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Contributors

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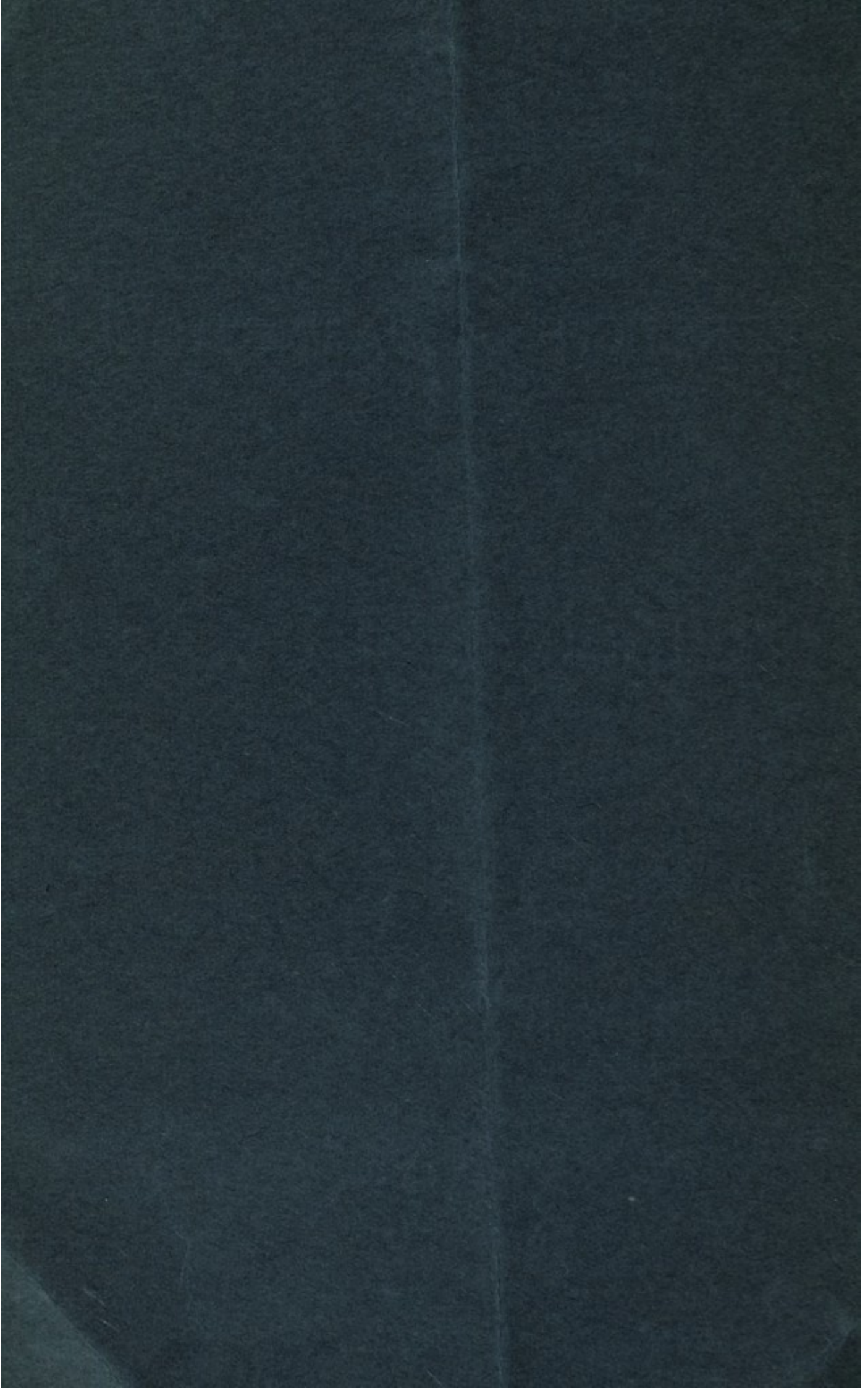
BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



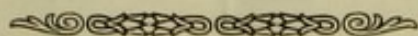
Medical Officer's
Annual Report.



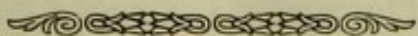
1923.



BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



Medical Officer's Annual Report.



March, 1924.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 1923, for the Borough of Basingstoke, the contents and arrangements of which are in the order required by the Ministry of Health and set out in their Memorandum issued to Medical Officers of Health throughout the Country.

Population.

The Population of the Borough according to the census returns of 1921, was 12,718, the population is now estimated to be 12,920.

Physical Features of the District.

Basingstoke is situate 300 feet above sea level, and occupies the slopes facing North and South and the intervening valley of the River Loddon, and has an area of 4195 acres in extent. It has chiefly a subsoil of chalk, with narrow strata of clay in some places. The climate is bracing, the surrounding country is under cultivation, and with the exception of downlands in the South is well wooded.

Social Conditions and Occupation of Inhabitants.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Mercantile, Artisan (Engineering, Building and Textile trades), and Labouring, there is no particular occupation detrimental to health.

The Rateable value of the Borough for purposes of General District Rate and Poor Rate.

