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**Contributors**

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# AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Annual Report

OF THE

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For 1920

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The geographical features of the district are chiefly limestone, sandstone in a few localities, peat in the lower marshes, and clay. The water in the lowlands near the sea being brackish, where shallow wells are dug, as in the North Marsh.

The occupation is agricultural, dairy farming being the chief business. Much cheese is made and milk sent to towns, both by individual farmers and from depôts, or those farmers who contract and collect milk from small dairies.

The area is 85,931 acres.

Population, 20,477 for 1920.

24,965	...	...	Census 1891
23,744	...	...	Census 1910
23,068	...	...	Census 1911

The decrease being noticeable.

Inhabited houses, 6,312; Persons per house, 4.

Total houses, 6,512 in District; for Working Class, 3,504.



## WATER SUPPLY.

South  
Marsh.

The South Marsh supply, owned by the Rural District Council, arises from springs at Cross, extending over an acre, through the limestone strata. The springs are fenced in, and works have been carried out for their further protection during the year.

The minimum daily yield is not known, but is over 100,000 gallons a day, over 25 gallons a head per diem. This is daily pumped to a reservoir on the adjacent hill, the pumps being in duplicate. The reservoir is of brick and cement with a galvanised iron roof, holding 150,000 gallons. No purification process has been necessary.

Capital cost of provision in first place (distributed over contributory places) :—

	£
Badgworth ... ..	1,202
Biddisham ... ..	442
East Brent ... ..	2,985
Lympsham ... ..	1,791
Mark ... ..	3,200
Weare ... ..	1,380
	<hr/>
	11,000

Capital cost of extension (distributed over contributory places) :—

	£
Badgworth ... ..	286
Biddisham ... ..	276
*Burnham Without ... ..	2,608
East Brent ... ..	1,668
Lympsham ... ..	1,085
Mark ... ..	3,219
Weare ... ..	1,720
	<hr/>
	10,862

\* This Parish is an addition to the scheme—four years after originally initiated.



The cost is distributed as a rate on those parishes supplied by this water. The parishes of Badgworth, population 245; Biddisham, population 117; Burnham Without, population 309; East Brent, population 638; Lympsham, population 405; Mark, population 915; Weare, population 390—Total 3,029—are supplied, except for a few outlying cottages; a few houses in Brent Knoll, Compton Bishop and Allerton are supplied by meter.

The water is excellent—the last analysis was good, though a somewhat “hard” water.

#### Cheddar

The Cheddar Water supply, owned by the Rural District Council, arises from springs on Charterhouse, percolating through the old red sandstone, in an isolated spot and hitherto free from any source of contamination, but now is in grave danger of pollution from a contemplated offal boiling works.

The yield is 220,000 gallons a day as a minimum quantity. It runs by gravitation to a reservoir in the cliff of 90,000 gallons capacity, and thence by pipes to a reservoir at Brent Knoll of 180,000 gallons capacity, for the supply of the Urban District of Highbridge. Axbridge, Cheddar, Highbridge, and a few houses in the higher part of Compton Bishop are also supplied from this source en route. No pumping is required at any point. The supply is superabundant for the population, Highbridge being allowed 60,000 a day—over 25 gallons per head. The water is excellent in quality with no hardness, and no purification process is required; the last analysis was good. Recently wastages have caused shortage.

The cost is distributed over Highbridge, population 2,339; Cheddar, population 1,974; and



Axbridge, population 1,008; a few houses in Compton Bishop pay a special rate charged by meter.

**Winscombe.**

The Winscombe and Shipham Water supply, owned by the Rural District Council of Axbridge, arises from springs at Rowberrow Bottom, from the sandstone formation, of about an acre in area, any contamination being unlikely. The yield was estimated at 33,000 gallons per diem before the new well of uncertain capacity was sunk. The feed is by gravitation. The Reservoir is of brick and concreted, of 60,000 gallons capacity, roofed in with an arch of brick. A small auxiliary supply is pumped from an old mine at Shipham.

Capital cost of provision in first place (amount of loan) :—

				£
Winscombe	...	...	...	3,640
Shiphams	...	...	...	610

Capital cost of extensions :—

				£
Winscombe	...	...	...	1,463
Shiphams	...	...	...	628

The cost is distributed as a rate on the parishes of Shipham, population 379, and Winscombe, population 1,542, and on some houses in Churchill by meter; Rowberrow is exempt, the water being taken from that area.

