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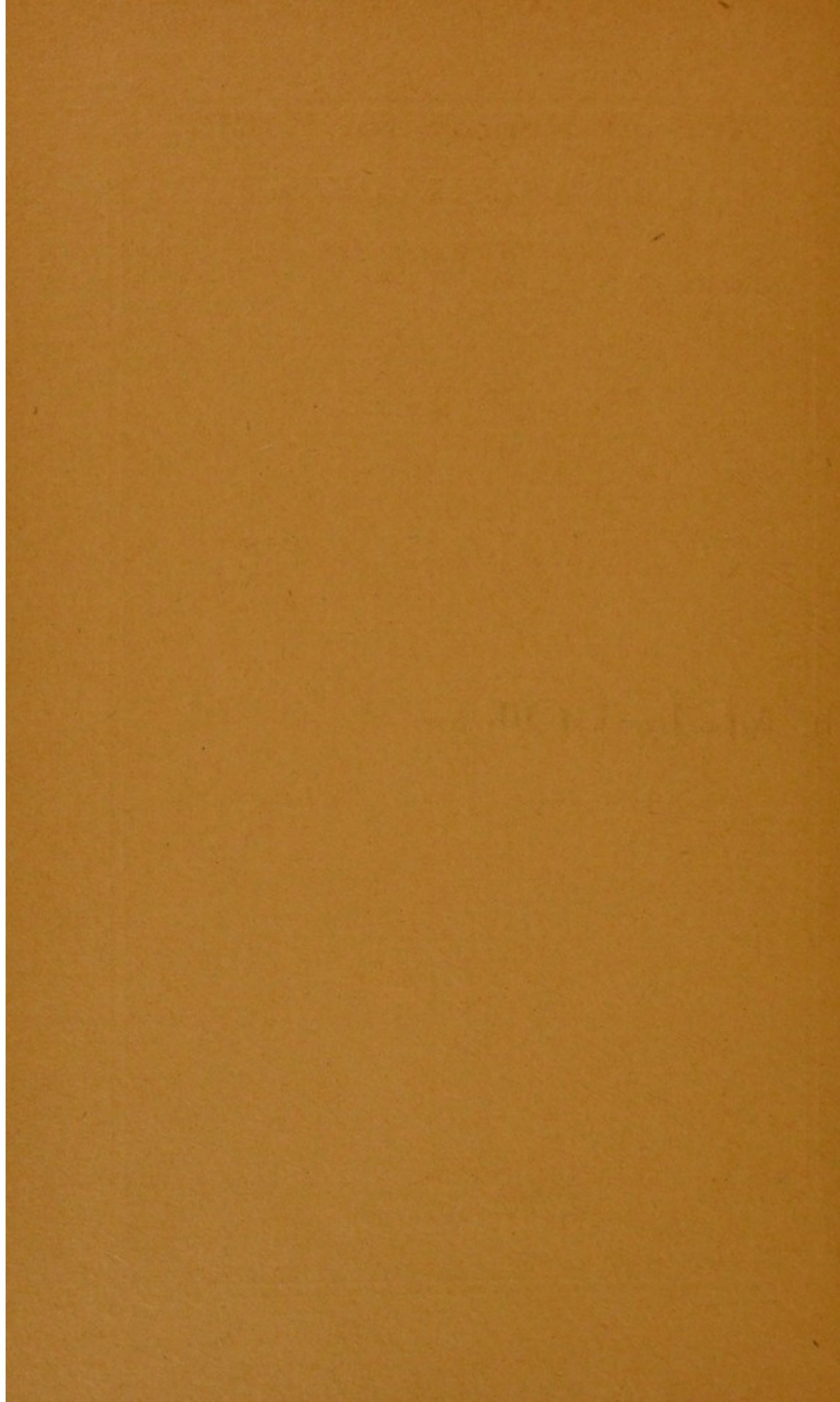
BOROUGH OF ALDERSHOT.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1925.



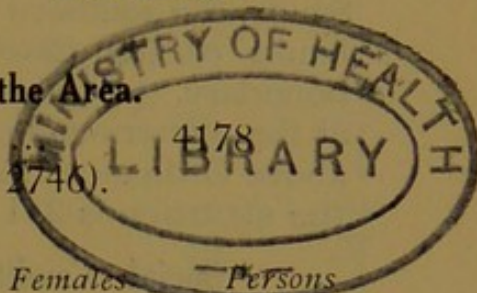
ALDERHOT
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Annual Report for 1925.

1. Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)
(Civil Area 1432 : South Camp 1746).



