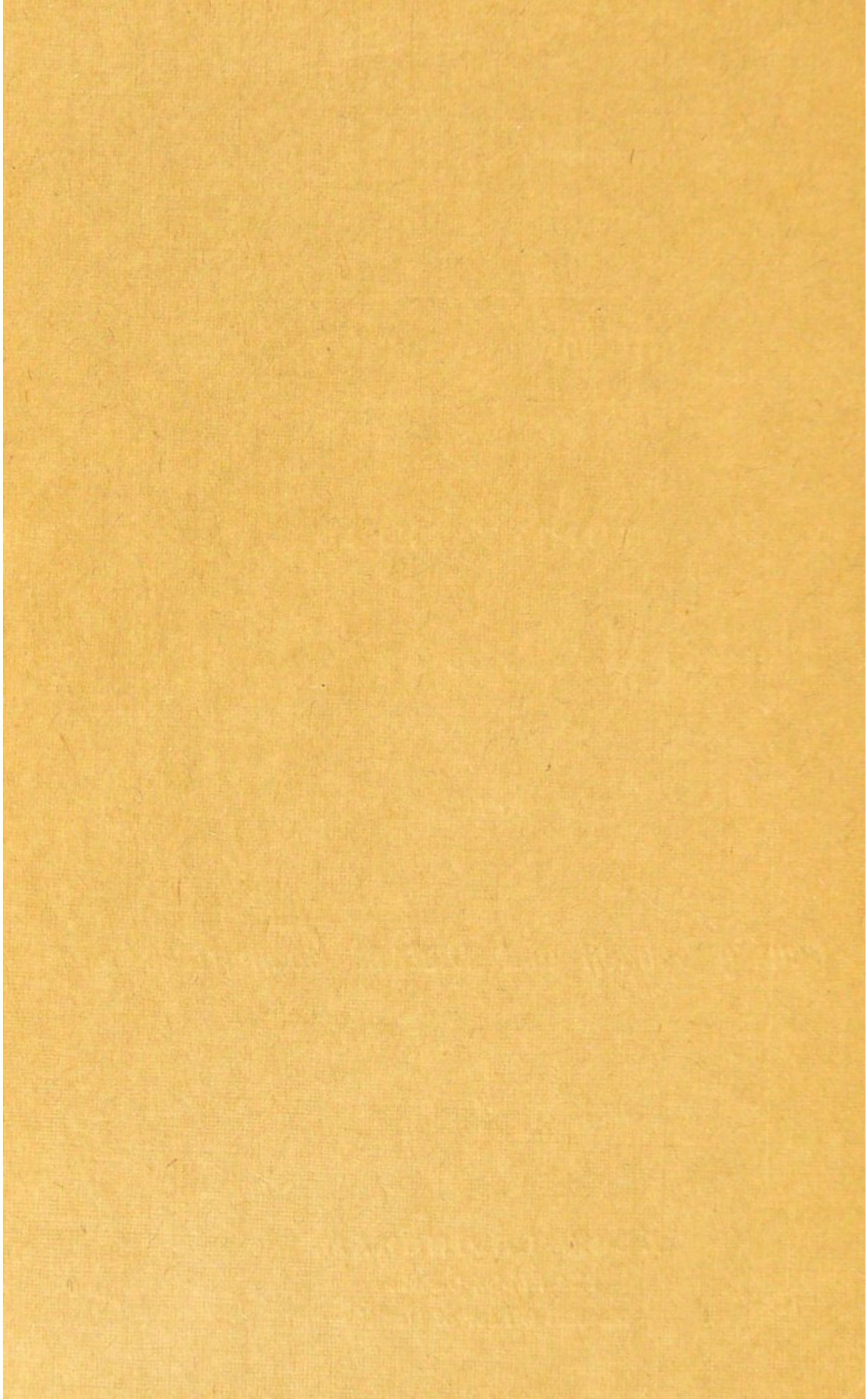
ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

County Council and District Committees

BY

ALEX. LEDINGHAM,
M.A., M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.



*TO THE
COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES
OF THE COUNTY OF BANFF.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration the 'THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT' on the Health and Sanitary condition of the County and Districts for the year 1923.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALEX. LEDINGHAM.

BANFF, *March* 1924.



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COUNTY OF BANFF



REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1923.



