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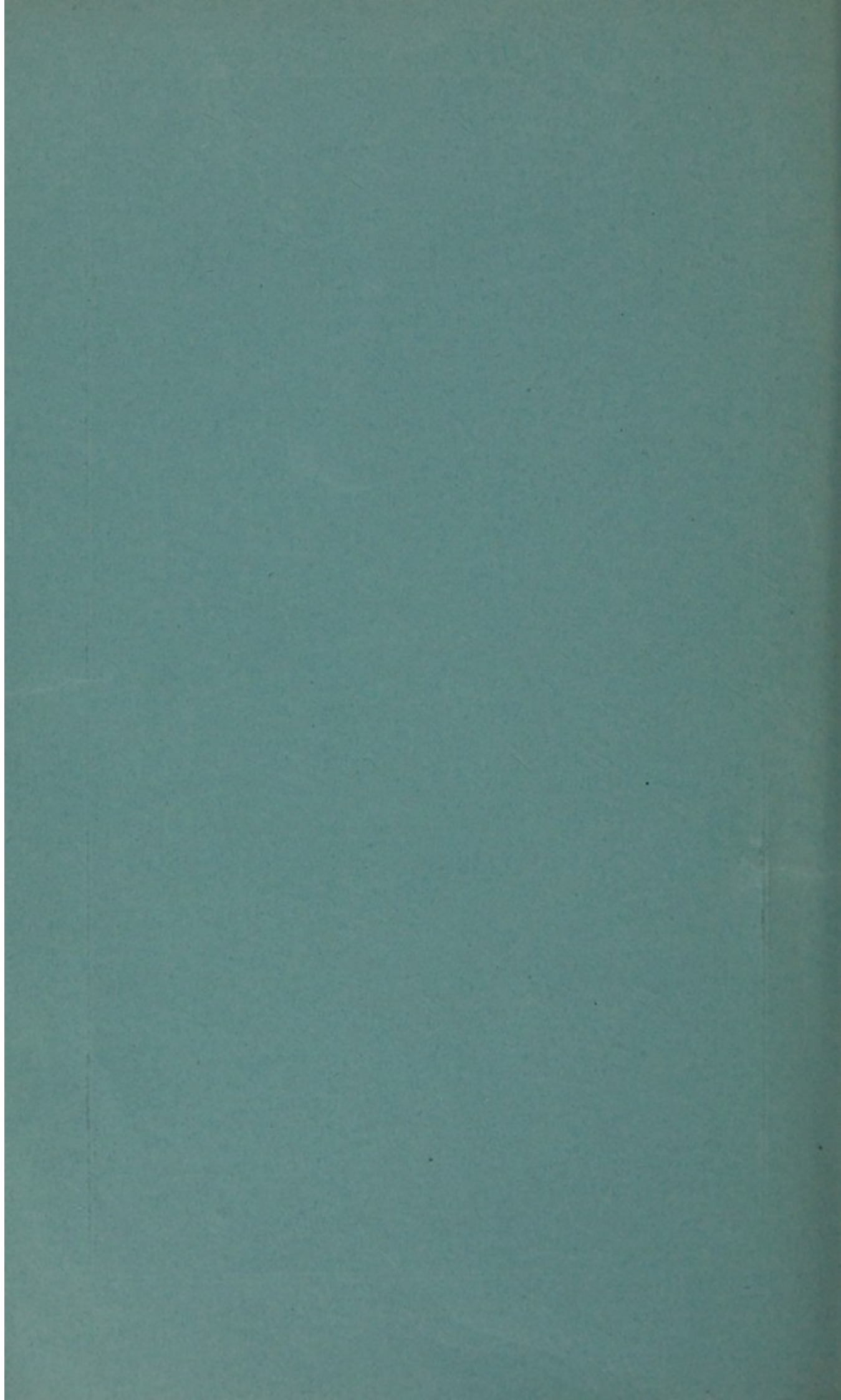
BOROUGH OF ALDERSHOT



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
For the Year 1923.



ALDERSHOT:  
PRINTED BY GALE & POLDEN, LTD.,  
WELLINGTON WORKS.



