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BOROUGH OF BANBURY.

Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my report on the health of the Borough for the year 1925.

The population, as estimated by the Registrar General, was 13,760, last year it was 13,720.

BIRTHS.

The number of births was 217. Of these 117 were males and 100 females; 10 were illegitimate. Last year the births numbered 226. The birth rate was 15.77; last year it was 16.47. The number of births notified was 217.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths was 157; 74 males and 83 females. Last year the number was 152. The death rate was 11.4, last year it was 11.07. The deaths under one year were 15; 10 males and 5 females, one was illegitimate. The infantile mortality per 1,000 births was 69.12; last year it was 39.82.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Influenza .. .. .	2	Ulcers of Stomach or duodenum .. .	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .. .	15	Appendicitis or Typhlitis .. .	2
Other Tuberculosis Diseases .. .	2	<del>Typhlitis .. .</del>	<del>2</del>
Cancer .. .	24	Acute and chronic Nephritis .. .	6
Diabetes .. .	2	Congenital Debility and Malformation, premature birth .. .	4
Cerebral Hemorrhage .. .	16	Suicide .. .	1
Heart Disease .. .	8	Other deaths from violence .. .	4
Arterio-sclerosis .. .	1	Other defined diseases .. .	28
Bronchitis .. .	17	Causes undefined or unknown .. .	2
Pneumonia, all forms .. .	14	Whooping Cough .. .	3
Measles .. .	2	Diarrhoea, &c. (under two years) .. .	2
Other Respiratory Diseases .. .	1		

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR.

Broncho-pneumonia .. .	3	Bronchitis .. .	4
Gastro-enteritis .. .	2	Whooping Cough .. .	1
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth .. .	4	Wasting due to improper feeding and neglect (inquest) .. .	1

AGE AT WHICH DEATH OCCURRED.

Under one year .. .	15
One and under .. .	3
2 .. .	5
5 .. .	4
15 .. .	7
25 .. .	20
45 .. .	31
65 and upwards .. .	72

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE TOWN.

Area 4,633 acres. Population last Census, 13,340. Estimated, 1925, 13,760.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF TOWN.

The inhabitants of the Borough of Banbury for the most part live in a closely built Urban area which is surrounded to an average depth of 1½ miles by a Rural area containing only scattered farms and cottages. However, since the War, an estate known as "Easington," situated on the high ground and outside the



confines of the area previously described, containing 250 houses, is being developed by the Town Council together with Private Owners. The main portion of the dwellings are of the artizan class and as they are being laid out on somewhat of a Town Planning System this will avoid any congestion, narrowness and closeness which prevails in other parts of the Borough. The Town lies in a hollow surrounded by hills, the higher part of the town is on the middle lias rock and the lower on the middle lias clay. The area is divided by the River Cherwell into an Eastern and Western portion connected by a Bridge. About two thirds of the area being in the Western and one-third in the Eastern portion. The Eastern portion is known as the hamlet of Grimsbury, it consists mainly of modern artizans dwellings; the older and Western part of the area consists of shops, middle-class dwellings and of cottages which are in some parts old and dilapidated, although the greater number are in good condition. The meadows abutting on the River and the lower part of the town are flat and liable to flooding, this has been reduced considerably by the recent cleaning out and improvements to the River.

Number of Inhabited Houses 1921, 3,096. Rooms per person 1.31.

Number of families or separate occupiers 3,209 families, and population in private families 12,831.

Number of Inhabited Houses 1925, 3,402. Average per house 4.04.

Rateable Value £75,450, and sum represented by a penny rate £249.

#### CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE AND OCCUPATIONS.

The general condition of the people is satisfactory. As will be seen by the undermentioned occupations of the majority so employed, none of them in my opinion is likely to have any deleterious effect on their health:—

##### Occupations of Males, aged 12 and upwards.

	Per 1,000.
877 per 1,000 are employed.	
Metal Workers .. .. .	92
Makers of Foods and Drinks .. .. .	25
Workers of Wood—	
Cabinet Makers .. .. .	17
French Polishers .. .. .	14
Builders and Bricklayers, &c. (approximately) ..	51
Painters and Decorators.. .. .	25
Railway Workers .. .. .	79
Clerks and Draughtsmen.. .. .	41

##### Occupations of Females aged 12 and upwards.

	per 1,000.
310 per 1,000 are employed.	
Makers of Textile Goods and Articles of Dress ..	48
Makers of Stationery, Cardboard boxes .. .. .	47
Commercial and Financial Workers .. .. .	144
Persons engaged in Personal Service .. .. .	34
Clerks and Typists .. .. .	59

#### UNEMPLOYMENT.

I am pleased to report the number of unemployed has decreased, although the number is still sufficient to give rise to anxiety. The number of unemployed of both sexes is 472, against 622 for the corresponding period of last year.

#### POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year under review was £4,567.

#### HOSPITALS.

Patients are treated at the Horton Infirmary which is situated within the Borough and stands in its own grounds on the Oxford Road, it has been considerably extended as a Peace Memorial for Banbury and District. The Hospital deals with a large Rural District as well. It is not subsidised by the Local Authority.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water is taken from the River Cherwell just above the town by the Banbury Water Company. The supply is constant and sufficient, the water is filtered and as an additional safeguard is chlorinated, as such a source of supply is always open to pollution.

The analysis of the town water made during the past year revealed very satisfactory results. This no doubt, to some extent, may be attributed to the fact that the Water Company have installed two additional mechanical filters. This will in addition obviate any risk during any repairs to filters such as I complained of last year. Another point I am pleased to notice is the provision of a storage tank at such height as to enable the inhabitants of the houses at Easington to be provided with sufficient water at times when pumping has ceased at the Works.

I am glad to notice that the Thames Conservancy are making use of their powers given them over Northamptonshire to trace the sources of pollution and having them dealt with. This will have the result that the source of your water supply will become purer and purer as time goes on. I regret the Water Company could not see their way clear at least for the present, to provide storage reservoirs. Where a public supply is derived from the river which is liable to be seriously affected by variation of weather and the addition of arable land, I am still of the opinion that such provision is very necessary. Appended is the last chemical analysis taken during the year:—

Result of Analysis of a sample of Water sent by Mr. F. G. Cobbett, Sanitary Inspector, Banbury, marked 30th December, 1925. From a dwelling house, No. 46, Parson's Street, Banbury. Town Water. Source, River Cherwell. Purification—Sand and Mechanical Filters, also Chlorinated. Reason for analysis—Periodical. Sealed plain wax.



	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids .. .. .	19.04
Oxygen absorbed by Oxidisable Organic Matter ..	.096
Chlorine .. .. .	1.15
Equal to Chloride of Sodium .. .. .	1.89
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. .. .	.03
Sulphuric Acid as Sulphates .. .. .	3.84
Lime .. .. .	6.44
Magnesia .. .. .	.70
Free Ammonia .. .. .	.001
Albuminoid Ammonia .. .. .	.010



The sample was bright and free from any suspended matter. It was yellowish coloured and contained a distinct amount of dissolved organic matter. The supply has apparently been affected by the recent heavy rains, and the total solids and the lime are notably lower than usual, while the albuminoid ammonia is high. The bacteriological examination indicates, however, that the filtration of the water has been effectively carried out and the supply, although not as free from organic matter as is desirable, may be considered as fairly satisfactory.

AUGUSTUS VOELCKER AND SONS.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The New Sewage Scheme is still working in a satisfactory manner, and the condition of the Pumping Plant reflects great credit on your Surveyor. The Effluent also has been of a high standard, no complaints having been received from the Thames Conservancy, this no doubt, in no small measure is attributable to the efficient manner in which your Farm Manager has dealt with the Disposal Works, especially in view of the very wet season.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

With the exception of a few pail closets on the outskirts of the town practically all are connected with the Water Carriage System. Progress is still being made in having those closets which are hand flushed converted. The number converted this year being 61. The houses having closets in common are 98. The Slum Clearance Scheme will reduce this number considerably. The other houses will be dealt with as more accommodation is available when I represent to you the remainder for Closing Orders.

#### SCAVENGING.

There is a bi-weekly collection over the centre of the town and a weekly collection of the outskirts. Your Surveyor is, I understand, preparing to reorganise the whole system. This no doubt will come before you for your consideration. All premises not provided with a sanitary dust bin have been noted and the owners will be called upon to provide one.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

For particulars see the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades carried on in the Borough—2. As the business carried on is extremely small in extent it is not necessary at the present time for any bye-laws governing this trade to be applied for. As to the Lodging Houses, I can only reiterate what I have reported from year to year, although a slight improvement has been made by the change of premises. In this case it would be an assistance, in view of the increasing number of tramps, if the model bye-laws could be adopted. I know this matter has been under consideration and quite appreciate the difficulty in having these people housed under more sanitary and desirable conditions.

