1937.

Rural District Council of Alton.

Annual Report

OF

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Alton Rural District Council.

ALTON, HANTS.

May, 1938.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report on this District for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The Area of the District is (in acres)	...	65,526.
The Population 1931 Census ...	...	20,455.
„ „ (estimated 1937) ...	...	20,740.
The number of inhabited houses is	...	5,080.
The Rateable Value is ...	...	£110,909.
The sum represented by a penny rate is	...	£458. 6. 8.

LIVE BIRTHS. Legitimate Males, 172; Females, 159. Illegitimate Males, 6; Females, 13. Total 337.

BIRTH RATE—16.2 per 1,000 of population.

STILL BIRTHS. Males, 6; Females, 6. Total 12.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths of Persons belonging to this District was 237; of these 91 died outside my District.

DEATH RATE—11.4 per 1,000 of population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	0
„ of Infants under one year of age			...	17
„ from Cancer	...	...	...	26
„ from Measles	...	...	...	0
„ from Whooping Cough		...	...	1
„ from Diarrhœa	...	...	...	2

Deaths over 70 years of age numbered 88; of these 36 were over 80 and 4 were over 90 years of age.

General Provision of Health Services of the Area.

The Public Health Officers are:

Medical Officer of Health, part time Officer.
Sanitary Inspector and Assistants, whole time Officers.
Four District Medical Officers under the Poor Law.
Four Public Vaccinators.

There has been no change during the year in the Nursing arrangements, or Hospital accommodation.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. The Parishes of Four Marks, Medstead, Ropley and West Tisted are almost wholly supplied by underground rainwater storage tanks, owing to their elevation and the depth of the water-bearing strata.

In the past, the Council's policy with reference to new buildings has been the requirement of underground rainwater storage tanks of a minimum capacity of 2,500 gallons. In actual practice, tanks of approximately 3,700 gallons capacity were constructed. The policy has now been amended to require the tanks to be of a minimum capacity of 5,000 gallons.

The Parishes of Lasham, Shalden and Bentworth are supplied from the mains of the Herriard and Lasham Water Company, and the Company have statutory powers to supply water in the Parishes of Medstead and Four Marks, but so far they have not exercised their powers.

The Parishes of Grayshott, Headley, Bentley and Froyle are, for the greater part, supplied by the Wey Valley Water Company.

Under guarantees or loan assistance from this Council, the Wey Valley Water Company have provided supplies in the Parishes of Whitehill, Selborne, Farringdon, Chawton, Binsted and Kingsley, and agreement with the Company has been reached for further extending their supplies to the Parish of Binsted.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Bentley is the only Parish where a scheme is in operation. The sewage from the houses passes through their own screening chambers, the solids thereby being retained, and the effluent passing direct into the sewers where it is conveyed to the outfall and treated by broad land irrigation.

A scheme is in course of preparation for the internal sewering of Grayshott, with a view to linking up with a drainage scheme being prepared by the Haslemere Urban District Council. The combined treatment works to be situate in this Council's District.

A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal works has been prepared for the Parish of Whitehill. As a result of the negotiations with the Treasury Valuer and the War Department referred to in my Annual Report for 1936, terms, which the Council consider should be accepted, have been submitted by the Treasury Valuer. Subject to detailed examination of the financial result of carrying out the scheme on these terms, and obtaining the observations of the Whitehill Parish Council, the Council propose, in the near future, to take the necessary steps to apply for sanction to the loan for carrying out the scheme prepared by Messrs. John Taylor and Sons for the sewering of the civil area, and to include the taking over of the existing sewers and treatment works serving Bordon Camp.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. Very little pollution of streams is met with in the District. There are no offensive trades in the District from which any pollution passes to streams or water-courses. The District lies within the Area of the Thames Conservancy Commissioners who keep a close watch on rivers and streams.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. No systematic conversion of closets on the conservancy system to the water carriage system has been carried out in the District. The closet accommodation consists mainly of dry earth closets and privies. Where privies are met with and found defective they are mostly converted into earth closets. The number of privies met with are few, and no new ones have been constructed during the year.

SCAVENGING. The Parish of Grayshott is scavenged by private contract once fortnightly for dry non-combustible house refuse. The refuse is collected in a motor vehicle and disposed of by removal to an old disused quarry in the Parish of Headley by agreement with the owner. The Haslemere Urban District Council, under an agreement with this Council, undertakes the collection and disposal of night soil twice weekly from a defined area in this Parish.

In defined areas at Bordon, Whitehill and Greatham, in the Parish of Whitehill, two collections per week of night soil and and one collection per week of house refuse are made. In a further defined area in the same Parish a fortnightly collection of dry non-combustible house refuse is carried out. These areas are scavenged by private contract under one contractor. House refuse is collected in a motor vehicle and disposed of in accordance with special conditions relating to refuse tips. Night soil is collected in an approved motor vehicle with tank, and disposed of on farm land owned and worked by the contractor. This arrangement has been found satisfactory.

Monthly collections of dry non-combustible house refuse are made in a defined area in the Parish of Selborne, and quarterly collections in a defined area in the Parish of Chawton.

A scheme for a monthly collection of dry non-combustible house refuse is being prepared to serve a defined area in the Parish of Bentworth, and it is anticipated that the scheme will be in operation early in 1938.

