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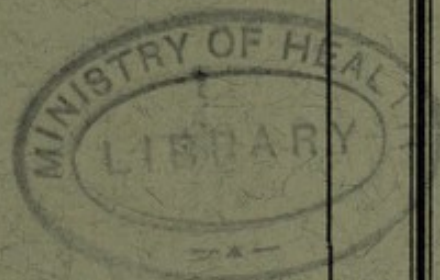
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AXBRIDGE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

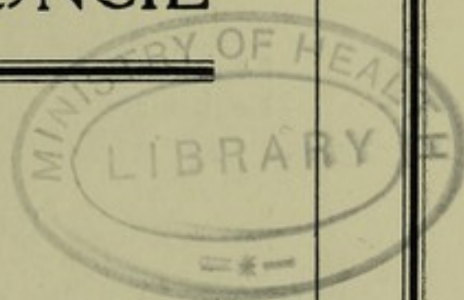
AND

Sanitary Inspector for 1925





AXBRIDGE RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

Sanitary Inspector for 1925



St. Stephen's Press, St. Stephen Street, Bristol.

1925.

BIRTHS—354.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	344	154	189
Legitimate ...	343	154	189
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	354	158	196

Rate per 1,000—14·8.

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)—286.

Total 286. Males, 130. Females, 156. Rate per 1,000, 12·0.
Number of women dying in or from child-birth—

From sepsis ...	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	1

Death-rate of infantile deaths under 1 year, per 1,000 births—33·6.
Total—12

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—2.

The prevalence of cancer is marked, 37 (Males, 14; females, 23).

Deaths from Tuberculosis, 19 (Males, 6; females, 13).

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1925.

	1 week.	1-4 weeks.	1-6 months.	6-12 mths.
Premature ...	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	0	0	0	3
Nararmus ...	0	2	1	0
Laryngismus Stridulus	0	0	1	0
Congenital Heart ...	1	1	0	0
Convulsions ...	0	0	0	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3	3	2	4=12

AXBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1925.

*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 area is 93,062 acres.

Estimated total Population for 1925, 23,820.

Census 1921, 23,293.

Population in private families, 22,396.

Number of private families, 5,704.

Rooms per person, 1.44.

Rooms occupied, 32,358.

Inhabited houses, 5,563; Persons per house, 4.

Assessable value, £137,904.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £574.

WATER SUPPLY.

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. A spring at Dunneat, Compton Bishop, has been purchased, and pipes are being laid to carry this supply to augment the well of the South Marsh scheme.

South
Marsh.

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.

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 Erent Knoll of 180,000 gallons capacity, for the supply of the Urban District of Highbridge. Water has been acquired for Bristol from the Cliff Stream, Cheddar.

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.

The Bristol Water Works now supplement this supply ad. lib.

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.

North Marsh.

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

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, which is often bad.

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

Brent
Knoll.

Banwell Springs are supplying Weston-super-Mare with an additional water supply, and the Weston Council are kindly providing a temporary supply by a standpipe to the Parish of Banwell.

Banwell.

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

Berrow.

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

Wedmore.

Of the 16 analyses, 15 were bad 4 months ago. The South Marsh mains run into the village, and supply the highest point, proving the pressure is sufficient for all purposes, and most of the inhabitants fetch water from the standpipes, or from Badgworth $\frac{3}{4}$ mile away. The South Marsh mains are so close (200 yards in places), that it does not seem logical to wait till Wedmore has a supply from Cheddar as agreed, and then pipe it 4 miles to Allerton, where a few already have water by meter, from the South Marsh supply. There is a serious shortage of water at times.

Allerton
Water.

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 galvanized vessels being abandoned.

Examinations of water are usually bacteriological.

Water
Analyses.
Sewers
and
Drainage.

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 or manure heap should empty, or overflow direct into a ditch, and in view of the actions at law recently taken owing to cattle being poisoned by polluted ditches, the matter is of grave importance. Worle sewerage demands immediate attention.

Cheddar Drainage.

Much drainage and sewerage work has been carried out in Cheddar.

The stream and rhines 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. It is desirable that the village dumps containing sundry old tins and other refuse be periodically removed.

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 usually excellent in quality. The milk that is sent away to towns is all strained and cooled by special water-cooled apparatus. Milk cans must not be left in the fields and washed in ditch water, as is known to occur.