The **Population** of the County of Banff, ex-burghal, as ascertained by the census of June 1921, was 26,790, of which 15,680 pertain to the Banff District and 11,110 to the Keith District. The population for 1923, according to the Registrar-General's method of estimation, was 25,867.

The **Births** registered in 1923 in the Banff and Keith Districts numbered 668, giving an annual BIRTH RATE of 25.8 per thousand of population. The corresponding figures in 1922 were 642 and 23.8.

The **Deaths** registered in 1923 amounted to 371, giving an annual DEATH RATE of 14.3 per thousand of population. The corresponding figures in 1922 were 345 and 12.8.

The **Infantile Mortality** rate in the ex-burghal area of the County was 94 per thousand births. In the Banff and Keith Districts the rates were respectively 106 and 78.

The following Table shews the birth rates, death rates, infantile death rates, tubercular death rates and zymotic death rates per thousand of population for recent years :—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Death Rate.	Tubercular Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate
1915	25.0	14.4	74	1.06	.72
1916	23.7	12.9	86	1.07	.66
1917	20.8	13.4	88	1.11	.67
1918	21.3	14.1	84	.68	.41
1919	20.6	14.6	103	1.25	.02
1920	28.5	12.8	80	.61	.41
1921	24	13	83	.59	.63
1922	23.8	12.8	67	.55	.55
1923	25.8	14.3	94	.57	.57

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.—The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was not the same in the two districts. In the Banff District there was a considerable prevalence of Scarlet Fever, the number of notifications of this dis-

ease being 56 compared with 17 in the preceding year. There was also a fairly wide distribution of measles. In the Keith District the number of notifications was the lowest on record, there being only 11 notifications of the notifiable diseases. Measles was prevalent in one area only.

Tuberculosis.—During 1923 there was received a total of 61 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis. The following table shews the distribution of these cases in the various public health areas of the County, and also, for purposes of comparison, the number of cases and their distribution in previous years :—

	1923	1922	1921	Average for period 1916-1920
Banff District ...	10	9	10	15.8
Keith District ...	10	4	10	9.8
Aberchirder ...	1	2	2	2.8
Banff ...	8	2	—	4.0
Buckie ...	13	10	4	9.8
Cullen ...	—	3	—	2.0
Findochty ...	1	3	—	3.4
Macduff ...	6	1	4	6.0
Portknockie ...	1	2	1	3.8
Portsoy ...	2	—	—	2.4
Aberlour ...	1	2	—	0.6
Dufftown ...	2	—	—	1.6
Keith ...	6	2	2	6.2
	61	40	33	68.2
Deaths ...	34	35	35	45.0

Of the notifications received 29 were males and 32 were females, and of the deaths registered 16 were males and 18 were females. According to age, the notified cases and deaths in 1923 were distributed as follows :—

	Notified Cases	Deaths
1 year and under 5 years ...	—	1
5 years and under 15 years ...	4	1
15 years and under 25 years ...	29	13
25 years and under 45 years ...	22	10
45 years and under 65 years ...	4	8
65 years and upwards ...	2	1

Five of the persons notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis had been on service during the war, and twenty-eight were insured persons. The rapid decline in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption as shewn

for recent years in the above statistical tables was not maintained during 1923, when the number rose to twenty-one over the preceding year, and was almost double that of 1921. Such a rapid diminution as occurred in these years could not be expected to be maintained, and a less marked diminution, if steady, would be considered perfectly satisfactory. Statistics dealing with a comparatively small population over a short period are bound to vary considerably from year to year, and while the number is higher this year than last, it is still below the average of the five year period, 1916-1920. The circumstances of each case have been enquired into, and it is not possible to assign the increase to any one cause. Economic conditions, such as unemployment, might have been operative in three cases only. As many as eleven of those notified had contracted the disease when residing out-with the county.

In addition to the above cases of pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption, 44 notifications were received of other forms of tuberculosis, including glands, bones, meninges, &c. From these forms of tuberculosis there were 18 deaths in 1923, compared with 13 in the previous year.