Schemes of a similar character are under consideration to serve defined areas in the Parishes of Bentley and Headley.

HOP-PICKERS' ACCOMMODATION. Although time would not permit the adoption of new Bye-Laws in time to operate during the 1937 Season, three new ranges of buildings, comprising 120 hutments, were constructed, and no great difficulty was experienced in persuading the owners to construct them in accordance with the new Model Bye-Laws.

During the picking season, the Minister of Health, Sir Kingsley Wood, made a tour of the hopfields, and inspected the hop-pickers' accommodation throughout the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following shows the number and nature of inspections made. (Excluding Housing Inspections):—

Nuisances	126
Tents, Vans, Sheds	18
Hop Pickers' Camps and Groups of Hutments	128
Factories and Workshops	29
Dairies and Cowsheds	328
School Water Supplies	8
Supervision of Scavenging	61
Water Supplies	59
Sewage Works and Public Water Supplies	53
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections ...	17
Inspection of Meat, Slaughterhouses, Shops and Stalls, and Places where Food is prepared	197
Petroleum Inspection	81
Moveable Dwellings	8
Overcrowding	83
Unclassified	86
TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS	1,277
Number of Informal Notices served ...	86
" " " " abated ...	79
Number of Formal Notices served ...	9
" " " " abated ...	6

The following classification shows the number and nature of matters dealt with under the foregoing inspections:—

Drains and Cesspools cleansed and repaired	17
Improper Disposal of Domestic Waste Water	14
Accumulations of Refuse	8
Earth Closets cleansed, repaired or renewed	4
Dairies and Cowsheds cleansed, etc. ...	69
Factories and Workshops cleansed ...	7
Rainwater Tanks and Wells cleansed and repaired and Water Supplies improved	27
School Water Supplies improved ...	1
Disinfections	17
Water Samples	15
Water Certificates issued from January 1st to September 30th	64
Dwellings passed for Completion from October 1st to December 31st	21
Petroleum Licences issued during the year	52
Cases of Overcrowding	64
Unclassified	10
TOTAL	390

Housing Statistics.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1)	(*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	99
	(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	845
(2)	(*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ..	16
	(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	96
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	40

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	40

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(*a*)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	10
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(*a*) By Owners	1
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(*b*)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	Nil
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	

(a) By Owners ... ... Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:—
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 2

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... Nil

Under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, the Owner of one cottage entered into an undertaking to close or repair.

In accordance with undertakings entered into:—

2 Houses have been repaired by the owners.

2 Parts of Houses have been closed.

3 Houses have been closed pending demolition.

Under informal action by the Council's Officers, and in anticipation of notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

3 Houses were reconditioned under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

2 Houses were reconditioned by the Owners without assistance

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING:—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 34
(2) Number of families dwelling therein 34
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 225

(b) (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 4

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 31
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 201

(d) Number of cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... 1

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors of Milk ...	200
Retail Purveyors	3
	203

MILK SAMPLES. During the year, bulk milk samples were taken from 23 herds, representing 412 cows, on behalf of the Hampshire County Council. A total number of 35 samples was taken during the year. These bulk milk samples were taken after the completion of the milking of the herds. One *positive* result to the Tubercular Test was obtained.

5 Dairies and Cowsheds have been substantially repaired or reconstructed.

In connection with applications made to the County Council for Accredited Licences, I have, whenever possible, met the County Dairy Officer during his inspection of the producers' premises.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses	7
Number of Knacker's Yards	1
Number of Slaughterman's Licences issued ...	11

Following prescribed notice of time and place of slaughter, the slaughterhouses were regularly inspected throughout the year, and I append a table showing the number of carcases inspected and the number of condemnations made.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	91	5	114	880	414
Number inspected	61	5	40	560	315
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	8	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with	3.28	—	—	1.43	.64
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	.32

Shops, stalls and places where food is prepared are inspected from time to time.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

There were no serious outbreaks of Infectious disease during the year—all the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were dotted about the district and prompt isolation prevented any spread of infection.

Sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and six cases of Diphtheria.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	16	13	—
Diphtheria ...	6	5	1
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	11	—	—

Age Groups.

	Under 1 year	2	3	9	10	14	17
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	5	2	2	1
Diphtheria ...	—	1	2	1	—	—	—

Diphtheria Immunization.

Consents were obtained from 41 parents for children between the ages of 1 and 5 years to be immunized.

Consents were obtained from the parents for 554 children to be immunized and these were done in the Schools during 1937.

The rest of the children in the district who were not immunized are to be done in 1938.

Cancer.

There were 26 deaths from Cancer—6 males and 20 females.

The Age Distribution.

	Males.	Females.
40	—	—
50	2	1
60	3	10
70	1	4
80	—	5

The British Empire Cancer Campaign arrange for lectures to be given in the District to educate the public on matters concerning Cancer.

Prevention of Blindness.

4 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified and removed at once to Hospital for treatment.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15 ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 ...	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
35 ...	3	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	5	4	2	3	2	2	—

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation 1925 or under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

I should like to add that your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bennett, has rendered very valuable services during the year.

Your obedient servant,

H. CURRER WILLIAMS.

Medical Officer of Health.