The farms and cowsheds are constantly and thoroughly inspected and much help given and great improvements have been effected. The Sanitary Inspector and his assistant have been most tactful and successful.

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 the inconvenience it causes.

No pasteurised or graded milk licenses have been issued.

Samples of suspected tuberculous milk are taken under the 1915 Act.

The Register is believed to be complete.

The pig industry is satisfactorily carried out in a Pigs.
cleanly efficient manner ; very few complaints having arisen which are speedily arranged.

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. : Sanitary
Inspectors.
1,778 ; many household defects were remedied, *e.g.*, sinks, w.c.'s, rubbish heaps, ventilation defects, dirty rooms, bedding, furniture, and bad floors. The one Common Lodging House is periodically inspected, but no cellar dwellings or offensive trades exist in the district.

Very little diseased and bad food has been seized Food.
during 1925, 83 score 3 lbs. in all having been surrendered.

The sanitary condition of some of the schools is not Schools.
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.

Houses are being but 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 £500 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.

Factory and Workshops Act.

There is a large steam laundry and several small hand laundries at Worle. 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 (27), 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.

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

Nursing and Midwives.

The 11 district Nurses and Midwives do excellent work.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—(a) The County allow a subsidy, and the Guardians allow 7 per cent. The proceeds of entertainments, maternity fees, and subscriptions from patients are the chief source of revenue. The latter, in some districts are not easy to collect, though the nurses are invaluable, and deeply appreciated, and worked very hard.

(b) There are no nurses provided for Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, measles, etc. If necessary, as in an epidemic, they must be engaged from a centre, and lodged near the cases.

District Nurses are also Certified Midwives. There are eleven in the Axbridge District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Those at Weston-super-Mare are utilised for this district for venereal and tubercular diseases.

There are no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, School Clinics, etc., in this district.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council.—There are none, except the Axbridge Union Infirmary of 60 beds, and the St. Michael's Home for Phthisis near Axbridge.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the district, except the two excellent maternity wards at the Axbridge Infirmary.

No cases of *ophthalmia neonatorum* occurred in 1925. Ophthalmia
Neonatorum.

In all cases I communicate with the doctor or nurse, and offer an expert nurse, if required, or take the case into the Axbridge Infirmary, if in poor circumstances.

The work is done by the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspectors, 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. Sanitary
Administra-
tion.

All throat swabs of suspicious diphtheritic aspect, sputa from possible and probable tuberculosis cases and blood specimens, water analysis, 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.

Six cases were reported; these were mostly of a sporadic and mild type; imported cases. No deaths, 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 Scarlatina.
No deaths.

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 disinfecter, being moved now *immediately* by the Council's own van.

**Venereal
Diseases.**

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

**Diphtheria.
No deaths.**

There have been 23 cases notified during the year, with no death, many of the 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.

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.

Enteric.

Six cases of Enteric Fever occurred, with one death.

**Puerperal
Fever.**

Five Puerperal Fever with one death; an imported case.

**Infectious
Cases.**

An epidemic of Measles occurred, with no deaths.

204 Cases of measles.

68 cases of pneumonia were reported.

5 encephalitis lethargica occurred; one death (a child of 6).

9 erysipelas cases.

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

Shipham, Badgworth, Congresbury, Churchill, Compton Bishop, Wrington and Kewstoke were closed for Influenza; Loxton and Christon for Whooping Cough; Hewish, Wick-St.-Lawrence and Congresbury for Measles; Wrington for Mumps.

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 spread disease to a dangerous extent. The same applied to sleeping sickness, spinal fever, measles, pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Fifty-six cases notified and 19 deaths. The excellent way in which all cases of tuberculosis are inspected, followed up and advised, and the suitable cases sent to Homes and Sanatoria must reduce the disease in time. No actions have been taken re Public Health Regulations (Tuberculosis), 1925, or compulsory measures necessary. Tuberculosis.

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.

There is none, though a large district of over 23,000, but the question has received the consideration of the Council; the site and plans have been adopted, and furnishing estimates prepared. Isolation Hospital.

There is no ambulance.

Ambulance.

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. Disinfection.

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.
Bye-laws.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act and the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, has been adopted in this district. Bye-laws and Regulations have been made for slaughter-houses, nuisances, and dairies.