The following table shews the total tuberculosis death rate per 1000 of population in the various public health areas of the county :—

				1923	1922
Banff District	...	...	...	0·66	0·44
Keith District	...	...	...	0·47	0·72
Aberchirder	...	...	...	1·09	—
Banff	...	...	...	1·18	0·85
Buckie	...	...	...	0·94	1·02
Cullen	...	...	...	—	1·49
Findochty	...	...	...	1·88	—
Macduff	...	...	...	0·92	0·88
Portknockie	...	...	...	2·47	0·59
Portsoy	...	...	...	0·61	1·74
Aberlour	...	...	...	1·62	1·57
Dufftown	...	...	...	2·15	0·68
Keith	...	...	...	1·92	1·85

The sanatorium pavilion at the Chalmers Hospital was completed and furnished in the month of April and received the first patient on the 4th May. The pavilion provides excellent accommodation of ten beds for the treatment of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition to these beds the County Council have a certain number of beds within the Chalmers Hospital for the treatment of cases of tuberculosis requiring operation. They have also an arrange-

ment with the Rathven Parish Council whereby two beds are available at the Rathven Parish Home for pulmonary tuberculosis, and with the Trustees of the Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith, whereby a certain number of beds are available when these are not required by the burgh of Keith for infectious diseases.

At the commencement of the year there were in institutions 7 patients under treatment, of whom 2 were in the Chalmers Hospital, Banff, and 5 in the Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith.

During the year there were admitted 30 patients to the Chalmers Hospital, 4 patients to the Turner Memorial Hospital, and 4 patients to the Rathven Parish Home. Of these patients, 24 suffered from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 14 from other forms of tubercular disease. Institutional treatment was provided for 17 insured persons.

At the close of the year there remained under treatment 6 patients in the Chalmers Hospital, 1 in the Turner Memorial Hospital, and 1 in the Rathven Parish Home.

The County Council provide all necessary drugs for tuberculous persons having treatment at home, and in certain cases grant such medical comforts as beef, milk or eggs. The Board of Health permit of such arrangements, provided the amount, including the cost of drugs, does not exceed 10/- per week. During the year these benefits were granted to 13 persons.

Twelve persons, having home treatment, occupied the shelters of the County Council.

The institutional treatment of ex-Service men suffering from tuberculosis, whose disability has been accepted by the Ministry of Pensions as connected with war service, is provided by the County Council, who recover in full all their expenditure from the Pensions Ministry. During the year the County Council provided institutional treatment for one ex-Service man in the Chalmers Hospital.

The Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations (Scotland), 1916.—For the purpose of these regulations this County continues to be one of the partners in the joint scheme for the City of Aberdeen and the North-Eastern Counties. Out-patient clinics are held practically daily at the Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen. The in-patient accommodation is limited and insufficient to meet requirements, but it is hoped this defect in the scheme will be remedied at an early date.

Monthly statements are received giving particulars of the number of patients attending at the Royal Infirmary

from the various areas of the combination, &c. The following table gives the particulars for Banffshire cases during the year :—

	Total number of new cases.	n-Patients admitted.	Attendances at V.D. Clinics.	Number of Doses of Special Drugs supplied to Medical Practitioners.	Laboratory Examinations for Banffshire cases
January .	1	1	25	6	20
February .	1	1	11	3	6
March .	2	—	33	4	17
April .	1	—	44	—	14
May .	—	—	57	—	12
June .	1	—	49	—	7
July .	3	3	12	2	3
August .	3	—	8	5	19
September .	1	—	14	2	10
October .	2	1	19	—	15
November .	3	—	24	11	24
December .	—	1	23	4	14

From the above table it will be seen that 18 new cases from this County attended at the Royal Infirmary clinic. The number of attendances per month varied from eight to fifty-seven. The highest number of attendances per month in the preceding year was only twenty-seven.

As previously reported, the County Council in 1921 resolved that the Venereal diseases scheme be extended to the effect of arranging that the Chalmers Hospital, Banff, be recognised as a centre for the treatment of Venereal diseases. The approval of the Board of Health having been obtained, the County Council entered into negotiations with the Trustees of the Chalmers Hospital for the provision of suitable accommodation and other services. The Chalmers Hospital Trustees put at the disposal of the County Council a ward in the north-eastern wing of the hospital with an adjoining side apartment. Some necessary structural alterations have been carried out, and the necessary furnishings obtained. The clinic was advertised in the local press as ready for the reception of patients on 18th January of the current year. The medical practitioners in the county have been notified of this addition to the Venereal diseases scheme.

