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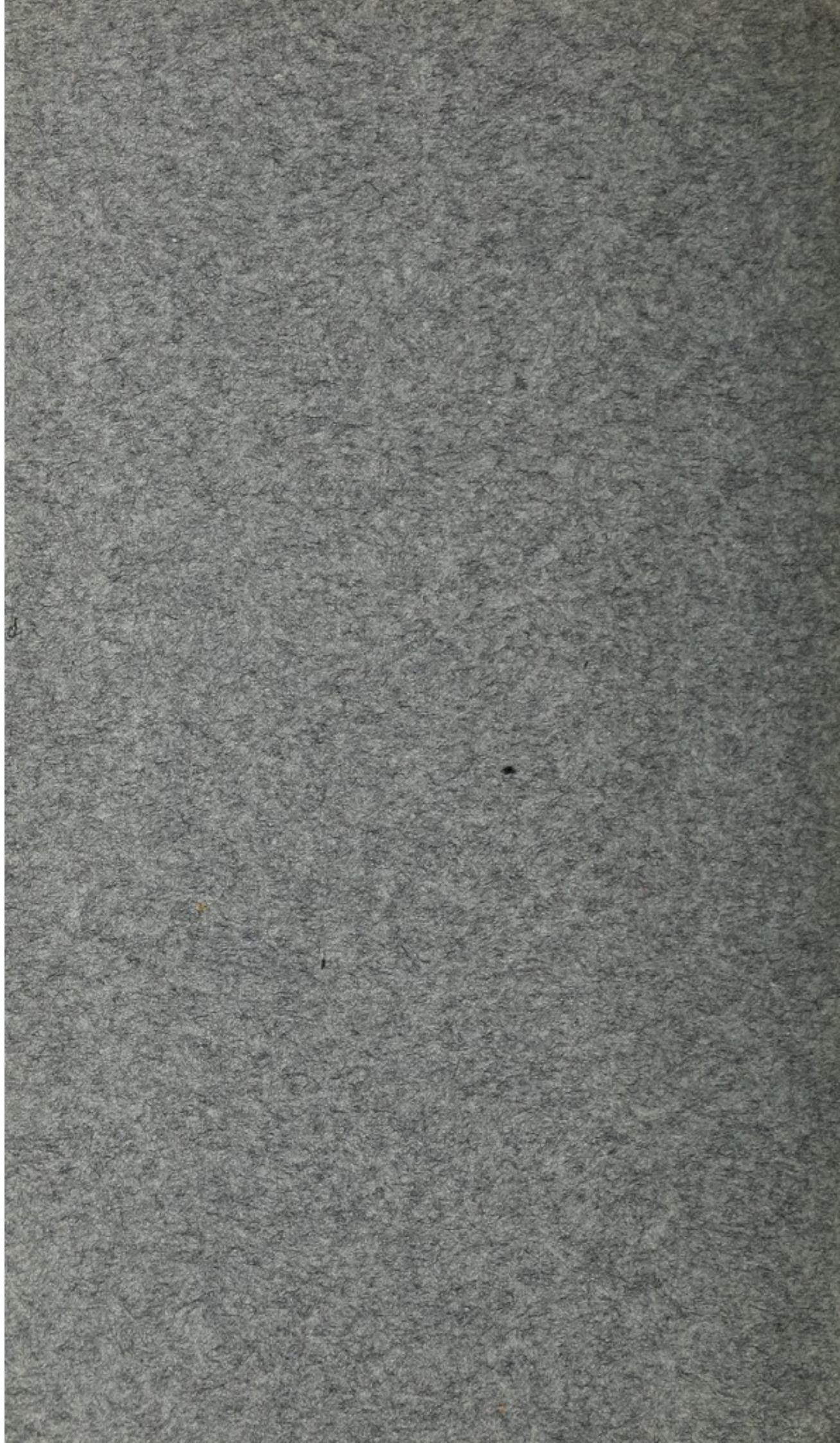
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Rural District Council

Medical Officer's Report

1911.



HEATH HOUSE, ANDOVER,

April 24, 1911.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Andover Rural District
Council.**

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my **ANNUAL REPORT** for the year 1910, copies of which have been forwarded in accordance with the Order, Act 16, Sec. 14, of March 23, 1891, to the Local Government Board and to the Hants County Council, also to the Secretary of the Home Office, as required by Sec. 152 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.—These vary considerably, being open downs in some places, hilly and woody in others, and sparsely populated in the uplands.