#### FOOD.

The result of all samples taken is set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1919.

The Health Visitors report needy and deserving cases, including in their report state of houses, members of family, ages, health, earnings, income, to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, who grant milk to cases in which they consider it necessary to do so; they may allow one pint of milk a day to each child under five years of age, at half-price. When necessary I sign the orders provisionally, between committee meetings; 25 cases were supplied with milk during the year, 11 were receiving milk at the end of the year.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The standard of the milk produced or brought into the town is of good average quality. It will be necessary to appoint a Bacteriologist for the purpose of ascertaining the bacterial content of any samples that may be forwarded to him.

No Licences have been applied for under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

It has not been found necessary to ask for the revocation of the registration of any milk retailers.

#### MEAT.

Slaughtering is carried on at various places in the Borough and practically at the same time, therefore, it makes it very difficult to inspect meat properly and, of course, that which comes into the town.

As I have mentioned before the most satisfactory way would be to have an Abattoir. As this is still under consideration by the Council I need not refer further to this matter. The new Meat Regulations seem to have worked smoothly and every assistance is given to us by the Butchers, and I congratulate



them on the fact that on their own volition they have decided to adopt humane slaughtering, and also on the fact that they are displaying notices asking customers to avoid touching the meat.

No action has been taken under Section 117 of the Public Health Act or Section 47 of the Public Health (London) Act 1891. One carcase was seized under Section 116 of the Public Health Act, but as it was not offered for sale or deposited for that purpose, no further action was deemed necessary. Appended is a list of quantities of unsound food surrendered during the year 1925 :—

Carcases of Beef .. .. .	4 (2 T.B.)
Carcases of Mutton .. .. .	4
Carcases of Pork .. .. .	1
Carcases of Veal .. .. .	1
Heads and Internal Organs .. .. .	25 (4 T.B.)
Plaice .. .. .	64 lbs.
Prawns and Shrimps .. .. .	7 tins.
Crabs .. .. .	42
Chicken and Ham Roll .. .. .	1 tin.

The Inspector and his Assistant are at the slaughterhouses during the time of slaughtering. No applications have been made by the Butchers or their Association to the Local Authority to establish the principle of meat marking, and under the present conditions it would be very difficult to carry this out as no facilities exist for minute inspection, even though the sanction of the Ministry of Health could be obtained under the present conditions. All shops, stalls and vehicles are complying with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

	In 1920.	In January 1925.	In December 1925.
Registered .. .. .	5	5	5
Licensed .. .. .	5	5	5
Total .. .. .	10	10	10

One of the licensed slaughterhouses includes a Knacker's premises.

#### OTHER FOODS.

The conditions of the bakehouses and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared or exposed for sale are satisfactory. I am very strongly of opinion that bread, a ready cooked food, should be wrapped in paper after baking and not handled at all. The present way of delivering bread leaves very much to be desired, to say the least of it. It has every chance of not only becoming very dirty before reaching the customer, but also being infected with germs.

#### SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

For particulars see the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### THE CATTLE AND SHEEP MARKET.

The market is still held in the streets and open spaces of the town in spite of the New Market in use erected by the Midland Marts Limited close to the L.M.S.R. Station. I should be pleased if some conciliatory measures could be undertaken to persuade those standing aloof from the Market with its great and convenient accommodation and facilities for buying and selling with expedition and comfort to leave the existing market for that of its proper use of traffic and business; to say nothing of the insanitary conditions existing under the present regime.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year : -

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total deaths.
Small Pox .. .. .			
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	21	7	
Diphtheria .. .. .	6	1	
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)			
Puerperal Fever.. .. .			
Pneumonia .. .. .	4		1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1		
Erysipelas .. .. .	8	2	
Chicken Pox .. .. .			

The Isolation Hospital was open the following dates :—

January 1st to February 25th.

February 28th to April 22nd.

May 9th to June 20th.

July 14th to September 12th.

September 25th to December 23rd.

Antitoxin for diphtheria is supplied free to medical practitioners for cases in the Borough where the parents are not well off. Bacteriological examination of specimens is also provided free by the Council in these cases.

There was no serious epidemic during the year.