Blind Persons Act.—This Act came into operation in September 1920, and places a duty on the County Council to make arrangements for promoting the welfare of blind persons, ordinarily resident within their area. A conference of Local Authorities in the North-East of Scotland was held in Aberdeen in July 1921, when it was resolved that for the purpose of the Act a combination of north-eastern counties

should be formed, and that it be remitted to a committee to formulate a scheme for consideration at a future meeting. During 1923 circumstances having arisen in this county requiring the operation of the Blind Persons Act, enquiries were made regarding the draft scheme, when it was learned that no scheme had been prepared, and that in fact two of the parties of the combination, namely the city of Aberdeen and the county of Aberdeen, were independently of each other preparing draft schemes for themselves.

The County Council having before them applications from three blind persons in the county for maintenance during their industrial training, remitted to a small committee to enquire into the provisions of the Blind Persons Act, and on the recommendation of this committee accepted liability for the maintenance of these persons during training.

These blind persons are receiving training at the following institutions, namely, one at the Royal Blind Asylum, Edinburgh, and two at the Aberdeen Asylum for the Blind. The cost of maintenance per person at each of these institutions is 25/- per week. The cost of the training is borne by the County Education Authority.

Anthrax.—In terms of Anthrax Order the Veterinary Inspectors reported 21 outbreaks of Anthrax confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture. Of these, 18 were in the Banff District—1 in Alvah, 2 in Banff, 4 in Deskford, 2 in Fordyce, 2 in Forglen, 4 in Gamrie, 2 in Ordiquhill, 1 in Rathven; and 3 in the Keith District—2 in Grange, 1 in Rothiemay. No case of the disease in man is known to have occurred. The medical attendant of a butcher, who had dressed an anthrax carcase, found considerable difficulty in procuring Sclavo's anthrax serum, a very valuable remedy in anthrax. The circumstances having been reported to the Executive Committee, instructions were given that a sufficient supply be obtained, and placed in the hands of the police at their headquarters in Banff.

These instructions were carried out, and medical practitioners and veterinary surgeons informed of the arrangement.

Midwives (Scotland) Act, 1915.—In this County practically all the midwifery is done by medical practitioners, the midwives, certified and uncertified, acting mainly as maternity nurses. There are now no registered midwives residing in the area of either the Banff or Keith Districts.

Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915.—No scheme is yet in operation in the County whereby the health of infants and children up to the age of five years is kept under supervision. Arrangements exist whereby suitable ante-natal cases and cases of abnormal or complicated confinement can be sent to the Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. No cases were sent from either of the districts during the year.

Verminous Children.—The County Education Authority reported 14 families having children in attendance at school in a verminous state. These families were visited and several revisited by the Sanitary Inspector, and instructions given as to the methods to be adopted to free the children of lice.

Rivers Pollution Prevention Acts.—A report by the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector on the state of the Isla and its tributaries was submitted to the County Council in May. No complaints of pollution of any of the streams in the County were received during the year.

Bacteriological Examinations.—The bacteriological work for the two districts in common with the other Public Health Authorities in the County is undertaken by the City of Aberdeen and is done at their laboratory at the City Hospital. Full advantage is taken of the facilities thus provided. For the year ending 31st May 1923, 548 specimens for examination were sent from this County, including the burghs.

The nature of the specimens submitted were as follows :

			Positive.	Negative.	Total.	Grand Total.
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	20	203	223	223
TYPHOID—						
Blood Cultures	-	-	—	—	—	
Widals	-	-	1	9	10	
Faeces	-	-	—	6	6	
Urines	-	-	—	2	2	18
PARATYPHOID—						
Widals	-	-	—	20	20	20
GENERAL—						
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	-	-	—	—	—	
Blood Cultures	-	-	—	—	2	
Bacteriological exam. of urines	-	-	—	—	21	
Pus for organisms	-	-	—	—	23	
Vaccines	-	-	—	—	17	
Chemical exam. of urines	-	-	—	—	4	
Typing of pneumococci	-	-	—	—	2	
Bacteriological exam. of waters	-	-	—	—	20	
Bacteriological exam. of milks	-	-	—	—	6	95
TUBERCULOSIS—						
Sputum	-	-	54	110	164	
Urine	-	-	3	14	17	
Pus	-	-	1	6	7	
Sputum for organisms	-	-	—	—	2	190
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS—						
Guinea pig inoculated with milk deposit for tubercle bacilli	-	-	—	—	1	
Guinea pig inoculated with urine for tubercle bacilli	-	-	—	—	1	2
						548

COUNTY OF BANFF.