SOILS.—The subsoil is chalk throughout the district, with a stratum of gravel in some parts.

LEVELS.—These vary from 200ft. above sea level by the Test to 700ft. on the hills at Faccombe and Vernham.

OCCUPATIONS.—These are mainly agricultural. There are Engineering Works, two Laundries, and Mineral Water Manufactory, employing a number of hands, and also a large Military Station at Tidworth.

AREA AND POPULATION.—The population at the last census was 9290. By adding the number of officers (94), N.C.O.'s and men (3336), women (292), and children (510), occupying the barracks at Tidworth, I estimate the population to be 13,522. The District covers an area of 65,558 acres.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.—There were 238 Births registered, being 56 less than last year, and giving a birth rate of 17.5 per 1000. Andover Rural—10 males, 10 females, total 20 ;

birth rate, 18·9. Amport—82 males, 70 females, total 152 ; birth rate, 22·0. Hurstbourne Tarrant—16 males, 10 females, total 26 ; birth rate, 16·6. Longparish—19 males, 21 females, total 40 ; birth rate, 10·0. These birth rates showing a marked decline on those of previous years.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.—During the year 108 Deaths have been registered, while 10 have died in public institutions beyond the district. The nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district is therefore 118. This gives a death rate of 8·8. per 1000, a slightly higher death rate than last year. 21 of the above deaths were of children under 1 year. The deaths in the several localities were as follows :—Andover Rural 12, rate 11·1, under 1 year 1. Amport 24, rate 5·6, under 1 year 7. Hurstbourne Tarrant 18, rate 12·0, under 1 year 1. Longparish 49, rate 12·6, under 1 year 12. Tidworth Barracks 15, rate 3·7.

LONGEVITY.—Of the 116 deaths credited to this district no less than 49 were of persons of 70 years of age and upwards (the oldest being 91), and as there were 21 deaths of infants below 1 year of age this leaves only 68 deaths between 1 year of age and 70, or between the very young and the very old.

	Amport.	Andover Rural.	Hurstbourne Tarrant.	Longparish.
70—80	5	4	7	10
80—90	2	3	4	8
90—100	4	0	0	2
	—	—	—	—
	11	7	11	20
	—	—	—	—

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH.—Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 5, Enteric 1, Heart Disease 14, Phthisis 6, other Tuberculosis Diseases 1, Cancer 6, Bronchitis 8, Pneumonia 6, Pleurisy 1, Alcoholism 2, Premature Birth 6, Accidents 4, all other causes 63.

There were no uncertified deaths, and no means exist of obtaining the number of the still births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During the year 21 infants under 1 year of age died, an increase of 8 upon those of the previous year, 12 deaths occurring in the first four weeks of life. This gives an infantile mortality of 89.0 per 1000 births registered. The causes of death amongst infants were as follows:—Premature birth 6, Whooping Cough 4, Congenital Defects 1, Pneumonia 1, Marasmus 6, Suffocation 1, other causes 2.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.—This Act is not in force in the district.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.—There were 7 deaths from zymotic diseases, giving a death rate of .05 per 1000. Five deaths due to Whooping Cough, one to Scarlet Fever and one to Enteric Fever.

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.—Seven deaths were registered as due to Tubercular Diseases, giving a Death rate of .05 per 1000. Of these six were due to the pulmonary organs being affected.

CANCER caused 6 deaths, giving a death rate of .04 per 1000.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—Fifteen deaths were registered as due to disease of Respiratory Organs, giving a death rate of 1.1 per 1000.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

MONXTON.—Two cases were notified as occurring in this village. These were of a very mild type, so much so that it was with the greatest difficulty one of the patients was prevented going about.

HURSTBOURNE TARRANT.—Four cases. These were traced to a child who had returned from a boarding school where several cases had occurred.

THRUXTON.—Three cases, in which the cause could not be traced.

STONEHANGER and TIDWORTH BARRACKS.—Two cases each.

SHIPTON, WEYHILL and UPPER CLATFORD.—One case each parish.

Total number of cases, 14.

SCARLET FEVER.—Number of cases notified, 36.

LITTLE SHODDESSEN.—One case. No cause traced. This case was removed to empty cottage for isolation.

THRUXTON.—Three cases. A report was supplied to the Local Government Board as follows : The first case was a boy who had not attended school for eight days. The second case was a young woman who was in service in the village and had been sent home ill, the people at whose house she was staying called me in when passing. She had been ill a week, and was then peeling freely ; no medical man had been called in. Both these cases were removed to the Berthon Tent. The third case was a brother of the first and does not attend school. As there was no more accommodation in the Tent he was isolated at home.