The amount available is about 15 gallons a day per head. In dry summers there is a serious shortage, Shipham being especially affected. No purification process is carried out. A good, new well has been sunk to add to the supply, but the district is an

increasing one, and largely residential, using much water for baths, etc. New houses are being built, and the need for an adequate supply for future requirements is becoming very urgent. Sandford Quarry used much during the war, but far more is necessary.

Areas  
supplied.

Winscombe, population 1,542; Shipham, population 359; Rowberrow, population 78; and a small portion of Churchill.

The composition of the water is good and is not hard, though occasionally turbid.

Blagdon.  
Name,  
owners and  
nature.

The Blagdon Water supply, owned by the Rural District Council, Axbridge, arises from springs at Blagdon, known as the Ellick Springs, from the old red sandstone. They are now well protected and not liable to any contamination, all access by cattle being prevented.

Engineering  
points.

The yield per diem is 30,000 gallons. It is a gravitation scheme, with a reservoir of 45,000 gallons capacity, of brick and cement, roofed in.

Amount available per head, 30 gallons; no shortage being known. No purification process is used.

Capital cost of provision in the first place (amount of loan) £6,700.

Capital cost of extensions, i.e., Aldwick, etc., £650.

There is no contributory places beyond the parish of Blagdon.



All the area of Blagdon, population 915, is supplied, except a few houses where the levels are prohibitory.

The water is excellent ; the last analysis was good.

North  
Marsh.

A scheme is under consideration for the North Marsh in connection with the new extensions of the Bristol Water Works.

Redhill, being on high ground, is dependent on rain water to a great extent. A supply of good water for the North Marsh is urgently wanted. Being a flat low-lying district, only surface or brackish water can be obtained locally.

Worle.

Worle, population 1,498, is now partially supplied with the Weston Water supply, but as yet this advantage has not been utilised by all of the house owners, though very desirable to do so.

Christon  
and  
Loxton.

Christon, population 60, and Loxton, population 128, are supplied by two landowners from springs in the same area, and distributed through these parishes. The water is good and plentiful, and is most useful. The farms and cottages are supplied, also two standpipes erected at Loxton, the latter supply is subject to intermittent pollution, for which a remedy is being sought.

Brent  
Knoll.

The greater part of Brent Knoll, population 803, is supplied with Burnham Water, through pipes owned by a private enterprise. It is an excellent water.

Berrow.

Berrow, population 580, and Brean, population 111, are supplied from Burnham through the Burnham Water Company, which comes from Winscombe springs and piped to Burnham. It is an excellent water.



Wedmore.

A water supply for Wedmore and district is again under consideration.

The rest of the district is supplied by wells, surface pits, or rain water, as at Redhill.

With few exceptions the water supplies have no plumbo or solvent action, and cases of lead poisoning are not frequent, now that more care is taken with the taps, storage, and manufacture of cider; brass, pewter and galvanised vessels being abandoned.

Water  
Analyses.

Examinations of water are usually bacteriological.

Wells are the chief source of water supply for domestic use, and though there has been little serious disease in the district throughout the year 1920, many of them should be better protected from surface pollution with a collar six to twelve inches high above ground of well-built masonry and cement, the ground earth dug away for five feet at least around every well, and the space filled in with an impervious layer of cement concrete. By so doing, any surface pollution would have to filter through at least five feet of soil before gaining access to the well.

Sewers  
and  
Drainage.

New filter beds are being installed at the Wrington Sewage beds. Doubtless care will be taken to prevent the ingress of excessive "storm" and spring water.

Sewers exist in Wrington, Cheddar, Axbridge and Uphill respectively. For the most part privies and cesspits are in general use that often overflow into a ditch adjacent. No privy or cesspit should empty



direct into a ditch. Banwell sewers have been extended and much improved. Worle sewerage demands immediate attention.

Waste  
Whey.

Serious pollutions have occurred owing to excess of whey from cheese factories being thrown down the sewers, and escaping to the ditches fouls the water for the cattle, making it putrid. The remedy is for farmers to take away the whey.

The streams and rhynes are the main drainage of the district, which eventually find their way into the River Axe, discharging at Uphill into the sea. Privies with cesspits are universal, though effort is being made to supplant them with earth closets. In some places with a water supply, water-flushed w.c.'s are in use.

Scavenging.

House refuse is removed by the individual householder, and the cesspits emptied periodically in like manner.

Milk  
Supply.

Dairy work is the chief industry of the district. The procedures are usually carried out with increasing care. All the churns are scalded out with boiling water, often with steam, and the milk is excellent in quality. The milk that is sent away to towns is all carefully strained and cooled by special water-cooled apparatus; the dirt that is complained of by the consumers too often gets in in transit and at the retailers.