# ANNUAL REPORT, 1923.

## 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	4178
(Town, 1,432 ; South Camp, 2,746.)	
Population—Census, June 19th, 1921 :—	
	<i>Males.</i> <i>Females.</i> <i>Persons.</i>
Civil Parish ... ..	9,071      10,184      19,255
South Camp ... ..	7,233      2,268      9,501
Estimate of population, 1923 :—	
	28,756
Civilian ... ..	24,329
Military—Officers ... ..	465
Other ranks ... ..	7,424
Women ... ..	568
Children ... ..	942
	9399
Estimated total population of Borough ... ..	33,728
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ... ..	3,964
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ... ..	4,719
Rateable value (1923) ... ..	£165,587 11s. 0d.
Sum represented by a penny rate (General District Rate) ... ..	£556

## 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

<i>(Civilians only.)</i>				
Births :—	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Legitimate ... ..	696	348	348	Birth Rate,
Illegitimate ... ..	28	13	15	22·5.
	724	361	363	
Deaths :—	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	Death Rate,
	238	124	114	9·8.
(England and Wales :—Birth rate, 19·7 ; death rate, 11·6 ; infant mortality rate, 69.)				
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—				
From sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	0
Other causes ... ..	...	...	...	1
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births ... ..	...	...	...	59
(Legitimate, 42 ; illegitimate, 1—total, 43.)				
Deaths from measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	0
Deaths from whooping-cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	...	9
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... ..	...	...	...	3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ALDERSHOT.

(*Civilians only.*)

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
All causes ... ..	124	114
Whooping-cough ... ..	5	4
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1
Influenza ... ..	—	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	11	8
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	19	13
Diabetes ... ..	1	2
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	9	7
Heart disease ... ..	13	18
Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	3	5
Bronchitis ... ..	5	6
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	13	5
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	1	—
Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years) ... ..	1	2
Appendicitis and typhlitis ... ..	5	—
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	1
Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	2	2
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	—	1
Congenital debility and malformation, pre- mature birth ... ..	11	12
Suicide ... ..	3	—
Other deaths from violence ... ..	4	1
Other defined diseases ... ..	15	24
Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	1	—
Deaths of infants { Total ... ..	22	21
under one year { Illegitimate ... ..	—	1
TOTAL BIRTHS ... ..	361	363
Legitimate ... ..	348	348
Illegitimate ... ..	13	15
POPULATION for birth rate ... ..	...	30,920
for death rate ... ..	...	24,329

### 3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1923.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Scarlet fever ... ..	27	26	—
Diphtheria ... ..	4	4	1
Enteric fever (para- typhoid)	1	1	—
Erysipelas ... ..	5	—	—
Tuberculosis (pulmonary)	25	—	—
Tuberculosis (non- pulmonary)	11	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica ...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	2	1	—

#### ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	-1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+
27 Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	2	16	7	1	—	—	—	—
4 Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
1 Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5 Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1
Tuberculosis												
25 (a) Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	14	4	3	1
11 (b) Non- Pulmonary	—	—	2	—	1	3	1	2	1	1	—	—
1 Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
2 Ophthalmia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

#### ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL DEATHS FROM ABOVE DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
----------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

<i>Age Periods.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary.</i>		<i>Pulmonary.</i>		<i>Non-pulmonary.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1
5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	1	3	1	1	1	1	—	—
20	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
25	6	5	—	—	2	4	—	—
35	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
45	2	2	—	—	3	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	13	12	4	7	11	8	1	1

(1) The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is 1 : 1. There is no inefficiency of notification.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

<i>Cases.</i>			<i>Vision Unimpaired.</i>	<i>Deaths.</i>
<i>Notified.</i>	<i>Treated.</i>			
	<i>At Home.</i>	<i>In Hospital.</i>		
2	1	1	2	0

4. CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There have been no specially noteworthy causes of sickness and invalidity during 1923. On the other hand, the year 1923 establishes a record in respect to freedom both from infectious diseases and from general causes of sickness.

5. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

A District Nurse, supported by a voluntary society, is available for nursing in general cases. The Health Visitor (Miss Carswell) visits in connection with the Notification of Births Act and other ancillary work. The County Council nurses visit cases of tuberculosis.

MIDWIVES.

Eight midwives practise in the Borough. None are employed or subsidized by the Local Authority.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Nature of Accommodation.</i>	<i>Provided by</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare	"Llantrissant," Church Lane	Ample	Borough Council.
Day Nursery	Do.	12	Do.
School Clinic	Do.	Ample	Educ. Committee.
Tuberculosis	Victoria Road	Do.	County Council.
Venereal Diseases	Do.	Do.	Do.