KIMPTON.—Sixteen cases occurred. The first case was a brother of the person affected at Little Shoddesden and contracted the disease on visiting his sister. He undoubtedly infected the children of the cottage adjoining. All the inmates of this house fell down with the disease, one boy unfortunately dying. The Berthon Tent was sent out, but was only used for two cases from the cottages, the remainder being nursed in their homes. These cases occasioned a great deal of alarm in the village and also in neighbouring villages. The occupiers themselves were threatened that if they were seen in the roads proceedings would be taken against them ; this so frightened them that on one of my visits I found them short of food. After this all food was obtained and supplied by your Council. I received also letters complaining that children from the village

were allowed to walk through the streets. The want of an infectious hospital was very much felt in dealing with these cases, not only to allay the alarm of the neighbourhood, but also for the proper isolation and treatment of the patients. Though only one other case occurred in this village (this child lived at a cottage at the end of the road leading to Kimpton Down) no doubt the origin of the outbreak at Thruxton might reasonably be put down to the occupants of the infected houses going to that village to obtain food.

LONGPARISH.—Two cases occurred in which the patients were both adults. The first case was a woman who was on a visit from Hammersmith and who infected her brother. I communicated with the M.O.H. of Hammersmith, but he was unable to trace the cause. These patients were isolated in the Berthon Tent in a field most kindly placed at your disposal by Mr. Snow.

STONEHANGER.—Three cases occurred in a group of cottages.

ABBOTTS ANN.—One case occurred.

RED RICE.—Three cases in one family.

UPPER CLATFORD.—One case.

SHIPTON.—One case, which was isolated at once at the Military Isolation Hospital. This kindness on the part of the War Office authorities was very much appreciated by your Council.

TIDWORTH BARRACKS.—Two cases ; these were dealt with by the War Office.

QUARLEY.—One case.

GRATELEY.—Two cases.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case was notified from Tidworth. A very careful examination of the premises, drainage system and water supply did not indicate any cause. Another case was also notified from Tidworth Barracks.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES MOST PREVALENT.

MEASLES occurred at Vernham in November.

WHOOPIING COUGH from February to October.

CHICKEN-POX —April, October and December.

INFLUENZA.—January.

ZYMOTIC DISEASE PREVENTION.

(1) The whole of the scholars present at a school from which a case had been notified were inspected, the attendance register carefully gone through, and all absent children accounted for, and if ill visited.

(2) The school masters and mistresses notify any child absent of suspected infectious disease.

(3) All suspected cases are visited at once.

(4) All notified cases are visited, and in the case of those not removed to the Isolation Tent instructions are given to those in charge by your Inspector and myself.

(5) Frequent communication is held with the County Medical Officer.

(6) The medical men attending the cases have been consulted, and in doubtful cases met in consultation.

(7) Your Council placed a qualified nurse in charge of the cases at Kimpton Down Cottages.

(8) Disinfectants were supplied free to all.

(9) Mr. H. K. Hodgson again generously supplied anti-toxin for the cases of diphtheria at Longparish.

(10) Mild and doubtful cases of diphtheria were submitted to bacteriological examination, and all cases were so examined before being declared free from infection.

(11) The infected persons were separated as far as possible from the healthy. The rooms occupied and the clothes worn by the patients were carefully disinfected after convalescence.

(12) The Berthon Tent was erected at Kimpton Down and Longparish.

(13) An empty cottage was used to isolate the case of scarlet fever occurring at Little Shoddiesden.

(14) The van with occupants were isolated at Shipton.

(15) A notice was issued from the C.M.O. stating that small-pox had broken out in Wiltshire.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The Berthon tent was used twice during the year, once at Kimpton Down, where the rapid spread of scarlet fever rendered it of little use in preventing the dissemination of the disease, though it was of value in providing extra accommodation for the inmates of the cottages and the nurse, and also the prompt removal of the cases from Thruxton. The second time it was used at Longparish with a much better result, the two cases being isolated in it, thus preventing a spread of this disease.