No Vaccinations or re-Vaccinations have been done by me under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

There is one Isolation Hospital of 24 beds. An arrangement has been come to with the Banbury Rural District Council by which they can send cases of infectious disease, other than small pox, to the



Borough Isolation Hospital, and you can send any small pox cases to their Isolation Hospital at Shutford. A rate of charges has been agreed upon, the patients having the choice of their own medical man and paying their own medical fees; in the event of their not arranging for medical attendance, the latter to be chosen by each Council at its own hospital. The arrangement is very satisfactory and saves the large cost of other hospital accommodation.

There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector in use for dealing with bedding, etc.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) For infectious cases—Horse Ambulance.
- (b) For non-infectious and accident cases—Motor Ambulance.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....							1	1
1 .....								
5 .....				1				
10 .....	1			2				
15 .....	3				2	1		
20 .....	1	2		4		1		
25 .....	2	3		1	2	2		
35 .....	3	2			1	1		
45 .....	1	2			2	2		
55 .....	1			1				
65 and upwards..					1			
Totals .....	12	9		9	8	7	1	1

The Dispensary of the Oxford Association for the Prevention of Consumption has a dispensary in the Borough which is open on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in each month, attended by Dr. Pearce, the county tuberculosis officer. The Health Visitors also attend. Dr. Pearce also visits patients at their own homes when he considers necessary, and makes arrangements for them to be sent to sanatoria; the Dispensary deals with suspected cases and contacts as well as notified cases, the Health Visitors keep each case under observation at their own homes; (the latter also attend Orthopaedic Clinic at the Horton Infirmary, where tubercular and other cases are treated). The number of old patients who attend the dispensary during the year was 44, number of new cases including contacts 39, number of patients sent to convalescent homes 3, number sent to Hermitage 4, number sent to Horton Infirmary 11, number sent to Headington 7, number sent to sanatoria 11. Milk and cod liver oil are supplied to a number of cases. The number of visits paid by the Health Visitors under this heading was 441.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE.

Treatment is carried out by the County Council; cases are sent to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Inspection of Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

#### INFANT WELFARE, AND CLINIC FOR CHILDREN FROM 2 TO 5 YEARS.

The Clinic is open daily 9—10 a.m. and on Tuesday 2—3 p.m. it is attended by the two Health Visitors. It is attended by the M.O.H. on Friday and on Tuesday. After the clinic on the latter day it is open for the babies for one hour.

Under the Notification of Births Act the Health Visitors visit the majority of the newly born babies after the first fortnight, and the visiting is now continued until they reach the age of 5 years, when they come under the Education Authority, and the visiting is then carried on until the age of 14. As the same staff does the work under the Council and under the Education Committee, it simplifies the work very much as well as making it more efficient. The babies are sent to the Clinic when necessary for examination and the mothers are encouraged to bring their babies to be weighed. Tea and biscuits are provided at a nominal charge of 1d. per cup. 89 infants attended the centre, making 410 attendances.

This year, again, through the kindness of Mrs. Gillett who supplied the hall, and of subscribers from the Welfare Committee and Nursing Association, and others interested in the Health Visitors' work, it was possible to give a tea and entertainment to the mothers who have brought their babies to be weighed at the centre during the year. 60 were entertained and they appreciated it very much.

The Health Visitors paid a total of 6,315 visits during the year. First visits 182, under one year 974, one to five years 1,727. Their work under the School Medical Service is set out in my school report.

They have done their work tactfully and efficiently during the year, and are successful in their efforts to improve the health of the children.

75 ante-natal cases have been visited by them during the year.

No plans have been brought forward with regard to supplying hospital accommodation for maternity cases.

#### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Public Health Staff consists of the M.O.H. (part time), who is not engaged in private practice, the Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant and two Health Nurses.

The Sanitary Inspector has a Special Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

The Public Health Act, 1907, the Public Health Act 1925, and the Public Health Amendment Act 1890 are in force in the Borough.



## HOUSING.

The shortage of houses has still been lessened, and there is still a certain amount of overcrowding, but it particularly refers to cases where families have grown and the houses are too small for them. There are also some houses that are inhabited that should be closed as more accommodation becomes available. This matter will be taken in hand.

I am pleased to be able to report that the dwellings to rehouse the occupiers of the houses in the slum clearance areas are making good progress.