LOWER OR BANFF DISTRICT.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1923.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area.—The area of the District is approximately 123,443 acres.

The **Population** of the District for 1923, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 15,193.

The **Births** registered during 1923 amounted to 387, compared with 392 in the previous year. The **BIRTH RATE** per thousand of population was 25·5. The illegitimate birth rate was 15 per cent. of the total births, compared with 13·3 in 1922.

The **Deaths** registered, after making corrections for deaths in institutions, amounted to 211, compared with 195 in the previous year, and gave a **DEATH RATE** of 13·9 per thousand of population. The number of births exceeded the deaths by 176, which number constitutes the **NATURAL INCREASE** in the population.

Age Mortality.—Of the total deaths in 1923, 41 were of infants under twelve months of age. Stated in relation to the births there were 106 **INFANTILE DEATHS** to every thousand children born during the year. The corresponding figure in 1922 was 69. The cause of the deaths of infants under twelve months of age was as follows:—Measles 1, whooping cough 3, influenza 1, tuberculous disease 1, bronchitis 3, pneumonia 3, diarrhoea 2, diseases of early infancy and malformations 20, and other defined diseases 6.

Zymotic Diseases caused 10 deaths, the same number as in the preceding year. Of these deaths 5 were due to measles, 3 to whooping cough, and 2 to diarrhoea. There were no deaths from scarlet fever or diphtheria.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.—The number of cases notified in terms of this Act in recent years is shewn in the following table :—

	Smallpox.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet.	Enteric.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	TOTAL.
1915	...	27	27	1	11	...	66
1916	...	26	24	...	1	...	51
1917	...	8	25	...	5	...	38
1918	...	4	7	1	4	...	16
1919	...	26	29	...	6	...	61
1920	...	33	24	3	6	...	66
1921	...	46	27	...	5	...	78
1922	...	1	17	1	2	...	21
1923	...	13	56	1	4	1	75

During the year 75 notifications were received, compared with 21 in the preceding year. The large increase is mainly due to an epidemic of scarlet fever that occurred in the Enzie district.

Diphtheria, while shewing an increase over the preceding year, occurred only in eight families throughout the District. Single isolated cases were reported in Rathven, Enzie, and Marnoch. Five cases occurred in one family residing near Hilton School, Banff. There was a small outbreak in Forglen parish, confined to families residing within or near the policies of Forglen House. The first case to be notified was a farm servant, who had had a sore throat for some time before notification. Three cases in other two families followed. From enquiries that were made it was ascertained that sore throats, possibly diphtheria, had been present in other families. After notification all necessary precautions were taken, and there was no spread beyond the area mentioned.

Scarlet Fever shewed a considerable increase over the preceding year. There was no epidemic in any part of the area, except in Enzie, where were reported 27 cases, or almost one-half of the total notifications. The outbreak was associated with the children attending Clochan School. When the first two cases were notified the Clochan School was visited, and all the children examined. While on that occasion no definite case of scarlet fever was discovered there were several suspicious cases, and in addition there was a general unhealthiness among the children. There were also children absent who were said to be suffering from sore throats. Closure of the school was followed by excellent results. The spread of the disease was arrested in the more remote parts of the district, and the subsequent cases that were notified had either been infected before closure or resided in Cowfurroch, where the large majority of the cases

occurred. On reopening of the school after three weeks' closure, all the children were again examined, when one boy was found suffering from scarlet fever and excluded. In Rathven parish there were 13 cases in five families, and of these, five occurred in a family at a large dairy supplying milk to Buckie and Portgordon. Very strict precautions were taken and observed against the risk of infecting the milk. In Fordyce parish 4 cases occurred in three families, in one of which the infection was believed to have been brought by a patient recently discharged from an infectious disease hospital in Edinburgh. Two cases were notified in Boyndie parish, one of which was infected when on a visit to a family in Aberdeenshire, where was a case of scarlet fever. Cases occurred in each of the following parishes—Gamrie, Inverkeithny, Marnoch, and Ordiquhill.

Typhoid Fever.—Only one case was notified in the District—an inmate of the Asylum at Ladysbridge.

The Public Health (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, &c.), Regulations (Scotland), 1919.—In terms of these regulations there were notified 9 cases of pneumonia, in the parishes of Alvah, Boyndie, Deskford, Gamrie, Ordiquhill, and Rathven.