The difficulty of acquiring a suitable site for the erection of an Isolation Hospital has been satisfactorily overcome by the kindness and generosity of the Marquis of Winchester. The land is situated on the Amport-Weyhill Road, and is between 265 and 281 feet above sea level, its isolated position and ample elevation render it most suitable. The area of the site is 5.87 acres, with a frontage to Sarson Down of 495 feet. Weyhill Station being within three-quarters of a mile will enable stores to be delivered by rail. The site is within half a mile of the Andover and Amesbury Road, so is easy of access by ambulance. The telephone posts are also within an easy distance. The fact that the land inclines towards the road it will be necessary for the purposes of drainage that the buildings should be placed at a distance from the road. The subsoil is dry, and altogether

it will form a most satisfactory and healthy site. The water supply will be obtained from the top corner of the field by means of a bore hole, and will be raised by an oil engine with a storage tank and pipe from there to the buildings. The sewage will be passed to the lower level of the land, and treated by a simple method, ultimately being disposed of by land irrigation, for which purposes there is an ample area. Lord Winchester being unable to sell the land, has let it on a 99 years lease, conditionally that a certain class of building be erected upon it, and has generously contributed £100 towards the cost. Mr. Nicoll has also kindly given £150. Mr. Nicoll and myself visited Lord Winchester, and conferred with him as to the details of the scheme. We all afterwards, by the courtesy of the M.O.H., visited the Winchester Rural Isolation Hospital, accompanied by the County Medical Officer and the Medical Officer of the Hospital. It is proposed to provide accommodation for 24 patients in two blocks. The plans have already been submitted to you of the caretaker's house, and one block which it is proposed to erect in the early part of the year.

DISINFECTION.—Now a suitable Isolation Hospital is being provided, it will be necessary to construct a proper apparatus for this work. At present rooms are disinfected with sulphur, formalin, etc., the bedding being exposed in the rooms during the process. The clothes, etc., are immersed in a solution of carbolic before being washed.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—When necessary material for this purpose is sent away for examination to the Laboratory of Pathology and Public Health, London, and the result communicated in the first instance by telegram and afterwards confirmed by a report. The institution of a Bacteriological Laboratory has been proposed to the County Council. If such a scheme is elaborated I trust your Council will support it as I am convinced it would be less costly than the present method, and would enable a greater use of this valuable means of the diagnosis and prevention of infectious disease to be made.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Six deaths were registered as due to Phthisis and one from Tubercular Peritonitis, whilst four cases of Tubercle of the Lung were notified by the War Office authority at Tidworth, and one notification was received under the Public Health Tuberculosis Regulation Order, 1908.

The number of cases in each district were as follows :—
Amport 6, Andover Rural 2, Hurstbourne Tarrant 1, Longparish 1.

On receipt of the notification the patient is visited and the premises inspected, enquiries are also made as to the family history, etc. Spitting flasks are supplied, and instructions given to patient and those in charge how to prevent the spread of the disease and mode of life to adopt to favour recovery. Disinfectants are also supplied.

In the event of death disinfection of the room is carried out.

There is no hospital provision for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in your District, though when your new hospital is erected there will be plenty of land available for temporary or permanent structures.

A printed and illustrated circular dealing with the cause and prevention of Consumption was sent by the County Medical Officer for distribution. It was thought that the best means of reaching those whom it would benefit most would be through the children attending the elementary schools, so accordingly I visited most of them in your district, and delivered a short address at each on the danger affected people are to others, and how much could be done to lessen this disease if all would help, afterwards giving one of the circulars to the eldest child of a family, asking them to get their parents to put it up in a prominent position at their homes.

SCHOOLS.—There are 22 Elementary Schools within your District. The sanitary condition and water supply of all being satisfactory.

ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT SPREAD OF DISEASE.—

Schools closed—Kimpton, Scarlet Fever ; Faccombe, Whooping Cough ; Vernham, Whooping Cough ; Upton, ditto.

THRUXTON.—The children attending from Kimpton excluded from April 18 to May 6 in consequence of Scarlet Fever.

QUARLEY AND STONEHANGER.—Children living in a group of cottages where Scarlet Fever case occurred were excluded from School.

UPTON.—This school was closed in November by the Managers without any authority from either myself or the County Medical Officer. This was an irregular action on their part, and was dealt with by the C.M.O.

Members of any family where an infectious disease had occurred were excluded from school.

The school premises and offices were all disinfected before re-opening.

A complaint was received from Faccombe as to children attending the school suffering from Chicken-pox and ringworm. The school was visited, and instructions given to exclude any affected child.