Since the war 306 houses have already been built by the Local Authority and Private Owners. As approximately 150 more of the non-parlour type of house will be required to meet the needs of the occupiers living in houses already closed or likely to be closed, my estimate of 500, given after the war, is below the mark rather than above it.

There are still 180 applicants on the register who require houses, 78 of the number being still in Lodgings. This number is in excess of those on the waiting list of last year.

Extent of Shortage.—See above.

Measures taken to deal with the same.—Thirty-eight houses are in the course of erection by the Local Authority apart from the 46 being built for the Slum Clearance Scheme.

No important change in population is anticipated.

## OVERCROWDING.

Overcrowding by more than one family in one house has been reduced.

Causes.—Shortage of Houses.

Measures taken to deal with same.—Building houses.

Action taken.—Moving to new houses when ready.

## FITNESS OF HOUSES.

As I have mentioned before, in the older parts of the town, the houses are very old and crowded together. In the main thoroughfare it is somewhat difficult to bring the sanitary arrangements up to the standard of modern requirements, through the want of open spaces. I understand in the Bye-laws still under consideration both of the Ministry of Health and Council, that in any new buildings or reconstructions provision will be made to ensure at least some portion of the site being left free. As this will only apply in the remote possibility of reconstruction of property or destruction by fire, many of them have been brought up to as high a standard of sanitary requirements as the circumstances will permit.

The main defects found in the dwellings are mostly of a decorative nature. It would be very desirable that when the tenants living in the condemned houses are transferred to those now being built, that someone be appointed to supervise them who thoroughly understands repairs and could say whether any damage to the property is due to fair wear and tear or to neglect or destruction. (I should suggest someone like an intelligent carpenter or decorator) and in the case of the latter, stern measures with the delinquent should be enforced together with a strict interpretation of the rules.

## UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Slum clearance in operation.

## HOUSING.

### NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Total .. .. .	45
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme .. .. .	32

### 1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspections.—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .	293
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 .. .. .	164
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	2
(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 .. .. .	18

### 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FINAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	198
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### 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

#### A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act., 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..	18
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners .. .. .	18
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close .. .. .	1

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

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	173
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# BOROUGH OF BANBURY.



## Report of Sanitary Inspector.

TOWN HALL,

BANBURY,

3RD MAY, 1926.

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS,—

I beg to submit to you my Seventeenth Annual Report, since the Sanitary Officer's Order 1910, which prescribes that Sanitary Inspectors should annually report to the Council on all matters coming within the scope of their duties, with details of sanitary work performed by them for submission together with the Report of the Medical Officer's to the Ministry of Health and County Medical Officer. During the year under review I have received 39 written complaints and 86 verbal ones, which are about the average numbers. For the abatement of Nuisances and other contraventions of the Statutes and Bye-laws 378 warning notices were given, together with 37 formal notices served at the instance of the Health Committee. It was not found necessary to institute any legal proceedings to enforce compliance with notices.

The following is a summary of the details of the sanitary work carried out during the past year:—

### DRAINAGE.

Obstructed drains opened and cleansed .. .. .	33
Defective drainage repaired or re-laid .. .. .	18
Houses connected to public sewer .. .. .	2
Glazed stoneware gullies fixed .. .. .	34
Disconnecting and inspection chambers constructed .. .. .	4
Ventilating shafts fixed or repaired .. .. .	8
New cess pools constructed .. .. .	1

### WATER CLOSETS, PRIVIES, AND URINALS.

Obstructed closets opened and cleansed .. .. .	43
Dilapidated closets repaired .. .. .	9
Dilapidated closets re-built .. .. .	6
New wash-down and other basins fixed .. .. .	61
New seats fixed to closets .. .. .	10
Floors of closets re-laid or repaired .. .. .	5
Roofs of closets repaired .. .. .	17
Soil pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	15
Water supply provided to closets .. .. .	61
Dirty water, hand-flushed and earth closets limewashed .. .. .	19
Flushing cisterns repaired .. .. .	5
Urinals constructed .. .. .	1
Urinals repaired and limewashed .. .. .	4
New Closets built .. .. .	7