Population—Census (June 19th, 1921):—

		Males	Females	Persons
Civil Parish	...	9071	10,184	19,255
South Camp	...	7233	2268	9501
Total		16,304	12,452	28,756

Owing to the fluctuating character of the population, it becomes increasingly difficult year by year in the inter-censal periods to estimate with any great accuracy the number of the inhabitants of the Civil Parish. Making allowance for the various factors however, I estimate the Civil Area Population at 21,500. By the courtesy of the Deputy Director of Medical Services, I am able to give the average population for 1925 of the South Camp :

Officers	...	691
Other Ranks	...	11,885
Women	...	1370
Children	...	2170
		16,116

Civilians (including employees of the Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes) residing in Barracks :

Men	...	100
Women	...	170
Children	...	200
		470
Total	...	16,586

The estimate of the Population for the entire Borough for 1925 is as follows :

Civil Parish	...	21,500
South Camp	...	16,586
		38,086

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	3964
Number of Families or separate occupiers	...	4719
Rateable Value, 1925	...	£167,950
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	£565

Geological Conditions.—The northern portion of the district is situated on the Lower, Middle and Upper Bagshot Sands, the southern portion rests on London Clay. Along the banks of the Blackwater River, which forms the Eastern boundary, the soil is alluvial. The highest point in the town is at the western end of Alexandra Road, an elevation of 393 feet above Ordnance Datum ; at the lowest point, the Sewage Works, the elevation is 231 feet.

Social Conditions.—The chief occupations of the inhabitants are the ordinary trading businesses and the letting of lodgings. There are few factories and comparatively few workshops. The population includes a large number of ex-soldiers and their families, living entirely, or supplementarily on their pensions.

Amount of Poor Law Relief.—The sum of £5048 4s. 11½d. was expended on Out-Door Relief in Aldershot in 1925.

Births.—766 births (Males 390 ; Females 376) were registered as belonging to the Borough : 27 of these births (3·5 per cent.) being illegitimate. The birth rate for the Borough was therefor 20·5 per 1000 of the population : this is in slight excess over the birth rate for England and Wales, which was 18·3.

Deaths.—352 deaths were registered of Civilians (Male 130 ; Females 132). The death rate is accordingly 10·4 per 1000, which compares favourably with the death rate for the whole country which was 12·2.

Infant Mortality.—36 Infants under one year of age (two of whom were illegitimate) died during the year. The Infant mortality rate works out therefore at 47 per 1000, which is the lowest rate on record for the district, the corresponding rate for England and Wales being 75.

The Infant Mortality Rate denotes the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1000 births in the particular year. This rate for the last seven years for Aldershot is as follows :—

1919 ... 86	1922 ... 55	1924 ... 63
1920 ... 61	1923 ... 59	1925 ... 47
1921 ... 61		

Causes of Death in Aldershot (Civilians only).

	<i>Causes of Death.</i>			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
All causes	...	...	...	130	132
Measles	...	...	...	1	—
Whooping cough	...	...	...	5	4

<i>Causes of Death (continued).</i>				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	2
Influenza	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	14	7
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	7	4
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	15	15
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	4
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	6	9
Heart disease	...	...	...	14	20
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	2	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	8
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	—
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhœa, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2	5
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	2	1
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	1	—
Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	2	4
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	8	8
Suicide	...	...	...	—	1
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	5	3
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	20	23
				—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{	Total	...	17	19
		Illegitimate	...	1	1
				—	—
Total Births	...	...	...	390	376
				—	—
Legitimate	...	...	...	374	365
Illegitimate	...	...	...	16	11
				—	—
Population	...	...	For Birth Rate	...	37,220
			For Death Rate	...	25,380

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR OTHERWISE.

- | | | | |
|----|--------------|-------|--|
| 1. | Tuberculosis | None. | |
| 2. | Maternity | ... | Military Lying-in Hospital. |
| 3. | Children | ... | Cottage Hospital (6 beds). |
| 4. | Fever | ... | Civil and Military Isolation Hospitals |
| 5. | Smallpox | ... | Corrugated iron building in North Lane (8 beds), maintained by County Council. |
| 6. | Other | ... | Cottage Hospital (17 beds).
Cambridge Hospital (Military). |

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the district.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) For fever cases : Motor Ambulance, by arrangement with Farnborough District Council.
- (b) Accidents and sickness : Town Motor ambulance.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Nature of Accommodation.</i>	<i>Provided by</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare	10 Grosvenor Road	Ample	Borough Council.
School Clinic	do.	Ample	Educ. Committee.
Tuberculosis	59 Victoria Road	do.	County Council.
Venereal Diseases	do.	do.	do.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Assistant Tuberculosis Officer (County Council), E. W. Routley, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., Gold Medallist in Bacteriology Guys Hospital.