No special arrangement as regards the fees to be paid to medical practitioners for the treatment of school children who are suffering from adenoids, enlarged tonsils, ringworm, etc., has been made, each case being considered by the Guardians upon its merits. Personally I should like to see this undertaken by the Education Authority, as then not only would there be a uniform system throughout the country, but would also abolish the necessary enquiries which must be made by the relieving officer and so remove the tendency which this has to pauperise the poorer people.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—This has been sufficient for the working population of this district. Though great difficulty is experienced in obtaining cottages for parents with large families who are not engaged in agricultural work there is still a good demand for residential houses. A complaint was made of overcrowding at some cottages at Tedworth, but on investigation the accommodation was found sufficient. Notice was served upon the owner of a cottage to repair a defective roof.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—The greater portion of the meat consumed in your District is slaughtered elsewhere. There are three slaughterhouses. These are frequently inspected by your Sanitary Inspector, special attention being paid to their cleanliness and whitewashing. No special arrangements are made by your Council for the inspection of meat.

PIGGERIES near dwellings have given but little trouble. Complaint of want of cleanliness was received in one case, and in another of keeping a pig in a shed adjoining dwelling.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—There are 23 persons registered as cow keepers and dairymen. The type of premises and water supply remain the same as in my previous reports. Lighting, ventilation and cleanliness have been satisfactory. Lime washing has been carried out in accordance with the regulations. The removal of manure from the yards has been better attended to.

More attention might be paid to the cleanliness of the cows ; few, if any, are regularly groomed so as to cleanse the flanks. The open winter has made it possible to turn out the animals into the meadows during the daytime.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 25 in the District, all of which are properly constructed with regard to light, ventilation and drainage. Lime washing has been done at the proper time.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS have all suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences. The cleanliness, air space, and ventilation is satisfactory.

LAUNDRIES.—There are two large ones at Shipton, one which takes all the washing of blankets, bedding, etc., from Tidworth Barracks, and another which does private work. The disposal of the waste water in the case of the latter is not very satisfactory.

VAN DWELLINGS.—In consequence of a serious complaint as to the insanitary condition of a field known as Shepherds Island at Shipton occupied by van and tent dwellers, your Inspector and myself made a special inspection and found in it 4 van dwellings 1 tent made out of various kinds of old cloth material, 1 shed with galvanised roof for storing skins, 1 stable with permeable floor, without drainage, being also used as a skin store.

The vans and tents were occupied by about 20 persons. In consequence of the rise of the spring the field had become water logged.

The surface of the field was covered with slimy mud, more especially around the dwellings.

Potato peelings, broken glass, and cooking waste were littered over the field.

The water is supplied from a well in the centre of the field, the covering being out of repair.

There is no sanitary convenience.

Owing to the condition of this field the owner was served with a notice to close it for the purpose for which it was then being used, as it was dangerous to health owing to the risk of polluting the wells of the village from the rapidly raising stream at the side of the field. The notice was complied with and the field is closed.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is almost entirely obtained from wells both shallow and deep, and the water is generally of good

quality, sufficient and pure. At Shipton a water supply has been laid on from the Cholderton Water Works, but I have not yet had an opportunity of obtaining the number of houses and cottages availing themselves of the supply.

Three samples of well water were submitted to an analyst for report, one each from Tidworth, Stonehanger and Barton Stacey. The water from Stonehanger was contaminated by surface impurities. The well was cleaned out, and the impurities removed.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL is mainly on the pail system or cemented vaults, though there are still a number of privy pits in existence. These are emptied and disposed of by the occupiers on the garden or other ground attached to their residences. At Shipton a systematic emptying of the pails and cesspools is carried out by a paid scavenger. Complaint was made of the emptying of cesspools at a late hour of the day, and your Board instructed that when the contract was renewed this work should be completed before 11 o'clock in the morning. Complaint was made that a cesspool situated on War Office property at Shipton during the time the springs were high was not properly emptied. The scavenger reported this due to the water coming in as fast as it was pumped out. I communicated with the Sanitary Authority at Tidworth Barracks, and it was found after the water had fallen when an examination was possible that the crown of the cesspool had been broken through by a cart. This was immediately remedied.

DRAINAGE.—A system of sewage disposal has been proposed for Shipton, but I am afraid the cost of keeping up the works would at the present time be too great for this small village.

The formation gutter at Burseldon Cottages, at Shipton, was not acting in a satisfactory manner; the gutter was in a dirty condition, the slop water overflowing on to the path; this was due to the shallowness of the lower part of the gutter, and the want of proper attention. I met the owner there, who

gave orders for the side of the gutter to be raised, and he has employed a man to keep it cleaned. He also gave an undertaking in the event of its again becoming a nuisance he would adopt other means for the disposal of the large amount of waste water. At my subsequent visits the system was working satisfactorily.