### DWELLING HOUSES &c.

Dwelling houses visited under the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations .. .. .	164
.. .. . visited re sanitary matters .. .. .	293
.. .. . found to have defects existing on such inspection .. .. .	173
.. .. . cleansed .. .. .	36
.. .. . repaired .. .. .	27
.. .. . rendered impervious to dampness .. .. .	3
House roofs repaired or renewed .. .. .	19
Wash-house and kitchen roofs repaired .. .. .	5
Wash-houses lime-washed .. .. .	7
Dilapidated wash-houses repaired .. .. .	2
Chimneys repaired .. .. .	5
Floors re-laid or repaired .. .. .	29
Dangerous stairs and defective windows repaired .. .. .	16
Dirty passages lime-washed or repaired .. .. .	2



Stagnant water removed from cellars .. .. .	1
Yards paved or paving re-laid .. .. .	25
Yards repaired .. .. .	19
Defective pumps repaired .. .. .	—
Dangerous disused wells filled up .. .. .	2
Polluted wells closed .. .. .	2
Wells provided with proper coverings .. .. .	2
Wells cleaned or repaired .. .. .	4
Cases of overcrowding abated .. .. .	12

#### SINKS, WASTE PIPES, AND SPOUTINGS.

Dilapidated sinks repaired .. .. .	8
New glazed stoneware sinks fixed .. .. .	25
Waste pipes provided to sinks .. .. .	7
Sink pipes disconnected from drains .. .. .	1
Rain water pipes disconnected from drains .. .. .	3
Spouting repaired (houses) .. .. .	32

#### KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND MANURE.

Stables paved and drained .. .. .	1
Floors of cowsheds re-laid or repaired .. .. .	2
Nuisances from animals improperly kept, abated .. .. .	9
Keeping of swine discontinued .. .. .	4
Accumulation of manure and refuse removed .. .. .	27
Pigstyes, paved, channelled, and drained .. .. .	7

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Dairies and cowsheds lime-washed .. .. .	5
Bakehouses lime-washed .. .. .	4
Common lodging-houses lime-washed .. .. .	2
Slaughter-houses lime-washed .. .. .	12
Offensive trade premises lime-washed .. .. .	1
Workshops and work-places lime-washed .. .. .	9
Sanitary matters reported to Surveyor's Department .. .. .	33
Water course cleansed .. .. .	4
Dangerous buildings demolished .. .. .	1

#### INSPECTIONS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Number of Inspections to bakehouses .. .. .	29
"    "    offensive trade premises .. .. .	14
"    "    common lodging houses .. .. .	56
"    "    caravans .. .. .	98
"    "    fried fish shops .. .. .	33
"    "    refreshment houses where food is prepared .. .. .	24
"    "    provision shops .. .. .	56
"    "    cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops .. .. .	54

Summary of work done in the Borough as required by the County Medical Officer of Health during the year ending 31st December, 1925:—

#### NUISANCE (PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875, Sec. 91).

Nuisances detected without complaint .. .. .	809
Nuisances abated .. .. .	809
Statutory notices served .. .. .	37

#### HOUSES.

Houses and premises inspected .. .. .	427
Infected houses cleansed .. .. .	9
Visits to infected houses .. .. .	30
Houses disinfected .. .. .	33

#### DRAINS AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Defects found .. .. .	324
Defects remedied .. .. .	324

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Public water supply laid on to houses .. .. .	6
Samples taken for analysis .. .. .	5
Wells cleansed and pollution prevented .. .. .	2

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number in district .. .. .	10
Number of inspections .. .. .	825
Number cleansed, lime-washed, &c. .. .. .	12

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of dairymen on register .. .. .	48
Number of inspections made .. .. .	54
Number of notices served .. .. .	3
Number of notices complied with .. .. .	3

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The following table will show the number and nature of the Samples taken during the year ending 31st December, 1925, and the result of the analysis :—

Article.	No. of Sample	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Remarks.
MILK .. .. .	17	15	2	Both deficient in fat.
BUTTER .. .. .	3	3	—	One sample contained boric preservative equal to 15% Boric Acid.
DANISH CREAM .. .. .	1	1	—	Free from preservative.
PRESERVED CREAM .. .. .	2	2	—	.17 and 1.5% respectively of Boric Acid.
CONDENSED MILK .. .. .	1	1	—	Full Cream (unsweetened).
MARGARINE .. .. .	3	3	—	Two of the samples contained Boracic Preservative equal to .21 and .31% Boric Acid.
CHEESE .. .. .	2	2	—	Genuine.
RICE .. .. .	2	2	—	Free from excess of mineral matter.
APPLES .. .. .	2	2	—	Genuine.
COFFEE AND CHICORY .. .. .	1	1	—	Genuine.
SELF RAISING FLOUR .. .. .	1	1	—	Genuine.
BAKING POWDER .. .. .	1	1	—	Genuine.
CUSTARD POWDER .. .. .	1	1	—	See remarks.
OLIVE OIL .. .. .	1	1	—	
SAUSAGES .. .. .	2	2	—	Free from Preservatives.
BRANDY .. .. .	1	1	—	
WHISKY .. .. .	1	—	1	
TIN OF SALMON .. .. .	1	1	—	Free from Preservatives.
<b>TOTAL .. .. .</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	

PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK AND CREAM) REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

The following is the Analyst's return on the samples examined in accordance with these Regulations :—

Milk and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.		
	Number of samples examined for Presence of a Preservative.	Number in which Preservative was reported to be present, and percentage of Preservative found in each sample.
MILK .. .. .	17	None.
CREAM .. .. .	1	None.
Cream sold as Preserved Cream.		
Number.	Percentage of Preservative found.	Percentage of Preservative stated on label.
2	.17 and .15 per cent Boric Acid respectively. Fat above 35 per cent.	.4 per cent. Boric Acid.



OBSERVATIONS.

Of the 17 samples of milk 15 were genuine, 2 contained less than the standard laid down, one of these samples being what is known as an "Appeal to the Cow" sample, i.e., milked in my presence, otherwise the samples of milk all contained a good percentage of fat, this ranging between 3.5 and 4 per. cent.

The condensed milk contained 9.4 per cent. of fat and was well above the minimum requirements of the Regulations.

The Cheeses were genuine whole milk cheese and contained respectively 35 and 37 per cent. of fat.

The samples of coffee and chicory was mainly coffee and contained less than 10 per cent. of chicory.

The result of the analysis of the brandy showed it to be of correct alcoholic strength, it being 29.5 degrees under proof. The sample of whisky was diluted beyond the permitted limit, being 40.5 per cent. under proof, equal to 9 per cent. of excess water.

The Danish Cream had 24.5 per cent. of milk fat whereas the preserved cream contained 59.8 per cent. of fat.

The tin of salmon was free from any metallic contamination.

It was most satisfactory to note that the samples of American Apples were not arsenically contaminated as was the case of certain imported apples.

The baking powder, a cream of tartar preparation, was free from contamination by lead or arsenic.

The custard powder was practically maize starch and artificially coloured yellow.

May I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Chairmen and members of the Health Committee for the support which has always been afforded me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. G. COBBETT,

Sanitary Inspector.

(2) Number of houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by Owners .. .. .	173
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners. .. .. .	—

C. Proceedings under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders .. .. .	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which closing orders were made .. .. .	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which the closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit .. .. .	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. .. .	1
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	1

Your Sanitary Inspector and his assistant have both carried out their duties in a conscientious and efficient manner during the year.

Some years ago, when the Easington estate was being developed, I suggested that when a plan was made of the houses, etc., a site should be put in the plan for lavatory accommodation, a very great need in Banbury. This could have been planted round with shrubs and built later when required, as we all know how difficult it is to deal with such a matter after houses have been erected. Nothing was done in the matter. I also pointed out the need of such accommodation at Grimsbury. If you consider the accommodation is sufficient, well and good ; I suppose it is really a matter for the inhabitants who are rate-payers to say if they are satisfied or not.

There are just two other matters. I wish mothers would give up using carbolic soap for washing their babies ; sometimes they do not know that it is carbolic soap, as some of it is sold under other names. Such soap is all very well for scrubbing floors and tables, and for exceptionally dirty people to wash with occasionally, but to use it for babies with delicate skins causes much unnecessary suffering and very often irritation and sores on the skin. The second refers to the present model perambulator, this is built very deep, giving it a more massive and showy appearance, in fact it is apparently built for show and not for health. When a baby is put into such a perambulator, it is too low down, and on a still day it is deprived of a great quantity of fresh air which it should obtain. The remedy is either to purchase a shallow article, nor a chair please, or to fill in the lower part of the vehicle with cushions or bedding.

No doubt many of you have noticed that this report is much longer than usual. This is owing to the fact that the Ministry of Health ask for a special report every five years, giving much more information than is usually given in the annual report.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. JOHNS,

March 23rd, 1926.

M.O.H.