See Tables.

Births.

See Page 2.

Deaths.

See Tables for deaths under one year.

MILK SUPPLY.

- (a) Number of distributors on the Register ... 105
 (b) Number of producers on the Register ... 855
 (c) An inspection (farm to farm) of the whole district has been made.
 (d) An Assistant Inspector has been appointed
 (e) Particulars of any licences granted to distributors to sell pasteurized "graded" or certified milk ... nil
 (f) General advice and cleanliness emphasised everywhere.

NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1925.

	Deaths.	No. notified.
Measles	0	204
Pneumonia	17	68
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	3	5
Typhoid	1	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0	0
Erysipelas	0	9
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	0	0
Diphtherial	0	23
Scarlatina	0	6
Puerperal Fever	1	5
	<hr/> 22	<hr/> 326

56 Tubercular cases: 19 deaths.

Men	pulmonary	14	... other kinds	7
Women	pulmonary	28	... other kinds	7
		<hr/> 42		<hr/> 14

	Years	1-5	5-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-60	60 up	T'l
Scarlatina	...	0	1	3	1	0	1	0—	6
Diphtheria	...	3	3	7	5	2	3	0—	23
Enteric	...	0	0	3	3	0	0	0—	6
Puerperal Fever	...	0	0	0	3	2	0	0—	5
Pneumonia	...	26	3	4	5	5	11	14—	68
Measles	...	56	84	46	9	7	2	0—	204
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	1	1	0	0	2	0—	5
Erysipelas	...	1	0	0	1	1	4	2—	9
Totals	...	87	92	64	27	17	23	16—	326

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES—56.					DEATHS—19.				
Age periods	pul-monary.		non-pul-monary.		Age periods.	pul-monary.		non-pul-monary.	
	m.	f.	m.	f.		m.	f.	m.	f.
1—5	0	2	0	0	1—5	0	0	0	0
5—10	2	4	0	0	5—10	0	0	1	0
10—15	1	4	1	2	10—15	0	0	0	0
15—20	3	2	1	1	15—20	0	1	0	2
20—25	1	3	1	2	20—25	2	1	0	0
25—35	1	7	2	1	25—35	0	6	1	1
35—45	2	3	2	1	35—45	1	1	0	0
45—55	1	3	0	0	45—55	1	1	0	0
55—65	2	0	0	0	55—65	0	0	0	0
65 up	1	0	0	0	65 up	0	0	0	0
	14	28	7	7		4	10	2	3

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AXBRIDGE R.D., 1925.

	Male	Female
All causes	130	156
Enteric	0	1
Measles	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	4	1
Rheumatic Fever	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	10
Other tuberculous diseases	2	3

	Male	Female
Cancer—Malignant disease ...	14	23
Diabetes	2	1
Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc ...	11	16
Heart disease	21	28
Arterio-sclerosis	10	6
Bronchitis	4	10
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	8	9
Other respiratory diseases ...	3	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0
Diarrhœa, etc (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis and typhlitis ...	0	1
Cirrhosis of liver	2	0
Acute and chronic Nephritis ...	7	5
Puerperal Sepsis	0	1
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ...	0	1
Congenital debility and malfor- mation, premature birth ...	2	4
Suicide	0	1
Other deaths from violence ...	9	3
Other defined diseases	23	30
Deaths of infants under 1 year—		
Total	6	6
Illegitimate	0	1

Total Births	158	196
Legitimate	154	189
Illegitimate	4	7

Population—23,820

Notification is carefully carried out.

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.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	14	Nil	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	26	Nil	Nil
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Page 8 of this Report)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	40	Nil	Nil

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN ABOVE.

	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	11	11
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	2	2

A. V. LECHE, Axbridge,

March 31st, 1926.

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 and Cheddar.

A. V. LECHE,

March 31st, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1925.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my tenth annual report upon the work carried out in your Sanitary and Housing Department during the year 1925.

All previous records have been broken as regards practically all classes of sanitary improvements. This has only been rendered possible by reason of the loyal co-operation of each member of my staff.

Not only has all numerical records been exceeded, but the general standard of sanitation is well up to the average for Rural Districts. There has been no lessening of the public demands for improved conditions, and the time is not far distant when better transport facilities will result in breaking down many of the distinctions between Rural and Urban Districts, making Urban standards more applicable everywhere.