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

Health Visitor : Miss M. Carswell, Certificated Nurse.

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.—Ten Midwives were practising in the Borough in 1925. None is employed or subsidised by the Local Authority.

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 Disease Prevention Act, 1890	1891
Private Street Works Act, 1892	1910
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890	1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	1913
Part 2. Street and Buildings.	
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).	
Licences 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	1924
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	1907
Regulations are in force in the district in respect to :	
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	1900

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Water.—This is supplied by a Public Company from a series of Artesian Well sunk in the chalk at Boxall's Lane. The water is hard but is of great purity ; the supply is constant, and with few exceptions is supplied directly to the houses.

Sewers.—The district is generally sewered or drained on the dual principle, namely, Soil and Surface Water Sewers.

The Soil Sewers collect the sewage proper and the rainwater from the backs of the dwelling-houses and other buildings in the district, and the surface water sewers take the rainfall falling on the front roofs of premises and the highways.

The Soil Sewers at their outfalls discharge into sumps at the Sewage Works and the Surface Water Sewers discharge into the nearest stream.

The Surface Water Sewers are generally satisfactory but occasionally sewers laid at shallow depths are met with crushed in owing to the increase in the weight of traffic and it is then necessary to relay the sewer to protect them with a cover of concrete. With regard to the Soil Sewers the same remarks occasionally apply as to the Surface Water Sewers. The Soil Sewers allow of considerable infiltration of subsoil water and naturally finds its way to the disposal works necessitating treatment.

With regard to the Sewage Works, I do not think I can do better than quote your Surveyor's remarks on the condition of the Works generally :—

“ Briefly summarizing the utility of the existing plant, the detritus tank
“ is incorrectly designed, no provision being made for the screening of
“ the sewage or removal of detritus, and it now only accumulates a small
“ proportion of the mineral matter mixed with putrefying organic matter,
“ and so cannot be said to be effecting any material useful purpose.
“ Secondly, dealing with the three sedimentation tanks, these were never
“ designed for the particular purpose for which they are now used, and
“ it is only within the last few years that the bottoms were regraded in
“ order to assist when the sludge is being swept to the centre of the tank
“ to the outlet provided for its removal. The facilities for removal of the
“ sludge and the design of the tanks not satisfactory, and no provision is
“ made for draining off the supernatant water, resulting in over 130,000
“ galls. of partly settled sewage having to be run back and mixed with
“ the incoming sewage and re-pumped for further treatment every time
“ a tank is emptied for the purpose of removing the sludge.
“ With reference to the contact beds, of which there are a considerable
“ number, none is provided with under-drainage, many are very
“ shallow (viz : not exceeding 18 ins. in depth), and practically all can be
“ said to be sludged up with foreign matter, the capacity being therefore
“ seriously diminished. This condition is due to various causes, but
“ mainly to the insufficiency of the plant to deal with the quantity of
“ sewage, and it has therefore been impossible for the Works to correctly
“ treat the quantity of sewage in the beds, and they have been made use
“ of as straining filters, with the natural result that as contact beds they
“ are now practically useless, and, to be of any material use require the
“ whole of the media taking out, thoroughly washing and grading : even
“ then their sewage treatment capacity on the contact principle is much
“ too small for the volume of water to be dealt with.
“ Again, the carriers running between the beds are not carriers in the
“ correct sense of the term, but are grips or ditches cut as occasion
“ requires. These act, in my opinion, as humus arrestors, with the result

"that the whole of this matter (which should be removed before reaching the secondary beds) gradually passes along these ditches and is discharged on to the secondary beds in due course.
 "With regard to the storm tank, little can be said in its favour. It is a storage tank and nothing more, and it would be most difficult and costly with the plant available to remove the accumulation of sludge, etc., that is collected.
 "I therefore say that, in my opinion, the plant as now existing is of very little use, but it is possible in time, with judicious expenditure out of revenue to bring it to such a state of efficiency as to be of material assistance."

Scavenging : House Refuse.—The house refuse of the district is collected generally twice a week, once a week in the out districts, and your Surveyor informs me that there appears to be a distinct change in the habits of the people as the quantity of the refuse collected is daily decreasing and its calorific value is becoming less and less. It is difficult to account for this change, but presumably it may be due to the cost of fuel, namely, coal and coke, and further to the increase in the consumption of tinned foods.