The cows and cowsheds are kept fairly clean, though hardly up to the continental or model standard, and "the cow is a dirty animal." Grooming the cows and sheds means labour—the grave present-day difficulty in most callings of agriculture—still the question of cleanliness cannot



too strongly be impressed on those who attend to cowsheds and dairies, and upon milkers especially. The health of the animals in the locality is usually good ; being a very mild area they are out most of the winter months, and tuberculosis is apparently not so common as in some districts.

In case of infectious disease in a dairy farm the milk is all sent off from the field of milking, and is not allowed to enter the premises ; dairy work is temporarily stopped and the milk sold forthwith. By these stringent measures disease is very materially stopped from spreading, and our thanks are due to the farmers who always acquiesce in this procedure without hesitation, notwithstanding the loss and inconvenience it causes.

The pig industry is satisfactorily carried out in a cleanly efficient manner ; very few complaints having arisen, which are speedily arranged. Three cases of anthrax have occurred, and owing to the stringent precautions no foot and mouth disease occurred.

There are over 509 persons entered on the register ; also six milk depôts on the register. The register is complete, though it is constantly changing, as the farmers cease to sell milk at various periods, according to demand, supply, and personal convenience, and time's price, and where farms change hands.

Advice is constantly given and suggestions made, and the conditions are improving both as regards method, buildings, and sanitation, though there is much room for improvement and progress. Manure is not removed frequently enough.



The sanitary inspections have been numerous, viz. :— 1,674 ; many household defects were remedied, *e.g.*, sinks, w.c.'s, rubbish heaps, ventilation defects, dirty rooms, bedding furniture, and bad floors. Lodging houses are periodically inspected, but no cellar dwellings or offensive trades exist in the district.

Food.

Very little diseased and bad food has been seized during 1920.

Slaughter-houses.

Slaughter houses are 36 in number, of which 18 are licensed ; and constant inspections made. There are bye-laws for eight parishes only in this district. All have good drainage and water supply. There is no public abattoir. All should come under the bye-laws.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses number 26. None are underground ; all are well conducted.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of some of the schools is not good, and this matter is receiving special attention. The water supply and conveniences for washing are in most cases adequate. All cases of absence from infectious disease are reported by the schoolmaster or mistress to the Medical Officer of Health and the County Medical Officer, and the cases excluded from school.

Many cases of adenoid disease, bad teeth, defective eyesight and hearing have been attended to.

Housing Act.

Various houses are being slowly erected. It is very essential that the existing houses be made waterproof and habitable. Houses are so scarce, that few can be allowed to be abandoned, and some absolutely essential repairs should be carried out



temporarily, in view of being demolished, or reconstructed later ; others in better condition should be put in good repair, as every house so restored means saving the erection of a new house costing nearly £1,000 each !

It is also questionable if houses in the marshes and turf moors are fit for habitation that are dry and comfortable in the summer, but are periodically flooded in the winter and in times of heavy rainfall.

Care will naturally be taken that such be for the working-class only, and not for town people who like to have a little cottage in the country for week-end visits.

New cottages for the working-classes are required in the country with at least three bedrooms, a living-room, kitchen, and scullery, built with a high step up from the ground level, and wooden floors in the rooms. Happily the New Building Bye-laws will prevent, at last, more ill-built insanitary houses, without damp courses and shuting, being erected for the future.

The number of houses inspected under the Housing Act has been 247.

Factory  
and  
Workshops  
Act.

There is a large steam laundry at Worle, and a small shirt factory at Cheddar. All are well conducted and inspected.

All other industries are on a small scale, employing a few hands only.

No register is provided, but the bakehouses (26), butchers and sausage makers, dressmakers, basket and boot makers, tailors, saddlers, washing people,



carpenters and coach builders, smiths, and brewers are constantly inspected on our daily rounds of inspection and visits.

Mostly very small businesses employing few hands, though strawberry picking is extensive in June. Dairy work is the chief industry. All the bakehouses have been inspected, and are generally satisfactory. There are no underground bakehouses in the district; all are cleaned and white-washed according to statute.

All workshops in the district have been periodically inspected; also the home workers. No cases of infectious disease have originated therefrom.

There is a shirt factory at Cheddar which sends out work—sewing work—from time to time—but it is irregular and on quite a small scale.

No Local Government Board enquiries have been held during the year.

#### Nursing.

The District Nurses and Midwives do excellent work. Four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred in 1920.