As in previous years, all matters possible have been dealt with informally, by interview or by letter, without reporting to you for formal or statutory action to be taken. This method not only leads to better feeling by the general public towards sanitary administration, but it frequently results in more beneficial work being executed than it would have been possible to specify in a statutory notice.

Letters and
Notices.

In this connection 1,020 letters have been written during the year. No statutory notices have been served, and in no case relating to nuisances has it been deemed necessary to institute proceedings before Justices.

Water

House-to-house inspections were in progress at the end of the year in the Parishes of Churchill, Wroughton with Broadfield, and Wedmore. House-to-house inspections were completed in the parishes of Chapel Allerton, Locking and Worle, the results in the latter three cases being as follows:—

CHAPEL ALLERTON:—

Sixty-four premises (including 32 private dwellings, 31 farms and dairies and 1 school) are supplied by wells, 4 of which, supplying 2 dairies and 2 private dwellings, fail in extreme drought.

One farm obtains its supply from a ditch adjoining the roadway. One private dwelling, 2 farms and an inn obtain their supplies by service pipes connected to the mains on the South Marsh Scheme.

Well water, which is apparently pure, is used by 11 private dwellings and 11 farms.

Well water, suspected to be impure, is used by 15 private dwellings and 10 farms.

Well water which is impure is used by 6 private dwellings, 10 farms and the Church of England school.

The supplies to 29 dwellings and 31 farms are upon the premises served. In the case of 3 private dwellings and the school, the supplies are not upon the premises served, but are within a radius of 100 yards.

Eight bacteriological samples of water from this parish were submitted to the County Laboratory in the year 1920, when in only one case was the water found to be satisfactory.

Eight further samples from different supplies have been submitted during the past year, and in each case the water has shown evidence of contamination.

LOCKING:—

In this parish there are 22 private dwellings and 11 farms and dairies. The supplies to these have been scheduled under three headings, viz., Sufficiency, Purity and Availability.

As regards sufficiency, it has been found that in only 3 cases have the supplies failed, two cases being in

extreme drought, when a well is said to have failed, the other case being when the only supply from a small rainwater tank became exhausted.

With the exception of the above-mentioned rainwater tank, all the supplies are obtained from shallow wells sunk into the lias or clay. Fifteen private dwellings and 8 farms or dairies obtain water from sources which are apparently pure, whilst 6 private dwellings and 3 farms or dairies obtain water from sources which are suspected to be impure by reason of the wells having defective coverings or being otherwise liable to contamination.

Five samples of water were submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and in only two cases was the water found to be fairly satisfactory.

The supplies to 17 private dwellings and 8 farms are upon the premises served, 4 dwellings and one farm have their supplies within 100 yards, one dwelling and one farm fetch their water from a distance of about 800 yards, and one farm fetches water from a distance of about 500 yards.

WORLE:—

Although it is generally assumed that Worle is supplied with water by mains laid by the Weston-super-Mare Urban Council, the fact is that only 120 premises (approximately one-third of the parish), obtains its water from this source.

The supplies to 120 private dwellings, 11 farms and dairies, 6 bakeries, restaurants, etc., 1 steam laundry and 2 licensed premises are obtained from private wells, 30 of which supplies fail in extreme drought, and one of which frequently fails. Several householders pay 10/- per annum for the right of water from a neighbour's well. Of these private well supplies, 101 are of the "shallow" type well, 15 are suspected of being impure, and 5 are definitely known to be impure.

Fifty-two of the wells are upon the premises served, 69 are within 100 yards.

Nine private dwellings and 1 licensed premises depend upon rainwater tanks, two of which fail in extreme drought.

Two parish wells supply 78 premises. These supplies do not fail, and the bacteriologist's report upon a sample of water taken from one of them in May, 1924, showed it at that time to be of good quality. Neither is readily available to all premises supplied.

8 dwellings supplied are over 100 yards distant.					
2	„	„	„	120	„ „
2	„	„	„	250	„ „
25	„	„	„	300	„ „
2	„	„	„	350	„ „

Water,
General.

Certificates of the provisions within a reasonable distance of an available supply of wholesome water have been issued in respect of all newly-erected houses.

Twenty-three samples of water from various sources have been submitted to the County Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Disinfections.