With regard to the collection of the refuse, on more than one occasion the question has been raised and the suggestion made that not only should there be more collections a week but that the refuse should be collected from the backs of the premises. With regard to both these questions it is a question of finance, as your Surveyor tells me it is difficult on the last loads of the day's work to make up a full load, with the result that the cost of collection is materially increased by having to cart half loads to the destructor when full loads could be carted in the same time.

With regard to improving the collection in the Town your Surveyor informs me that an experiment is about to be tried by collecting with five vans in lieu of the four previously set aside for this purpose.

Street Cleansing.—18 Sweepers are permanently employed in Street Cleansing, and on the whole this number is believed to be sufficient at the present time. The question of dirt and dust in the air one breathes is, however, one of the most important from the point of view of the Public Health, and I would strongly urge that when new roads are laid down or when existing ones are relaid that an impervious surface, and one that does not easily break up, should be the ideal to be aimed at.

Civil Isolation Hospital, North Town, Aldershot.

59 patients were admitted during 1925, classified as below :

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Enteric.	Observation
Aldershot Cases	16	12	—	—	—
Cases from other Districts	9	18	1	1	2
	25	30	1	1	2

The Staff consists of Matron, three Assistant Nurses, Porter, Cook, and Laundry Maid. The steam disinfecter in use is the Washington Lyon modified type, built by Goddard, Massey & Warner.

During the year the Disinfecter was used 75 times ; 79 separate lots of clothing were passed through it ; 111 dwelling-houses were disinfected for modified diseases.

The disinfecting solution used is a 6 per cent. solution of commercial Formalin.

The establishment consists of an Administrative Block, two principal Isolation Blocks ; two spare single Observation Wards ; Discharge block ; Laundry Disinfecting block ; there is no Mortuary. The ceilings in all the Blocks were whitewashed, the walls in Discharge Block painted, and all buildings painted outside. There is a statutory accommodation for 26 patients in Hospital.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Disease.

The table below gives an analysis of notifications received during the five preceding years :

(CIVIL AREA ONLY).

			1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Diphtheria	...	...	20	6	4	20	16
Scarlet Fever	...	..	27	39	27	28	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	29	23	25	21	26
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1	9	11	13	13
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—	1	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	1	—	1	—	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	1	—	1	—
Encephal Letharg	...	...	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorun	...	...	—	—	2	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	1	—
Potromyctitis	...	...	—	—	—	1	—

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens.

These are examined by myself at the Laboratory, and during the year the following have been examined :

Specimens for suspected Diphtheria	...	...	130
" Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	1
" Tuberculosis	...	...	4
" Infective Endocarditis	...	...	3
" Other morbid conditions	...	...	6
Samples of Sewage Effluent	...	...	43

The tests known as the Schiek and Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively have not been employed. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners, and has been used promptly by them in all suspicious cases. No "return" cases of Scarlet Fever were noted during the year.

No Primary Vaccination or Re-vaccination have been performed by me under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

Non-Notifiable Infection Diseases.

The notifications which I receive from the School Teachers concerning non-attendance owing to the common diseases, enables one to give a general, although not a complete, idea of the occurrence of epidemic disease. Thus in January and February, Mumps and Influenza were very prevalent. In April, May, June and July, a large number of cases of Whooping Cough were reported. After this there appeared to be a complete freedom until the month of December, when a very extensive epidemic of Measles occurred simultaneously in the Town and in the Camp.

Local Medical Practitioners have reported the occurrence all through 1925 by a large number (which I compute roughly at 100) of cases of epidemic Jaundice. This complaint was manifested by slight pyrexia, lassitude, jaundice and nausea; and in some cases abdominal symptoms with tenderness in the region of the gall bladder were observed. The illness in all cases was of a mild nature, lasting two to three weeks, affecting persons of all ages, but particularly children and young adults.

Notified Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified (Civil Area).	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths (Civil Area).
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	19	17	—
Diphtheria	16	12	2
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	13
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Ophthalmia Neon	2	—	—

In addition to the above, 9 Scarlet Fever; 1 Erysipelas; 1 Diphtheria, were notified in the South Camp. One death from Diphtheria also occurred in the South Camp.

Analysis of Cases under Age Groups.

Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.	
Age.		Age.	
4—5	2	2—3	1
5—10	11	3—4	2
10—15	4	5—10	7
20—35	1	10—15	5
35—45	1	45—65	1
—	19	—	16
—	—	—	—

Analysis of Deaths under Age Groups.

Diphtheria ... Age ... 5—10 2

Notified Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	28	26	—
Diphtheria	17	14	3
Enteric Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	13
Erysipelas	4	—	—
Ophthalmia	2	—	—

The above statement includes cases of civilians in Military Quarters, namely, 9 cases, 7 Scarlet Fever, 1 of Diphtheria, 1 of Erysipelas.