#### Sanitary Administration.

The work is done by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, the Lady Health Visitors, who have had much experience of tuberculosis and general sanitary work, all acting under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

All throat swabs of suspicious diphtheritic aspect, sputa from possible and probable tuberculosis cases and blood specimens, water analyses, chemical and bacteriological, are sent to the experts at the Public Health Laboratory at Weston-super-Mare, whose decisions have been most accurate and of the utmost value and assistance.



There is no hospital for infectious diseases, though one is in contemplation and a site selected.

Scarlatina.

Twenty-four cases were reported ; these were all of a sporadic and mild type—imported cases. No deaths were reported, and no spreading occurred in any locality. In all cases any milk business was confined to sending off milk from the field of milking, and no dairy work was conducted on the premises. The houses were visited, precautions were enjoined, and pamphlets of advice given, and the schools notified.

On the termination of the disease the rooms were thoroughly disinfected, all linen washed and boiled, while the bedding, blankets, and pillows were placed in the super-heated steam disinfector, being removed now *immediately* by the Council's own van.

Venereal Diseases

Are few : these are treated locally with the aid of the County Laboratory.

Diphtheria.

There have been 82 cases notified during the year, with one death, many of a mild, sporadic type, serious on account of this lightness of the symptoms, because it is difficult for the public to believe that such cases can be the causes of dangerous and fatal attacks in more susceptible subjects with whom they come in contact. Cultures of all suspected throats have been taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, to whom our best thanks are due for the rapidity and accuracy of their investigation, without which in obscure and mild cases a correct diagnosis could scarcely be arrived at. All the throats at Brent Knoll school I examined, swabs taken, and 4 carriers detected, and isolated.

Antitoxin has been distributed free of charge, *ad lib*, to all the Poor Law Medical Officers, which bounty has been much appreciated, and it has been



used freely and promptly with much success. Several carriers have been detected, isolated, and treated until rendered innocuous, and precautions carefully carried out.

At the termination of cases, disinfection is carried out, as in cases of scarlatina.

Measles  
and  
Mumps.  
Whooping  
Cough.

The above diseases were reported as they arose to the County Medical Officer, and exclusion notes were issued to the schools.

Schools.

Worle, Wedmore, Bleadon, Congresbury, Redhill, Compton Bishop, Weare, Blagdon, Allerton, Cheddar and Burnham were closed for Measles. Brent and Worle for Diphtheria.

Preventive measures were adopted in Scarlatina and Diphtheria, regarding the discharges from the mouth and nose as a possible means of spreading the malady. These were disinfected or burnt, particular care being enjoined as to the nasal and oral secretions, mouth toys, pencils, etc., and orders given to boil cups, spoons, and feeding utensils after use, and rag or paper handkerchiefs carefully burnt. Kissing spreads disease to a dangerous extent. The same applies to Sleeping Sickness, Spinal Fever, Measles, Pneumonia, and Tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis.

41 cases with 15 deaths are startling figures in young lives—between 15 to 45. *Food* seems to me to be the chief factor: poor children usually take a dinner to school of “bread and jam!” A half-pint of thick meat stew would be ideal, but, though costly, is really cheaper than sanatoriums! Growing children require at least *one* good meat meal a day. All the rooms were sprayed with Izal and fumigated after evacuation. The cases are constantly inspected and advised. Milk should always be boiled or sterilised.



Isolation  
Hospital.

There is none, though a large district of over 21,000, but it is receiving the consideration of the Council.

If the first cases could be immediately removed to an infectious hospital, much anxiety and loss of business would be saved, for in a district where dairy work is so universal an infectious case dislocates the whole business for many weeks, with serious loss.

## Disinfection.

All articles for disinfection are sent to the steam disinfecter at Worle Steam Laundry for all infectious cases—scarlatina, diphtheria, and tuberculosis. In tuberculosis, the rooms occupied are sprayed with Izal, the rooms papered or coloured, whenever possible, and ceilings whitewashed.

Notifications of tuberculosis are reported to the Health Department in Weston-super-Mare, and the place visited by the Health Visitors' Inspector, or myself. Leaflets of advice are distributed and disinfectants and sputum bottles provided, or other articles requisite for personal sanitation. The Removal Van for removal of infected bedding is invaluable.

## Acts.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act and the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, have been adopted in this district.

## Births.

From the Registrar's returns I find that during the year there were 472 births : males 258, females 214. Six males and 12 females were illegitimate ; giving a rate of 23.4 in the population of 20,477 for birth-rate Register-General.