The total attendances numbered 1,579, the average attendance being 32.

Deaths of infants under 1 year :—

Town	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
South Camp	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Infirmary	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
In institutions away	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
							43

In the course of visiting, the Health Visitor reported 24 cases to the Sanitary Inspector for further investigation, while 4 cases were referred to the Inspector for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

#### CIVIL ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Fifty-four cases were admitted during 1923—namely :—

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Observation cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

Of these 54 cases, 17 patients were admitted from other districts (Hartley Wintney, 13 ; Farnborough, 4).

One death occurred during the year from diphtheria.

*Staff.*—Matron (Miss G. Palmer) and three assistant nurses.

*Accommodation.*—Three isolation blocks with statutory accommodation for 26 patients.

*Repairs done.*—Distemping and papering of seven bedrooms ; linoleum laid in three bedrooms, bathroom, and kitchen ; kitchen range repaired.

*Disinfecting Station.*—The steam disinfector has been used 77 times for the disinfection of 90 separate lots of clothing ; 103 dwelling-houses have been disinfected, the material used being a 6 per cent. solution of formalin.

## 6. LABORATORY WORK.

### PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Throat specimens for suspected diphtheria	69
Sputum specimens for suspected tuberculosis	2
Blood, pus, etc., for suspected various infections	10
Hair, for suspected ringworm	6
Samples of sewage effluent	41
Samples of well water	2
	130

Antitoxin is supplied free to medical practitioners as required.

## 7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT, WITH DATE OF ADOPTION.

<i>Adoptive Acts.</i>	<i>Adopted.</i>
Small Dwellings and Acquisition Acts, 1899 & 1923	1923
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	1891
Private Street Works Act, 1892	1910
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	1913
<b>Part 2. Streets and Buildings.</b>	
Sanitary Provisions.	
Infectious Diseases.	
Common Lodging Houses.	
Recreation Grounds.	
Dangerous Riding and Driving (Sect. 79).	
Leading or Driving Animals (Sect. 80).	
Extending Definition of Public Place and Street for Certain Purposes. (Sect. 81).	
Licenses to Porters (Sect. 84).	
Marine Store Dealers (Sect. 86).	
Sky Signs (Sect. 86).	
Purchase of Lands (Sect. 95).	
<i>Bye-Laws.</i>	<i>Adopted.</i>
Pleasure Grounds	1922
Employment of Children	1915
Cleansing of Footways, Pavement, and Cesspools	1887
Common Lodging-Houses	1887
Hackney Carriages	1916
Houses let in Lodgings	1908
Mortuary	1888
New Streets and Buildings	1914
Nuisances	1887
Offensive Trades	1915
Slaughter-houses	1887
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	1907

Regulations are in force in the district in respect to :

Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-shops ... .. 1900

It has been decided to adopt new slaughter-house bye-laws, including Clause 9 (b) of the Model Bye-Laws.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR, AND ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS OR BYE-LAWS MENTIONED.

Number of visits to houses *re*—

Infectious diseases ... ..	22
Complaints received ... ..	238
Ordinary and re-inspections ... ..	948
Overcrowding ... ..	39

Number of visits to—

Slaughter-houses ... ..	124
Food premises ... ..	653
Lodging-houses ... ..	112
Works in progress ... ..	376
Workshops ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	11
Ice-cream premises ... ..	3
Dairies, cow-sheds, and milk-shops ... ..	17

Number of visits *re*—

Offensive accumulations ... ..	24
Offensive trades ... ..	3
Drains subjected to smoke test (number of houses) ... ..	49

The following defective conditions have been remedied and improvements effected :—

Defective drains ... ..	32
Choked drains ... ..	25
Broken w.c. pans ... ..	21
Defective w.c. flushing pipes ... ..	10
Foul w.c. pans ... ..	10
Defective w.c. flushing cisterns ... ..	30
Dilapidated w.c.'s ... ..	65
Defective scullery sink wastepipes ... ..	4
Defective gulley channels ... ..	36
Insanitary scullery sinks ... ..	22
Defective or insufficient yard pavements ... ..	98
Defective or insufficient eaves gutters ... ..	45
Defective and leaky house roofs ... ..	95
Improper water supply ... ..	2
Damp house walls ... ..	157
Dirty and insanitary walls and ceilings (rooms) ... ..	541

Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	23
Defective or unopenable windows	...	...	...	...	362
Broken wall and ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	222
Defective house floors	...	...	...	...	102
Defective scullery floor	...	...	...	...	57
Insufficient and defective urinals	...	...	...	...	10
Defective fire-grates	...	...	...	...	95
Insanitary pigsties	...	...	...	...	4
Obstructions in chimney flues	...	...	...	...	16
Nuisances from fish-frying	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances from dirty bedding	...	...	...	...	3
Defective reveals to doors and windows	...	...	...	...	29
Defective stair-steps	...	...	...	...	19
Handrails to stairs provided	...	...	...	...	25
Dilapidated washing coppers	...	...	...	...	8
Defective and insufficient down-pipes	...	...	...	...	18
Defective doors	...	...	...	...	37
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	29

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

Within the Borough there are four cowsheds (accommodating 80 cows), 9 dairies, and 33 milkshops, under inspection. Generally the bye-laws are well observed.

Two dealers' licences and one supplementary licence to sell milk as "Certified" were granted during the year, under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

#### REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE (PROVISION OF SUITABLE COVERED RECEPTACLES.

(*Sect. 36, Public Health Act, 1875, as amended by Sect. 11, Public Health Act, 1890*).

In the latter part of the year the Borough Council passed a resolution to enforce rigorously the provisions of the above Acts. Hitherto quite 90 per cent. of the houses in Aldershot have been content with old boxes, broken buckets, and all kinds of uncovered receptacles, for the purpose of depositing the household refuse for removal by the Surveyor: such arrangements were not only discreditable to the town from the point of view of general cleanliness, order, and appearance, but they always constituted, in my opinion, a continual standing menace to the public health. In future the owner of every house is bound, under the penalties of the Act, to provide a proper sanitary dustbin.

With the exception of ten houses situate in the outlying parts of the town, the whole of the Borough is on the separate water carriage system.

Legal proceedings were instituted in one instance only in respect of the non-compliance with statutory notice under the Public Health Act, and was adjourned for a week.

At the adjourned hearing the case was withdrawn, the required work having been carried out. The owner was fined 10s.

Two appeals under the Housing Acts, 1919, were made to the Ministry of Health in connection with one and four houses respectively. In the former the appeal was dismissed, and the appeal in the latter case was upheld, resulting in the closing of the four houses.

The necessary notices to quit have been served on the occupying tenants, but, owing to the difficulty of their obtaining other houses, no further drastic action has yet been taken.

#### FOOD INSPECTION.

The following summary shows the amount of foodstuff voluntarily surrendered and destroyed after inspection. In no case was it necessary to obtain a magistrate's order.

Nine carcasses of pork	...	...	...	1,704 lbs.
Parts of carcasses of pork	...	...	...	729 „
One beef carcass	...	...	...	700 „
Parts of beef carcasses	...	...	...	334 „
60 dozen cabbages.				
365 eggs.				

#### NUMBER AND CONDITION OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Registered or Licensed.</i>	<i>Condition.</i>
Ash Road (one) ...	Registered ...	Satisfactory.
Brighton Road (two) ...	Licensed ...	Satisfactory.
North Town (one) ...	Licensed ...	Satisfactory.

A certain quantity of pork is brought into the town week by week, having been slaughtered and prepared outside the Borough and on unlicensed premises.

Although this practice is to be deprecated, it is a difficult one to prevent, especially in the absence of a public abattoir.

The question of a public abattoir again was considered by the Council, and after considerable discussion was deferred, owing to the unwillingness expressed by the butchers in the town of making use of such a building when erected.

#### 8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:*  
E. W. Routley, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., Gold Medallist in Bacteriology, Guy's Hospital.

*Sanitary Inspector, Shops Act Inspector, and Hackney Carriage Inspector* : F. Whitehead, M.S.I.A., R.S.I. Certificate for Sanitary Inspectors, R.S.I. Certificate for Meat and Food Inspectors.

*Health Visitor* : Miss M. Carswell, Certificated Nurse.

## 9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—						
(1) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	0
1. Unfit dwelling-houses :—						
Inspection :—						
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	546
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	173
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	542
2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices :—						
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	367
3. Action under Statutory Powers :—						
(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	113
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	56
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	4
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	54
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	52
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 :—	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

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### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The rainfall in 1923 was exceptionally high, amounting to 34 inches at the Ash Road station.