During the year 125 rooms have been disinfected after cases of infectious disease. The usual method adopted is by Izal Spray, all infected articles such as rugs, cushions, etc., being removed for steam disinfection or for destruction. The actual labour of removal devolves upon my assistant or myself, and involves many journeys and much time. Linens and other washable articles are permitted to remain in the homes upon assurances being obtained that same will be efficiently disinfected by boiling.

The steam disinfection has been carried out for this Council by a private Company at Worle to whose premises infected articles are removed.

It is very desirable that this class of work should be undertaken by public health authorities only, and with this end in view, I respectfully submit that the Hospital Committee be asked to instal suitable apparatus in conjunction with the Isolation Hospital proposed to be erected at Compton Bishop, and to grant facilities to this Council to carry out its disinfections there.

A considerable number of inspections and very satisfactory results have been achieved in the matter of house sanitation, as reference to the appended schedule, in respect of the Parishes of Bleadon, Chapel Allerton, Cheddar, Congresbury, Locking, Weare, Wedmore, Winscombe and Worle will show:—

Parish.	Total No. of Premises.	Insanitary types converted to W.C.'s.	Insanitary types converted to E.C.'s.
Bleadon ...	103	4	6
Chapel Allerton ...	68	0	4
Cheddar ...	322	193	0
Congresbury ...	120	5	4
Locking ...	20	0	0
Weare ...	45	0	2
Wedmore ...	324	6	5
Winscombe ...	142	4	0
Worle ...	379	6	0

Two hundred and seventy-three sewers and drains have been re-laid or repaired.

An inspection of the sewerage and house drainage systems at Worle has been completed, and most unsatisfactory conditions found.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:—

With the exception of the extreme Eastern portion of the village, the existing sewers have their outfalls into five ditches which are stagnant except for the flow of sewage and storm water. These ditches all connect to Madam Rhyne. The latter is practically stagnant and is very foul.

There is only one sewer which is so constructed as to possibly permit of its being connected up to any future system, and even this would be better used only as a storm water drain. This sewer is laid in Hill Road, and was constructed by the late Misses Parsley, but now vests in the Axbridge Council.

The other covered sewers are few in number and varied in type, some being old stone-built culverts, others stoneware pipes indifferently laid and badly jointed. In certain instances open highway channels are utilised for the discharge of waste water drains and cesspool overflows.

HOUSE DRAINAGE:—

The house drainage systems at Worle are in a very unsatisfactory condition. A large number of drains and conveniences are improperly constructed and are otherwise defective. These conditions cannot be economically or satisfactorily dealt with until sewers are available.

The greater portion of the village drains to cesspools, a large number of which are in a state of nuisance.

The attached schedule of means of house drainage and disposal gives a complete analysis of the means of closet accommodation and drainage. Several of the insanitary privies, w.c.'s and e.c.'s are used in common.

One insanitary privy midden is used in common for four houses.

Six insanitary privy middens are each used in common for two houses.

Two sufficient w.c.'s are each used in common for two houses.

One insufficient w.c. is used in common for two houses.

One insufficient e.c. is used in common for two houses.

Five lock-up shops have no sanitary convenience or drainage of any kind.

There are a number of hand laundries in Worle which produce a large quantity of filthy water, and which have no sufficient means for the disposal of same.

PARISH OF WORLE.

SCHEDULE OF MEANS OF HOUSE DRAINAGE AND DISPOSAL:—

Closet Accommodation—

- (a) Sufficient w.c.'s, 73.
- (b) Insufficient w.c.'s, 164.
- (c) Sufficient e.c.'s, 21.
- (d) Insufficient e.c.'s, 64.

Other insanitary privies in a state of nuisance—

- (e) To covered pits but without pans, etc., 48.

- (f) To open pits and without pans, etc., 9.

Disposal of drainage from water closets (a) (b)—

- (a) To sewers, including sewer ditches, etc., 28.
 (b) To sufficient cesspools, 141.
 (c) To insufficient or improperly constructed cesspools in a state of nuisance, 64.

Disposal of waste water—

- (a) To sewers, including sewer ditches, etc., 74.
 (b) To open highway channels, 16.
 (c) To sufficient cesspools, 158.
 (d) To insufficient or improperly constructed cesspools in a state of nuisance, 62.
 (e) No means of disposal excepting by soakage in garden or yard adjoining dwelling, 34.