General District Rate, £74,646. Poor Rate, £81,325. A penny in the pound on the General District Rate produces £296 0s. 0d. (nett). A penny in the pound on the Poor Rate produces £338 0s. 0d., subject to empties and losses on collection, and 30 per cent. allowance on Cottage Property.

(1) Number of persons on the ordinary out-door relief list—

Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Amount paid.
51	91	110	252	£2451 3s. 7d.

(2) On the unemployed list—

134	114	224	472	£721 15s. 10½d.
			742	£3172 19s. 5½d.

as compared with 337 persons and £5781 19s. 11½d. in 1922.

Medical Relief only, for the year ending 1923, Nil.

The Cottage Hospital, with accommodation and beds for 27 patients, maintained by voluntary subscriptions, treated during the year 1012 patients: Ordinary 166, X Ray 159, Ophthalmic 187. There were 15 deaths.

Free treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculous Diseases under the direction of Dr. Lyster, County Medical Officer of Health, is given at the C.C. Dispensary, 22, London Street

Venereal Diseases.

The Hampshire County Council have made arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases at several centres. If these facilities are used to the fullest extent there is every reason to believe that such diseases could be considerably reduced with enormous benefit to the public health. It is shortly intended to establish a clinic in Basingstoke.

Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order, 1918.

The Council not having adopted the Registration of Births Act at the time it came into operation, the Order is being administered by the County Council as the Local Authority in this area.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The work at the Infant Welfare Centre continues to be appreciated, as is shown by the attendance returns. These make a total of 5299 for the past year, and include children under five years of age, and mothers.

Two Health Visitors, who assist at the weekly meetings, having been in the town for several years, are now well known to the mothers and have secured their confidence. Five voluntary helpers are also present each week.

Dried Milk, when advised to be used, can be obtained at the Centre at a greatly reduced cost, and a considerable quantity has been given gratis to necessitous cases.

Vital Statistics.

There were 148 deaths, giving a death rate of 11.4 per thousand (population 12,920), as against 12.4 in 1922. The number of Infants dying under one year was 10. None Illegitimate.

The number of births was 252, as against 260 in 1922, giving a birth rate of 19.5.

There were 14 illegitimate births (Males 8, Females 6), as against 6 in 1922.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
All causes	72	76
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Diphtheria	1	2
Influenza	2	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	0
Cancer, malignant disease	7	12
Rhumatic Fever	0	1
Diabetes	1	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	1	4
Heart Disease	9	13
Arterio-sclerosis	4	1
Bronchitis	5	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1
Other respiratory diseases	1	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	0
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	0	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	0	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	4	2
Suicide	2	1
Other deaths from violence,	2	1
Other defined diseases	16	17
Cause illdefined or unknown	0	0
Infants under 1 year	6	4

The following cases were notified during the year :

Tuberculosis 15 cases—11 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis
2 cases of Glandular, and 2 cases of Bone, as against
7 cases in 1922.

Scarlet Fever—25 cases, as against 88 in 1921.

Diphtheria—8 cases as against 6 in 1922,

Ophthalmia Neonatorium—3 case, as against 1 in 1922.

Chicken Pox—27 cases.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained from a well sunk at a site at West Ham, and is amply sufficient for all requirements. The

yearly report on the chemical and bacteriological analyses of the water is very satisfactory, and states it to be a hard but pure supply. From a recent examination of the water by Public Analyst, it was found to be most satisfactory for domestic purposes, both from a Chemical and Bacteriological standpoint.

Rivers and Streams.

No River or Stream is being polluted.

Laboratory Work.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are made by the County Medical Officer, Dr. Lyster, at the County Laboratory, when necessary, and arrangements are made with the Royal Institute of Public Health for the periodical examination by Analysis of samples of water.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Regulations in force within the district.

	Date of Adoption.
Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889	3rd April, 1890.
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890	12th Jan., 1999.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890,	
Part I, II, III and V	25th June, 1891.
do. do. Part IV	13th July, 1916,
Baths and Washhouses	9th April, 1903.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Acts, 1890	10th April, 1911.
P.H.A.A., 1907	15th Sept., 1911.
An Order in Council declaring Parts II, III, V, and VI, and certain sections comprised in Parts IV and X.	
A further Order in Council declaring Part VIII of P.H.A.A., 1907, to be in force within the Borough	12th Oct., 1911.
Byelaws with respect to Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements	4th June, 1885.
Nuisances	4th June, 1885.
Common Lodging Houses	4th June, 1885.
New Streets and Buildings	4th June, 1885.
Water Closets, supply of water for flushing	22nd Feb., 1900.
Nuisances in connection with removal of offensive or noxious matters	9th Feb., 1905.
Drainage of Buildings	9th Feb., 1911.
Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cow- sheds and Milkshops	9th March, 1911.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage is carried by pipe drains to the Sewage Pumping Station, whence it is pumped on to the Sewage Farm where it is dealt with by broad irrigation on an area of 79a. 3r. 37p. The land is eminently suited for the purpose, and the acreage now available will meet the requirements of the Town for many years.

Closet Accommodation.