No cases of dysentery were notified.

Public Health (Infectious Disease Carriers) Regulations (Scotland), 1921.—These regulations provide that the provision of the Public Health Act, 1897, shall apply to a carrier in like manner as they apply to a person suffering from an infectious disease. For the purpose of the regulations a person is deemed to be a carrier if he has been certified by a medical officer of health and also by one other registered medical practitioner to be such, and to be a danger to others by reason of the probability of spreading infectious disease.

In the report for 1921 it was stated that two female carriers had gone from the Banff District to Glasgow in connection with an investigation into the question of treatment that was being undertaken there by the Medical Research Council. One of these patients after undergoing an operation in Glasgow has remained free from infection for seven months. She has now returned to the county. Specimens of faeces are being sent to Glasgow weekly for examination before finally discharging her as free from infection.

The other patient is still under treatment in Glasgow.

The Public Health (Chickenpox) Regulations (Scotland), 1923.—These regulations came into operation in July

and provided for the notification of all cases of Chickenpox from that date up to 1st January 1924. Ten cases were notified.

The Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations (Scotland), 1918.—One case was reported which made a satisfactory recovery.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Cases of measles occurred practically in every part of the District, and was epidemic in Deskford, Inverkethny, Ordiquhill, and Forglen. The schools of Forglen, Ordiquhill, and Headrooms were closed on account of its prevalence. Measles was the cause of five deaths. Whooping cough had not the same wide distribution. Deskford School was closed on account of an epidemic. Three deaths were registered as due to whooping cough. There was no known prevalence of influenza.

HOSPITALS.

Campbell Hospital.—In this hospital there were isolated from the Banff District 35 patients, of whom 28 suffered from scarlet fever and 7 from diphtheria.

The following table shews the parish or registration district from which the patients were removed :—

1923.						
				Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.
Banff	-	-	-	5	—	—
Boyndie	-	-	-	—	2	—
Enzie	-	-	-	1	16	—
Fordyce	-	-	-	1	4	—
Gamrie	-	-	-	—	2	—
Ordiquhill	-	-	-	—	1	—
Rathven	-	-	-	—	3	—

Rose-Innes Hospital, Aberchirder.—Three cases of diphtheria from Marnoch and Forglen were isolated in this hospital.

General.—For the reception of cases of smallpox, the District Committee owns the Smallpox Hospital at Ladybrae, near Ladysbridge Station, and also has an interest in the emergency hospitals at Portsoy and Buckie.

The Ladybrae Hospital was erected in 1904 during an outbreak of smallpox in the parish of Boyndie, but was never occupied. The buildings have been maintained in a good state of repair, but have never been provided with such sanitary arrangements as sinks, water closets, and drainage, without which the hospital could be conducted only at very

great inconvenience. It is very desirable that this matter should be dealt with. The sinks and water closets could be put in at reasonable cost, and the question of drainage does not appear to present any serious difficulty.

The motor ambulance at the Campbell Hospital continues to give great satisfaction. The Rose-Innes Hospital, Aberchirder, is provided with a horse ambulance.

For the disinfection of infected articles the Campbell Hospital is provided with a Thresh steam disinfecter. Infected articles are brought to the hospital along with the patient and are returned, after disinfection, by rail to the nearest railway station.

The Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland), 1923.—For the purpose of these Regulations the District Committee appointed the Medical Officer of Health as District Meat Inspector and the Sanitary Inspector as Detention Officer. No action was taken under the Regulations, these appointments having been made towards the end of the year.

Housing, &c., Act, 1923.—One of the principal provisions of this Act relates to a Government subsidy of £6 for twenty years to local authorities towards their expenses in assisting the construction of houses in their area. The houses in respect of which a subsidy is payable must conform to certain types and sizes. The Banff District Committee resolved to give a grant of a lump sum of £75 payable on completion of the house. The Committee's scheme was advertised, but only one application has yet been received.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations (Scotland) (Scotland), 1923.—These Regulations deal with the labelling and composition of Condensed Milk. The Medical Officer of Health and any person authorised by him or by the Local Authority may procure any sample of Condensed Milk. Three kinds of offences may require to be dealt with :—

1. There may be an obvious failure to comply with some provision in regard to labelling.
2. The Condensed Milk may fail to comply with the appropriate standard of composition.
3. The label may contain an inaccurate statement of the equivalent quantity of milk contained in the tin.