## Deaths.

The deaths during 1920 numbered 239, giving a corrected rate of population of 12.4



Deaths under 1 year numbered ...	26
„ from 1 to 2 years numbered ...	0
„ „ 2 to 5 „ „ ...	0
„ „ 5 to 15 „ „ ...	4
„ „ 15 to 25 „ „ ...	8
„ „ 25 to 45 „ „ ...	26
„ „ 45 to 65 „ „ ...	38
„ „ 65 upwards „ „ ...	146
<hr/>	
Registered ...	236
<hr/>	

Deaths from Zymotic Disease ... 3

Enteric ...	1
Influenza ...	1
Diphtheria ...	1

Deaths from Phthisis ... 15  
 „ „ Cancer ... 22

Notified Infectious Disease, 374 :—

Diphtheria ...	82
Erysipelas ...	21
Scarlatina ...	24
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4
Puerperal Fever ...	1
Poliomyelitis ...	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	39
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2
Enteric ...	2
Pneumonia, acute ...	23
Malaria ...	0
Measles ...	247
German Measles ...	0

Numerous inspections have been made in the district, and all insanitary conditions and nuisances abated as soon as they were discovered or reported, while those localities in which diseases appeared received special attention, and its sanitation investigated and improved.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. V. LECHE,  
Medical Officer of Health.





## Phthisis: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

## AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT.

	ST. MICHAEL HOME
Classes for which accommodation is provided .. ..	
(a) Early cases .. ..	..
(b) Intermediate cases .. ..	25
(c) Advanced cases.. ..	16
By whom provided .. ..	Endowed by the late Mrs. W. Gibbs
Where situated .. ..	Cheddar
Total number of beds .. ..	41
How are patients selected? .. ..	By Application
Are the patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer? .. ..	No
What charge, if any, is made for the use of Beds? .. ..	None
Do the Sanitary Authority use : (1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis? .. ..	No, being none
Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium: If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium? .. ..	No
Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable Open-air Shelters or Tents? .. ..	No

There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Weston-super-Mare.

A. V. LECHE,

February, 1921.

Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

## THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the Year 1920.

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

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1920.

Letters and  
Notices.

During the year many nuisances were abated, and much work was carried out as a result of informal notices. Altogether 426 letters were written. In many instances verbal intimations were sufficient. Ten statutory notices were served, and their requirements were complied with.

Public  
Health  
Act, 1878.  
(Water)

Certificates of provision of water supply were given in respect of 12 new houses. Twenty-one samples of water were taken from private and public supplies, and submitted to the County Health Department for examination.

Disinfection.

Acting on instructions from the Medical Officer of Health 115 rooms and shelters were sprayed or fumigated after cases of infectious disease. In October the Council obtained a motor-van for use in removing infected bedding. This work which was previously carried out by contractors is now done by myself.



## Sewers.

New sewers have been laid at Banwell, Compton Bishop and Congresbury. In many parishes the existing sewers have either been repaired or cleared. Frequently improperly made drain connections have either been the cause of, or contributory to, the choking of sewers. If regulations were made as to method of connecting, and providing for supervision, these defects would not be liable to recur.

## Bakehouses.

There are 26 bakehouses in the district. These have been frequently inspected, and have been found to be clean and well ventilated.

## Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection.

There are 36 private slaughter-houses, 18 of which are licensed. They have been regularly inspected, and have generally been found to be clean, well kept, and properly lime-washed. Very little diseased or unsound meat has been seized during the year. Better control over slaughtering could be maintained if the Bye-laws made by the Council with respect to slaughter-houses were made to apply to the whole district. At present they only apply to 8 contributory places.

## Overcrowding.

2 cases of overcrowding were dealt with.

## Dairies and Cowsheds.

509 milk sellers are registered. Generally the dairies and cowsheds are well kept.

## Factories and Workshops.

Excluding bakehouses, these comprise six milk depôts, a shirt factory, an iron foundry, a steam laundry, and several small laundries. These were frequently inspected and were found to be well ventilated and kept clean. Seven sanitary defects were reported ; all of which have been remedied.

## Schools.

Special attention has been given during the year to the sanitary condition and water supply of



schools. It is to be regretted that these matters are frequently found to be far from satisfactory, but improvement is being made.

Common  
Lodging-  
houses.

There is only one common lodging-house in the district. This is licensed for 15 persons, and has been well kept and the statutory lime-washing has been carried out.

Housing and  
Town  
Planning  
Acts.