Tuberculosis. (New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1— 5	—	—	3	—	—	—	6	2
5—10	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	1	—	3	—	2	—	—
20—25	1	3	—	1	—	1	1	—
25—35	1	3	—	1	3	—	—	—
35—45	2	3	—	—	5	2	—	—
45—55	2	3	—	—	3	2	—	—
55—65	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Totals	10	16	6	7	14	7	7	4

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

There have been no reported cases of tuberculosis employees in the milk trade and therefore no action has been necessary under these regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925.—Sect. 62.

No action has been taken by the Borough Council under this section during 1925.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Ten Midwives were on the Local Register as practising in the district during 1925. The appliances, bags, and books of every midwife are inspected once a quarter, and at such other times as may be necessary.

The following is a summary of the cases attended by the Midwives in 1925.

The reference to letters are as follows :

- A. Total number of cases attended.
- B. " " " solely as Midwife.
- C. Number of Infants nursed at breast at close of attendance.
- D. Number of still births attended.
- E. Cases in which medical help was advised.

N.B.—Registered Births in the Borough in 1925—766, of which number 358 (302 in the Louise Margaret Hospital, and 56 in Military Quarters) took place in South Camp.

Midwife No.	A	B	C	D	E
1	65	60	60	3	18
2	21	14	20	—	2
3	47	46	44	—	5
4	14	11	14	—	3
5	16	15	14	—	—
6	59	52	56	3	10
7	90	25	86	3	24
8	31	25	30	1	1
9	22	22	19	2	8
10	38	33	35	3	16
	403	363			87

The County Council has recently instituted an Insurance Scheme, which, it is hoped, will have good results. On payment of a small sum (5/-) all expectant mothers can insure against the payment for assistance of a medical man, if it should be necessary to summon one during pregnancy or at the actual confinement. The County Medical Officer has supplied me with all the necessary circulars and literature dealing with the subject and I have distributed them to all the Midwives in the Borough.

The Child Welfare is held at 10 Grosvenor Road, on Mondays 2 to 4.30 p.m. The Health Visitor (Miss Carswell) visits the homes of infants after the Midwife has ceased her attendance, and also keeps in touch with children until the age of 5. Investigations are made in all cases of still births, infant and maternal deaths. In 1925, 14 cases of still-born children were reported on by the Nurse. In 13 cases a free supply of milk has been granted to nursing mothers where the domestic circumstances appeared to demand it.

The following table shows, in regular form, the work done during 1925 :—

1st visits paid to children under 1 year	-	-	417
Total visits paid to children under 1 year	-	-	1959
Visits paid to children 1 to 5 years	-	-	895
Total visits paid to children	-	-	2854
Number of individual children who have attended Welfare Centre	-	-	221
Number of individual mothers who have attended Welfare Centre	-	-	201
Total attendances of children at Welfare Centre	-	-	1303
Average attendance of children at Welfare Centre	-	-	29
Infant Welfare Centre.—Mondays 2 to 4.30 p.m.			
Number of sessions during year	-	-	46
Number of dwelling-houses reported to Sanitary Inspector	-	-	27
Cases reported to N.S.P.C.C. for investigation	-	-	2

Dried Milk, Virol, and Ovaltine, is sold to Mothers, at Welfare Centre at cost price, in certain necessitous cases.

Many thanks are due to Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Franklin for voluntary help at the Welfare Centre during the year.

Number of Births Notified—1925.

	<i>Town.</i>		<i>South Camp.</i>	
	<i>Living.</i>	<i>Stillborn.</i>	<i>Living.</i>	<i>Stillborn.</i>
Doctors	44	—	302	3
Midwives	342	14	56	1
Total	386	14	358	4

The figure 302 in table above refers mainly to the number of babies belonging to the Borough which were born at the Louise Margaret Hospital. 177 of these had addresses in the Town and 125 in the South Camp. Thus out of the 766 registered births in the Borough in 1925, roughly 181 belonged to the South Camp and the remainder 585 to the Town.

Summary of Local Meteorological Conditions in 1925.

The year was one of exceptionally heavy rainfall in every month with the exception of March and June. The total rainfall reached 33·9 inches. The mean temperature of the year was 4·86.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of visits to houses re

Infectious diseases	...	..	26
Complaints received	...	...	292
Overcrowding	...	...	54
Ordinary and re-inspections	...	...	694

Number of visits to

Slaughterhouses	...	...	260
Food premises	...	...	800
Lodging-houses	...	...	154
Works in progress	...	...	249
Workshops	...	...	13
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	60
Caravans	...	...	9
Ice Cream premises	...	...	16
Bakehouses	...	...	18

Number of visits re

Offensive accumulations	...	...	33
Keeping of animals	...	...	16
Drains subjected to Smoke Test (number of houses)	...	...	25

CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF DEFECTS AND NUISANCES DISCOVERED.