HOUSE REFUSE AND RUBBISH.—This is disposed of by the occupiers of the houses, except at Shipton, where it is periodically removed by the scavenger in a properly constructed cart.

Many inspections of the district have been made by your Inspector and myself. Any nuisance found has been dealt with.

Memoranda and circulars have been received from the Local Government Board dealing with—

- (1) Housing, Town Planning etc. Act, 1909.
- (2) Provision of Diphtheria Anti-toxin.
- (3) Notification of infectious disease.
- (4) General Order, Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances.

The Housing and Town Planning Act requires your Authority to provide for a thorough inspection of the dwelling houses in your district.

This inspection must be carried out by your Inspector of Nuisances or some person specially appointed for the purpose under my supervision.

This will entail a large increase in the amount of work both of your Inspector and myself, and I doubt if your Inspector will be able to give the necessary time required for this inspection without interfering with his important duties as Surveyor, so that you will find it necessary to give him extra assistance.

PROVISION OF DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.—This deals with the provision by your Council of a temporary supply of diphtheria anti-toxin, and of medical assistance in the temporary supply of diphtheria anti-toxin for the poorer inhabitants of your district. I have arranged to keep a supply of anti-toxin, and will supply it on the request of any medical practitioner and if necessary use it.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—This requires a return of all cases of infectious disease notified during each week to be forwarded to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer. A weekly summary of the main contents of all the sanitary districts in England and Wales, arranged in County order, will be made in the office of the Local Government Board, and a printed copy sent for the information of each medical officer. This knowledge of the occurrence of infectious disease must prove of great advantage when tracing the origin of any case.

GENERAL ORDER—Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances Regulations.—This is an important order dealing with the appointment, terms of office, salary, duties of Medical Officer of Health and Inspector of Nuisances.

SUPERVISION OF MIDWIVES is carried out by the Superintendent of the Hampshire Nursing Association under the direction of the County Medical Officer. The result of these investigations is contained in the annual report of the County Medical Officer. It would be of some assistance if the names and addresses of those persons practising as Midwives were supplied to the Medical Officer of Health of each district.

EXTIRPATION OF RATS.—A circular was received from the Local Government Board and County Medical Officer calling attention to the connection between plague and rats and how the disease is spread by these vermin. They also urged the desirability of taking active measures for the destruction of these pests. Rats are undoubtedly numerous in this district,

as well as elsewhere. Your Council have not taken any definite steps in the matter, but all persons should use their best endeavours to exterminate them. Pig, poultry and all store keepers should help in this direction by not permitting refuse to be thrown about or stored near dwellings.

Attached is a report from your Sanitary Inspector, from whom I have received valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST A. FARR.



To the Members of the Andover Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Inspector of Nuisances for the year ending 31st December, 1910. New drains have been tested on the following premises and in each case the drain was found sound and watertight :—

Star Inn, Weyhill.

Working Men's Club, Shipton.

Redenham (Byles).

Belle Grove, Knights Enham.

Thruxton Manor Farm.

Shipton Rectory.

Abbotts Ann (Young).

The Dene, Hurstbourne Tarrant.

Harroway, Penton Mewsey.

Chilbolton (Payne).

The Hospital Tents were erected at Kimpton by permission of Mr. Neate on the 2nd April for the reception of Scarlet Fever cases, and were disinfected on the 1st June, and removed to store. The Tents were again erected at Longparish by permission of Mr. Snow on the 16th August, and were disinfected on the 1st October, and returned to store. All rooms occupied by patients notified to be suffering from infectious disease have been disinfected.

No legal proceedings have been taken during the year, and no statutory notice issued.

The following are some of the nuisances which have been abated on request :—

Defective Drains—Goodworth Clatford, Hurstbourne Tarrant and Thruxton Manor.

Foul Pig Styes—Shipton and Kimpton.

Overcrowding—Shipton, Hurstbourne Tarrant and Upton.

Insufficient Water Supply—Faccombe.

Foul Well—Stonehanger, Abbots Ann.

Offensive Privies—Monxton and Longparish.

Foul Cesspool—Longparish.

Dirty Cottage—Stonehanger, Abbots Ann.

Samples of Water have been taken at South Tedworth Rectory, Park House, and Ramridge (2), and forwarded for analysis.

The Bakehouses have been inspected and found in clean condition.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN WORMALD,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Andover, 22nd April, 1911.