Drains (apparent condition)—

- (a) Properly constructed and sound, 139.
 (b) Improperly constructed or unsound, 163.

There are 28 bakehouses in the district, all of which **Bakehouses.** have been found to be well kept.

The number of private slaughterhouses on the register **Slaughter-** is 29, eight of which are registered and 21 licensed. **Houses.** There is a general improvement in the keeping of these.

Particulars of matters in connection with the administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, and seizures or surrenders of meat are as follows :—

Length of time for which licences are granted, 3 years.

Notices under Section 8 of the Regulations—

- (a) The person appointed to receive these notices is Henry Richard Day, Sanitary Inspector.

- (b) Number of Slaughterhouse occupiers (exclusive of emergency slaughtering)—

who have given only a notice of slaughtering at a fixed time	...	...	...	...	23
who have not given such a notice but give a notice of each time of slaughter	...	...	...	...	6
Number of notices given under section 9	...	...	...	...	6

Animal and parts condemned.			During 1st half-year.		During 2nd half-year.		Total for the year.
Pigs—Head	...	...	0	...	1	...	1
Oxen and calves—							
Whole carcass	...	...	1	...	2	...	3
Fore or hind quarters only	..		0	...	2	...	2
Head	...	...	5	...	4	...	9
Internal organs alone		...	22	...	16	...	38
Sheep—							
Whole carcasses	...	...	0	...	1	...	1
Organs alone	...	...	25	...	9	...	34

Dairies.

The number of milk producers and distributors on the registers at the end of the year were as follows:—

Producers 855

Distributors—

(1) who are also producers ... 85

(2) who are distributors only 20

The standard in the methods of milk production has been maintained, but there is still much room for improvement. The structures of many cowstalls have been amended, and several new sheds have been erected.

Only one prosecution was instituted during the year, and this was in respect of dirty utensils.

Factories and Workshops.

Excluding bakehouses, these comprise six milk depots, an iron foundry, a steam laundry and several small hand laundries. These have been well kept, only small defects having been found.

Schools.

Some anxiety need still be felt as to the standard of sanitation of schools within your area. Acting apparently upon the advice of the County Education Authority, certain Managers have claimed exemption under the Education Acts from the provisions of your By-laws. This action is to be deplored, especially as the standard adopted has been considerably below that which would have been demanded under your By-laws,

whilst the cost of the work has certainly been greater than would have been necessary had these been complied with.

This matter has been receiving the attention of the Ministry of Health, and it is hoped that the effect of this attention will be to remove anomalies which exist in standards of sanitation.

There is only one common lodging house in the District. This is licensed to accommodate 15 persons, and is generally well kept. Common
Lodging
houses

The position as regards overcrowding continues to give rise to anxiety. There were 79 cases dealt with during the year, practically all of which arose from the shortage of working-class dwellings at low rentals. Many people prefer to live in overcrowded conditions rather than pay a reasonable rent for better accommodation. Overcrowd-
ing and
Housing.

The general housing conditions in the District are set out in the schedule herein (*Schedule C*), giving particulars in respect of 25 parishes. Very little has been done in the remaining 12 parishes.

I beg to tender my grateful thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the advice and support so readily extended me at all times. Also I beg to tender my thanks to the Medical Officer of Health and other officers of the Council for their never-failing co-operation and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY R. DAY.

March, 1926.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Houses and Premises Inspected (apart from re-inspections)	1,778
Complaints Investigated	242
Written Notices and Letters sent with respect to the Abatement of Nuisances, etc	1,020
Statutory Notices sent	0
Nuisances from the keeping of Animals Abated	11
Nuisances from Accumulations of Manure Abated	14
Complaints re Overcrowding dealt with	79
Sewers and Drains—Re-laid or Repaired	273
Numerous verbal notices were given with respect to nuisances, but no record of the number has been kept.	
Rooms and Shelters Disinfected	125

PERIODICALLY INSPECTED.

Registered Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops (including Wholesale Dairies	875
Registered Lodging Houses	1
Private Slaughter-houses (8 Registered, 21 Licensed)	29
Bakehouses	28

HENRY R. DAY,
Sanitary Inspector.

March, 1926.

[illegible]

EXHIBIT

EXHIBIT