Broken drain inspection covers	...	9
Defective drains	...	27
Choked drains	...	112
Broken W.C. pans	...	7
Dilapidated W.C.'s	...	11
Foul W.C. pans	...	12
Defective W.C. flushing pipes	...	7
Defective W.C. flushing cisterns	...	13
Defective scullery sink wastepipes	...	11
Defective gully channels	...	18
Insanitary scullery sinks	...	8
Defective or insufficient yard pavements	...	22
Defective or insufficient eaves gutters	...	22
Defective and leaky house roofs	...	81
Improper water supply	...	6
Damp house walls	...	82
Dirty and insanitary walls and ceilings (rooms)	...	247
Keeping of animals	...	17
Offensive accumulations	...	32
Defective or unopenable windows	...	64
Broken and perished wall and ceiling plaster	...	93
Defective house floors	...	28

Defective scullery floors	...	...	21
Defective firegrates	...	...	52
Defective reveals to doors and windows	...	...	35
Handrails to stairs provided	...	...	19
Dilapidated washing coppers	...	...	14
Defective downpipes	...	...	10
Defective doors	...	...	53
Overcrowded houses	...	...	18
Insufficient ashpit accommodation	...	...	180
Broken and Overflowing wastepipes	...	...	3
Verminous bedding	...	...	2
Gully traps provided to drains	...	...	13
Broken or defective W.C. syphons	...	...	5
Defective or broken W.C. seatings	...	...	10
Insanitary pigsties	...	...	2
Defective skirting boards	...	...	4
Defective hearths	...	...	6
Insufficient, foul or defective urinals	...	...	2
Defective steps leading to houses	...	...	6
Dilapidated and dangerous fences	...	...	2
Pooling of rainwater	...	...	2
Dirty condition of houses	...	...	11
Contravention of Public Health (Meat)			
Regulations, 1924	...	...	4
Obstructions in chimney flues	...	...	4
Broken window sash cords	...	...	69
Defective stair steps	...	...	5
Dirty bedding	...	...	2
Chimney pots provided	...	...	2
Nuisances from fish frying	...	...	8
Miscellaneous	...	...	29

Number of Notices served during the year :—

Statutory	...	...	263
Preliminary	...	...	470

The required works have been carried out as the result of such service as follows :—

Statutory	...	...	249
Preliminary	...	...	460

Smoke Abatement. No nuisance has occurred under this heading and it has not been necessary to take any action with respect thereto. There are few industries and only six factory chimneys in the district.

Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws and Regulations.

Common Lodging Houses. There are four Common Lodging Houses within the Borough with accommodation for 153

lodgers. Thorough inspections are carried out several times monthly, and the Byelaws are rigorously enforced. Midnight inspections are made by the Health Committee at intervals.

Houses Let in Lodgings. It is estimated that a large number of the total number of houses within the Borough come strictly under the purview of these Byelaws owing to the practice of private householders sub-letting rooms, and it is a practicable impossibility with the present staff to record and keep up to date a register of such houses. There are however 46 houses let in lodgings on the register which are known and regularly used as such, and which are periodically inspected.

Offensive Trades. There are established in the district, 17 Offensive trades as follows :—

Fried Fish Shops ...	...	...	14
Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	2
Gut Scrapers	...	...	1

With two exceptions the Fried Fish Shops have modern frying apparatus installed and the Byelaws are well adhered to. One complaint only was received in connection with the Rag and Bone Dealers, the business of which is carried on satisfactorily.

The Gut Scraper's premises are situated on the outskirts of the Borough and a considerable distance from any house and the business is conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Housing.

The general housing conditions are good. Aldershot being comparatively of recent growth, there are no housing conditions which may be described as "insanitary areas."

There is, without doubt, a shortage of houses, as in a considerable number of instances houses are sub-let and occupied by two or more families.

The measures taken or contemplated to meet this shortage are the building of a reasonably sufficient number of houses by direct labour until the normal erection of working class dwellings which prevailed before the war, has returned.

On December 31st, 1925, the number of applicants for houses was 545. To meet this demand, the Town Council had completed by direct labour 52 four-roomed houses by the end of 1925. In addition, 116 four and five-roomed houses have already been erected under contract. Also, the Ministry of Health's sanction has been obtained for 240 (including the 52 just mentioned) houses to be built by direct labour, embracing four schemes, the work of which is being expeditiously proceeded with.