121 houses were inspected ; four of these were reported as unfit for habitation.

In the majority of cases owners readily placed orders for repairs, or other work required to be done, but owing to the shortage of labour it was extremely difficult to get these orders carried out, and long delays unavoidably occurred. In no case was it considered necessary to take legal proceedings.

I beg to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for the information and support they have so readily extended to me.

I also beg to express my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and to the other officers of the Council for their valuable co-operation and assistance.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY R. DAY,

February, 1921.

Sanitary Inspector.



## SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1920.

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Houses and Premises Inspected	...	...	...	247
Complaints Investigated	...	...	...	81
Written Notices and Letters sent with respect to the Abatement of Nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	426
Statutory Notices sent	...	...	...	10
Nuisances from the Keeping of Animals Abated	...			7
Nuisances from Accumulations of Manure Abated	...			4
Complaints re Overcrowding dealt with	...	...		2
Sewers and Drains Re-laid, Repaired or Cleaned	...			95
Numerous Verbal Notices were given with respect to Nuisances, but no record of number has been kept.				
Rooms and Shelters Disinfected	...	...	...	115

### PERIODICALLY INSPECTED.

Registered Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	509
Registered Lodging-houses	...	...	1
Private Slaughter-houses (18 licensed)	...	...	36
Bakehouses	...	...	26

HENRY R. DAY,

Inspector of Nuisances.

February, 1921.

# HOUSING.

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## GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

### Number of Houses—

Total number	...	...	...	...	6,512
Number for Working Classes	...	...	...	...	3,504
New Houses for the Working Classes erected during the year, or in course of erection	...	...	...	...	49

### Population—

About	...	...	...	...	21,000
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

The extent of housing needs is shown in the following estimate of working class houses required during the next three years :—

(a) To meet the unsatisfied demands for houses, taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, etc.	....	200
(b) To replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation, and cannot be made fit	... ..	500
(c) To replace other houses which, although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard	... ..	500
(d) To meet anticipated deficiencies, <i>e.g.</i> , arising from new industrial develop- ment	... ..	50
Total	... ..	1,250



In order to meet the housing shortage, the Council, with the approval of the Ministry of Health, have undertaken a scheme for the provision of 351 new houses under Sec. 1 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919. It is proposed to erect these houses in the following parishes :—

Parish.	No. of Houses.	Average No. of Houses to Acre.
*Axbridge	15	6
Badgworth	10	3
Banwell	20	5
*Berrow	4	4
Biddisham	3	6
Blagdon	12	4
Bleadon	6	6
*Brean	4	5
Brent Knoll	10	6
Burnham (Without)	8	3
Burrington	8	3
Butcombe	4	4
Chapel Allerton	8	4
Charterhouse	6	3
Cheddar	16	4
Christon and Loxton	7	3
Churchill	12	4
Compton Bishop	12	4
Congresbury	9	5
East Brent	5	6
Kewstoke	4	4
Lympsham	3	3
Mark	14	6
Puxton	9	3
Shipham	8	3
Uphill	10	5
Weare	6	4
Wedmore	60	5
Wick St. Lawrence	6	4
*Winscombe	24	3
*Worle	14	4
Wrington	14	6

\*Work has commenced in these parishes on the erection of 26 cottages under the Housing Scheme.

## Appendices—

## Housing Conditions.

Statistics, year ended 31st December, 1920.

## 1.—General.

(1) Estimated population	...	...	...	20,477
(2) General death-rate	...	...	...	12.4
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	.7
(4) Infantile mortality	...	...	...	55.8
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes				6,512
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses				3,504
(7) Number of new working class houses erected	...	...	...	49

## 2.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

## 1.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	247
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	135
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	4
(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	...	...	120

## II.—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	...	95
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### III.—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  | ... .. | 2    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—   |        |      |
| (a) by owners  | ... .. | 1    |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners  | ... .. | Nil. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... .. | Nil. |

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |  |        |      |
|--|--------|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... .. | 8    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—  |        |      |
| (a) by owners  | ... .. | 8    |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners  | ... .. | Nil. |

#### 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...  |        | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made   | ...    | Nil. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... .. | Nil. |

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|---|------|
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | Nil. |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...    | Nil. |

### 3.—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

- |   |     |     |     |     |   |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Name of area                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (2) Acreage   | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| (3) Number of working-class houses in area          |     |     |     |     | — |
| (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced |     |     |     |     |   |

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... .. —

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer ... .. —

The whole of the Housing work is carried out by or under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances.

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