There are still some localities within the Borough at present too far away to be connected up to the water carriage sewerage system. There are 34 houses with pail closets, these being at Southlea, Worting bottom.

Scavenging.

The Refuse of the Town is being satisfactorily dealt with, some 2926 loads being disposed of annually by the Destructor, averaging 16-cwt. per load. Removal of House Refuse is by public scavenger, who collects twice weekly. Dustbins have been supplied to some 500 houses.

Food.

The following was seized and destroyed by the Sanitary Inspector as unfit for the food of man :—

Beef	270 pounds
Veal	168 „
Pork	200 „
Fish	252 „

The Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds were regularly inspected.

One sample of Certified Milk was taken and submitted for Bacteriological examination under the Milk (Special Designations Order, 1923), when the same was found to be well within the requirements of the standard set by the Ministry of Health.

Bakehouses were regularly inspected and found to be well kept and limewashed.

The Factories and Workshops were inspected, and generally found to be kept in accordance with the requirements of the Factory & Workshops Acts. Two lists containing the names of 141 out-workers have been received.

Slaughter Houses.—These were regularly inspected and well kept. Number of Slaughter Houses remaining on the Register, 3 Registered and 5 Licensed.

31 Samples of Food taken during the year 1923, in the Borough by the Inspector, under the Food & Drugs Act :—2 were adulterated.

Arrowroot	1	
New Milk	13	of which 2 were adulterated.
Butter	12	
Citric Acid	1	
Cream of Tartar	1	
Ground Ginger	1	

New Milk—

- (1) 3.3% fat deficient.
- (2) Slightly deficient in milk fat.

Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases admitted for the year was 50, as against 116 in 1922, 33 cases from the Urban District and 17 cases from the Rural District.

Analysis of Cases :

Urban District—Scarlet Fever	24
Diphtheria	9
Rural District—Scarlet Fever	4
Diphtheria	13
There were 3 deaths—	
Urban. Diphtheria	2
Rural. Diphtheria	1

Ambulance Facilities.

Two Ambulances are provided by the Council, one Horse Ambulance for the removal of Infectious cases, stationed at the Isolation Hospital, and one Stretcher Ambulance for accidents, stationed at Mr. B. C. Jukes, 20 Wote Street. There is also a Red Cross Motor Ambulance at public call stationed at Mr. Tysoe's Garage, London Road,

Arrangements for Disinfection.

Lower Brook Street School (Infants' Department) was closed owing to an outbreak of Chicken Pox; and Fairfields Council Schools and St. John's Schools were closed through Scarlet Fever epidemic; in each case the Class rooms were thoroughly disinfected.

All infected bedding is removed from infected premises to Isolation Hospital, and subjected to super-heated steam under pressure in a Recks Apparatus. Rooms are usually fumigated with Formaline Candle, or sprayed with Izal after all infectious disease. The infected bedding is removed in open cart covered with tarpaulin, the driver, cart and horse, and labourer being supplied from the Borough Surveyor's Staff after their usual work is done. All disin-

fections are carried out in the evening, as the carts used for carting of bedding, etc., through the streets are open, and used in the ordinary course of work for the carting of all kinds of material. It is intended to provide a proper covered conveyance, to be used for this purpose, in the ensuing financial year.

Public Health Staff.

The Public Health Staff consists of W. H. Rees-Thomas, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health (part time), who is also Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital, and Henry J. Davies, (who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute), Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, and Inspector under the Shops Acts (whole time).

Housing.

The Housing accommodation for people of the working classes in the Borough is insufficient. The number of new houses erected during the year was 58.

The number of dwelling houses suitable for people of the working classes is 2613.

There are 2964 occupied houses, and there were (2899 occupied houses and 3015 families or separate occupiers in 1921). The average number of working class houses built annually during the five years before the war was 29.

There were 85 houses inspected under the Housing Acts and recorded, of which 85 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Defects were remedied after the serving of informal notices. One Statutory Notice was served. Statutory Notice was served on the owners of 65 houses to provide dustbins. No houses were closed by action of owners, or closing orders made by the Council.

Summary of work done.

Inspections and Re-visits	...	2716
Complaints	... ..	41
Notices—Informal	... ..	150
Do. Statutory	... ..	68
Nuisances abated	... ..	65
Rooms coloured or whitewashed	... ..	27
Ceilings whitened	... ..	40
Rooms papered	... ..	27
Walls and ceilings cemented or plastered		24
Roofs repaired	... ..	7
Floors repaired	... ..	4

Windows repaired	...	...	7
New sash cords	...	...	3
New doors or repaired	...	...	2
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	14
W.C.'s rebuilt or repaired	...	...	4
Flushing apparatus	...	...	3
New or partly new drains	...	...	7
W.C. Pans	...	...	5
New seat or riser	...	...	3
New doors or frames	...	...	4
Drains cleared of obstruction	...	...	31
Offensive deposits removed	...	...	1
New traps	...	...	7
Grates repaired	...	...	4
Guttering and spouting	...	...	2
Copper repaired	...	...	4
Damp courses	...	...	10
Lots of bedding disinfected	...	...	45
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	45

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. REES-THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