Pending the Ministry of Health's sanction, the erection by contract of twenty more houses has been decided upon by the Town Council.

It will therefore be noted that, altogether, 168 houses have been built, and 208 houses are in course of erection.

The principal cases of over-crowding which occurred during the period under review were as follows :—

Situation.	Total No. of Rooms.	Total No. of Occupants	Particulars of Overcrowding.
White House, King's Road	Six and Scullery		One room, cubical capacity 567 cubic feet occupied as combined room by man and wife and two children aged M. 2, F. 3 months.
17, Elms Road	Five and Scullery	11 over 10 years, 2 under 10 years	One room occupied as a sleeping apartment by F. 42, F. 19, M. 10, F. 10, F. 6 years, Cubical capacity 640 cubic feet.
5, Church Street	Four	5 over 10, 7 under 10	Bedroom occupied by 3 over 10 and 4 under 10 years. 810 cubic feet capacity.
60, Lysons Road	Six		Basement room occupied as combined room by man and wife and three children aged M. 7, F. 4, M. 2. Cubical contents 884 cubic feet.
16, Park Cottages	Five and Scullery	7 over 10 years, 4 under 10 years	Bedroom occupied as combined room by man and wife and three children aged M. 12, M. 8, F. 4. Cubical contents 640 cubic feet.
71, Sebastopol Road	Six and Scullery	10 over 10 years, 7 under 10 years	Bedroom occupied as combined room by man and wife and three children aged M. 6, F. 4, M. 6 mths. Cubical contents 890 cubic feet.

Situation	Total No. of Rooms.	Total No. of Occupants.	Particulars of Overcrowding.
4, Arlington Terrace	Five and Scullery		Bedroom occupied as combined room by man and wife and four children aged M. 5, F. 4, M. 2, M. 3 months. Cubical contents 1288 cubic feet.
3, Alexandra Road	Five and Scullery	5 over 10 years 4 under 10 years	Bedroom occupied as combined room by man and wife and four children aged 6, 3, 1½, and 1 year respectively. Cubical contents 1219 cubic feet.
19, Kings Road (House let in Lodgings)	Six		One room, 850 cubic feet capacity, occupied as combined room by M. 65, F. 63, F. 34, M. 6, M. 2 yrs,
21, Kings Road (House let in Lodgings)	Six		Two rooms occupied by man and wife and four children aged M. 23, M. 18, M. 16, M. 11 years necessitating one of the rooms used by day as a living room by whole family to be occupied as a sleeping apartment by man and wife and M. 16, M. 11. Cubical contents 862 cubic feet.
9, Alfred Street	Four	6 over 10 years 4 under 10 years	Bedroom occupied as combined room by man and wife and four children. Cubic contents 825 cubic feet.
9, Laburnum Cottages	Two	5 over 10 years 1 under 10 years	Two families consisting of 5 over 10 years and one under 10 years in occupation of the two rooms, each of a cubical capacity of 768 cubic feet.
49, Edward Street	Six	12 over 10 years 6 under 10 years	(1.) Two rooms occupied by man and wife and six children. (2.) One room occupied for sleeping by F. 16, M. 13, F. 11.

Situation	Total No. of Rooms.	Total No. of Occupants	Particulars of Overcrowding.
5, Verdun Avenue	Four	5 over 10 years, 4 under 10 years	Bedroom occupied by man and wife and four children aged F. 11, M. 5, M. 2, F. 1 years. Cubical contents 1121 cubic feet.
1, Birchett Place	Five and Scullery	6 over 10 years 4 under 10 years	3 small bedrooms, cubic capacity respectively 366 cubic feet, 625 cubic feet, 625 cubic feet.
Model Cottages	Two	5 over 10 years 4 under 10 years	Two rooms occupied by man and wife and seven children aged F. 16, M. 13, M. 12, M. 6, M. 5, F. 3, F. 2 years. Cubical contents 1615 and 663 cubic feet.

The general standard of fitness of housing in the area is comparatively good.

The general character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses may be classified as follows :—

- Dampness, principally from foundations
- Defective floors
- Broken or perished wall and ceiling plaster.
- Defective or unopenable windows
- Leaky house roofs
- Dirty and insanitary walls and ceilings
- Defective and dilapidated cooking ranges
- Absence of handrails to stairs

It is estimated that 90% of the defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision of owners.