No samples had been taken up to the end of the year.

Special Drainage Districts.—There are two Special Drainage Districts, viz., Portgordon and Gardenstown. The only other populous place in the district that has not been

formed into a special drainage district is the village of Whitehills, which has not progressed in the matter of sanitation at the same rate as other fishing villages on the coast. The old drains are being used to convey sewage from water closets and sinks. Complaints of choked drains and offensive smells from gully openings are fairly frequent. It is very satisfactory that during the current year steps are being taken to have the village formed into a Special Drainage District.

Slaughter-Houses.—There is only one licensed slaughter-house in the district—at Portgordon. With the exception of Portgordon, there are no slaughter-houses in the coast villages, meat being brought into them from the neighbouring burghs. There are no special arrangements for the systematic inspection of meat in slaughter-houses and butchers' shops, inspections being made as opportunities occur.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—The number of workshops on the register at the close of 1923 was 107. This number included 7 retail bakehouses. During the year the Sanitary Inspector made 142 inspections of workshops, and dealt with 4 defects, all of which were removed.

COUNTY OF BANFF.

UPPER OR KEITH DISTRICT.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1923.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area.—The area of the District is approximately 277,000 acres.

The **Population** of the District, as estimated by the Registrar-General, was 10,674.

The **Births** registered during 1923 amounted to 281, compared with 250 in 1922. The **BIRTH RATE** per thousand of population was 26·3 in 1923 and 22·4 in 1922. The illegitimate birth rate was 17·4 per cent. of the total births.

The **Deaths** registered, after making corrections for deaths in institutions, amounted to 160, compared with 150 in the preceding year, and gave a **DEATH RATE** of 15 per thousand of population. The number of births exceeded the deaths by 121, which number constitutes the **NATURAL INCREASE** of the population.

Age Mortality.—Of the total deaths in 1923, 22 were of infants under twelve months of age. Stated in relation to the births there were 78 **INFANTILE DEATHS** to every thousand children born during the year. The corresponding figure in 1922 was 64. The cause of the deaths of infants under twelve months of age was as follows:—Pneumonia 5, diarrhoea 4, prematurity and malformations 8, violence 2, and other diseases 3.

Zymotic Diseases caused 5 deaths, of which 1 was due to enteric fever and 4 to diarrhoea. There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, or diphtheria.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.—The number of cases notified in terms of this Act in recent years is shewn in the following table :—

	Smallpox.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	TOTAL.
1915	...	46	41	1	10	...	101
1916	...	16	26	...	3	1	46
1917	...	16	26	...	4	...	46
1918	...	15	7	3	4	...	29
1919	...	8	19	...	3	1	31
1920	...	12	26	...	4	...	42
1921	...	9	21	...	2	...	32
1922	...	6	6	...	1	...	13
1923	...	2	6	3	...	...	11

The total number of notifications received during the year was 11 compared with 13 in the preceding year, and is the lowest number recorded since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act in 1891.

Two cases of diphtheria were notified—one in the parish of Rothiemay and one in Tomintoul.

Only six cases of scarlet fever were reported, three of which occurred in one family in Botriphnie. One case was notified in Keith parish, one in Boharm, and one in Grange. The patient in the parish of Keith was by private agreement treated in the Turner Memorial Hospital, Keith.

Three cases of typhoid fever were notified in one family in the parish of Inveravon. They were removed to the Isolation Hospital, Dufftown, where one of the patients died of the disease. The source of infection was carefully investigated, and was believed to be a typhoid carrier that had suffered from the disease two years ago.

There were no notifications of erysipelas or of puerperal fever.

The Public Health (Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery, &c.), Regulations (Scotland), 1919.—In terms of these regulations there were reported 8 cases of pneumonia.

The Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations (Scotland), 1918.—No cases were notified in 1923.

The Public Health (Chickenpox) Regulations (Scotland), 1923.—In terms of these Regulations, 4 cases of Chickenpox were notified in one family in Boharm. The Regulations ceased to be operative on 31st December 1923.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—There was no general prevalence of the non-notifiable infectious diseases as measles and whooping cough. Ternemny School was closed on account of an epidemic of measles in Rothiemay.

Joint Hospital, Dufftown.—In this hospital there were isolated 5 patients from the Keith District during 1923.

The following shews the parish or registration district from which patients were removed :—

1923.

			Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.
Boharm	.	.	1	...
Grange	-	-	1	...
Inveravon	-	-	...	3

This hospital is now provided with a motor ambulance, which will greatly add to the efficiency of the hospital, particularly in the transport of patients from more remote parts of the district.

The hospital is provided with a Thresh steam disinfecter.

Special Water Supply Districts.—There are three Special Water Districts in the Keith District, viz. :—Tomintoul, Newmill, and Crannoch. When the Crannoch district was formed in 1922 it was understood that the existing water supply was insufficient for the needs of the district, but it was believed that an augmentation of the supply could be readily obtained on the neighbouring estate of Edingight. During the year 1923, the sub-committee, with the authority of the Edingight Trustees, prospected for water on the Edingight estate in a field adjoining the Crannoch sources of supply, and discovered a spring yielding 5082 gallons per day in the month of July. After negotiations with the Edingight Trustees the sub-committee were able to acquire this spring as an augmentation of the Crannoch supply, on condition that they introduce a water supply from this service to the farm of Wester Crilot, and pay a sum of £1 annually to the Trustees.

Special Drainage Districts.—In response to a requisition from ratepayers in the village of Tomintoul, the District Committee at a meeting in December resolved to form the village of Tomintoul into a Special Drainage District. The sub-committee of the Special District are meantime obtaining plans and specifications of the necessary works.

Housing, &c., Act, 1923.—One of the principal provisions of this Act relates to a Government subsidy of £6 for twenty years to Local Authorities towards their expenses in assisting the construction of houses in their area. The houses in respect of which a subsidy is payable must conform to certain types and sizes. The Keith District Committee resolved to give a grant of a lump sum of £75, payable on completion

of the house. The Committee's scheme was advertised in the local press, but only one application has yet been received.

The Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland), 1923.—For the purpose of Section 7 of these Regulations, the Local Authority appointed the Veterinary Surgeons practising in the area as Meat Inspectors, their remuneration to be 5/- for each inspection, 1/- for report to be sent to the Medical Officer of Health, and third-class railway fare, or 1/4 per mile one way of travelling expenses.

The Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector continue to inspect the private slaughter-houses. As these arrangements were made only towards the end of the year no action was taken under them during 1923.

Slaughter-Houses.—There are three licensed slaughter-houses in the District—one in Tomintoul, one at Marypark, and one at Croftbain. There are no special arrangements for the systematic inspection of meat at slaughter-houses and in butchers' shops, inspections being made as opportunities arise.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations (Scotland) (Scotland), 1923.—These Regulations deal with the labelling and composition of Condensed Milk. The Medical Officer of Health and any person authorised by him or by the Local Authority may procure any sample of Condensed Milk. Three kinds of offences may require to be dealt with :—

1. There may be an obvious failure to comply with some provision in regard to labelling.
2. The Condensed Milk may fail to comply with the appropriate standard of composition.
3. The label may contain an inaccurate statement of the equivalent quantity of milk contained in the tin.

No samples had been taken up to the end of the year.

Offensive Trades.—In addition to the slaughter-houses, the only offensive trade in the district is the knackery at Douglasbrae, Keith. No complaints regarding this business have been received.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—The number of workshops on the register at the close of 1923 was 60, and in this number are included 7 retail bakehouses. The Sanitary Inspector made 56 inspections of workshops, and dealt with 4 defects, which were remedied.

DEATHS BY CAUSE IN THE BANFF AND KEITH DISTRICTS DURING 1923.

	BANFF DISTRICT. 1923	KEITH DISTRICT. 1923.
Enteric Fever	—	1
Typhus Fever	—	—
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	5	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping-cough	3	—
Diphtheria, Croup	—	—
Influenza	2	2
Erysipelas	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	4
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—
Other Tuberculous Disease	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	14	20
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Meningitis	2	—
Apoplexy	22	16
Organic Heart Disease	29	24
Disease of Arteries	—	1
Bronchitis	17	7
Pneumonia (all forms)	14	11
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	2	4
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	1
All Liver Diseases (not Malignant)	1	—
Nephritis, Bright's Disease	5	3
Puerperal Sepsis	1	—
Other Diseases and Accidents of Preg- nancy, &c.,	3	2
Congenital Debility, Malformation, Premature Birth	20	8
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6	6
Suicide	3	—
Other Defined Diseases	45	43
Diseases Ill-defined or Unknown	4	4