The general action taken as regards unfit houses is by procedure under the Public Health Acts as much as possible. It has been found that non-compliance with notices under Section 3 Housing Act, 1925, involves considerable time and work in drawing up specifications, &c., and the Town Council has consequently laid down the principle of proceeding as far as possible under the Public Health Acts and in cases of non-compliance with notices served in pursuance of these Acts, application to the Magistrates usually follows for the infliction of the penalties allowed by the Public Health Acts.

No special method has been found to be necessary in dealing with back to back houses, having regard to the fact that

there are only 12 of this class of house within the Borough. Recently the Town Council purchased this property with the ultimate object of demolition to enable the enlargement of a depot adjoining and belonging to the Borough Council.

With the exception of ten houses situate on the outskirts of the Borough, all houses are supplied with water from the Company's mains and separate watercloset accommodation almost wholly prevails.

With regard to refuse disposal; the houses are provided with movable galvanised iron receptacles, which householders place in positions conveniently accessible from the nearest street. A bi-weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Corporation and disposed of at the Corporation Destructor Works.

Unhealthy Areas.

No information as to complaints were received, or representations made in regard to unhealthy areas.

The existing byelaws as to Houses Let in Lodgings and Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c., appear to be adequate and there is no apparent need for new byelaws or revision of existing byelaws.

There is only one Caravan in the area.

Housing Statistics for the Year, 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)	83
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts :—	
(1) By the Local Authority	56
(2) By other bodies or persons	15

(1) Unfit Dwelling-houses

Inspection—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts	733
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in such 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 preceeding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	720

(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 ... 460

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Section 3 Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners ... 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners to close ... 0

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 261

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners ... 247

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(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

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply. By far the larger part of the milk consumed within the Borough is produced outside and brought into the area.

The following table gives particulars with respect to Cowsheds :—

Situation.	Cows	Cowsheds.	Dairy.	Drainage.	Cleanliness.
Aldershot Park Farm	22	One	Attached and satisfactory	Cesspool Good	Satisfactory
Park Farm	20	Two	Attached and satisfactory	Sewer Good	Satisfactory
Ayling Farm	22	One	Several hundred yards distant. Satisfactory	Sewer Good	Satisfactory
Harris Farm	20	One	Attached and satisfactory	Cesspool	Fair
Parkside Farm	6	One	None	Cesspool	Satisfactory

On the Register there are nine dairies and 35 milkshops. The former are in good structural condition and strict attention is paid to cleanliness. Continued regard is given to the storage of milk in small milkshops and special attention is concentrated on the covering of milk vessels and the prevention of contamination by deleterious substances.

Two Dealers' Licenses to sell "Certified" Milk were granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1922.

During December, 1925, the Sanitary Inspector attended a course of Clean Milk instruction at Shinfield, under the auspices of the University College of Reading. It is intended that during the year 1926 a number of samples of milk will be obtained for examination for bacterial counts and tubercle bacilli.

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, notices of regular slaughter were received in respect of three slaughter-houses. 178 notices of intended slaughter were sent in, in connection with one slaughter-house. A friendly and mutual understanding exists between the butcher and the meat Inspector. Diseased conditions were notified by butchers as follows :—

Ash Road Slaughter-house	...	...	10
Brighton Road Slaughter-houses	...	...	3
North Town Slaughter-house	...	...	4

In addition, apart from slaughter-houses, 42 notifications of diseased conditions were received.

The marking of meat has not been adopted. The butchers, after being circularised, signified their unwillingness for such marking to be carried out.

There are no Butcher's stalls, and in the case of the 17 butcher's shops within the area, there are only 5 provided with plate glass fronts.

Two warnings, and notices, were issued under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations in respect of contamination of meat by flies.

There has been no need to take action with regard to meat in stores and the conveyance of meat in vehicles.

There is no public slaughter-house. The following gives in tabular form the number of private slaughter-houses in use in the area at the dates mentioned :—

		In 1920.	In January 1925.	In December 1925.
Registered	...	1	1	1
Licensed	...	2	3	3
		—	—	—
	Total	3	4	4
		—	—	—

The following summary shows the amount of meat or other foods, voluntarily surrendered and destroyed after inspection by request :—

14 pig carcasses complete	...	1839 lbs.
Parts of pig carcasses	...	1206 „
Parts of Beef carcasses	...	1010 „
Tinned foods	...	1020 tins
Kippers	...	6 boxes

The sanitary condition of bakehouses continues to be good and four new and up to date bakehouses have been built including two in displacement of old existing bakehouses.

Generally the conditions under which foods are manufactured, prepared or stored for sale, are hygienically good and satisfactory. The existing powers, especially those embraced in the Public Health Act 1925, have been found quite adequate in dealing with sanitary conditions in such places.

There has been no case of food poisoning.

The administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the County Council.



