

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Basingstoke Borough.

Contributors

Basingstoke (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ew6exz35>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

INTELL. LIBRARY



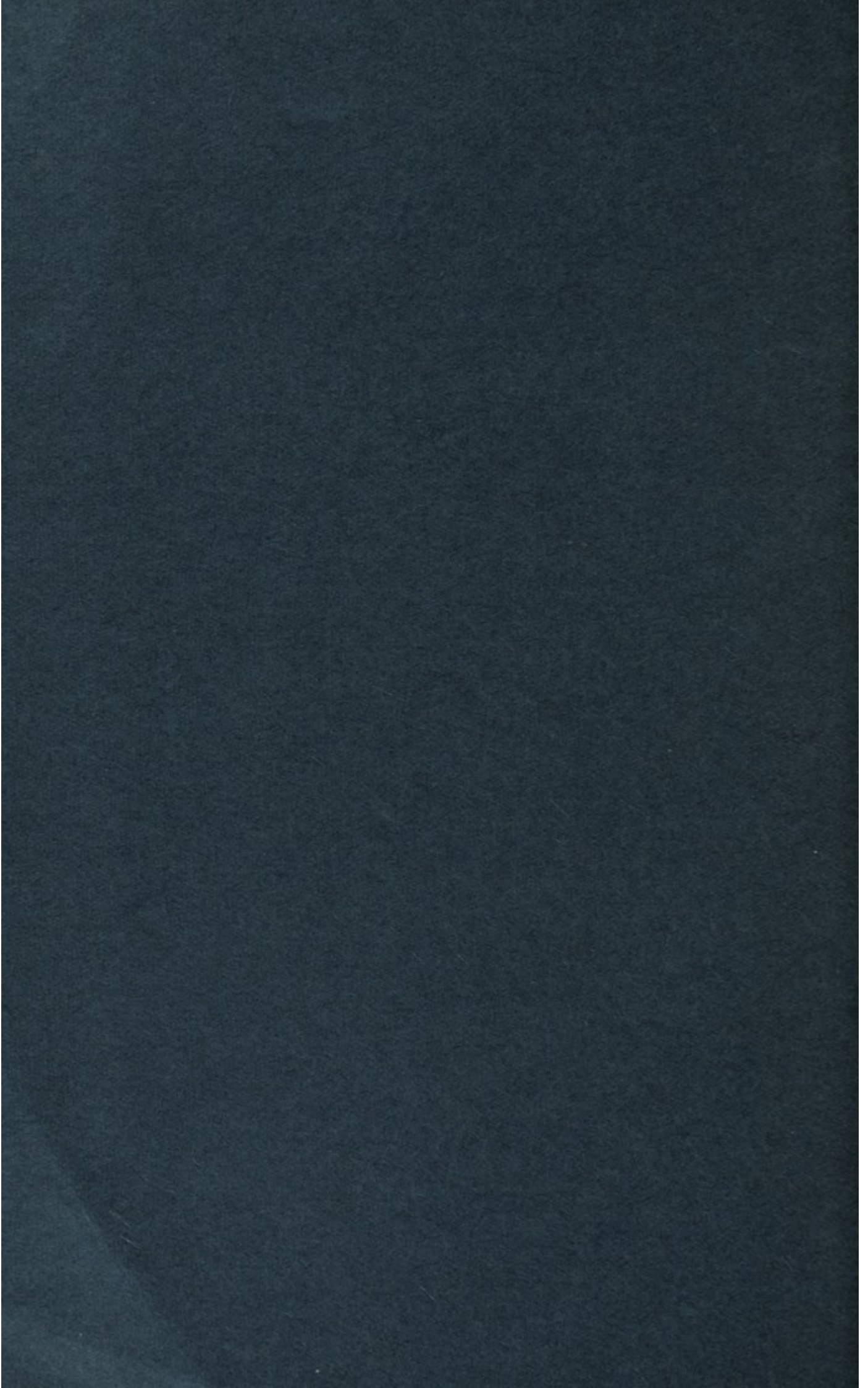
BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



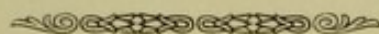
Medical Officer's
Annual Report.



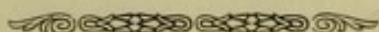
1925.



BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE.



Medical Officer's Annual Report.



March, 1926.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 1925, 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 13,000.

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, £79,105. Poor Rate, £88,157. A penny in the pound on the General District Rate produces £307 0s. 0d. (nett). A penny in the pound on the Poor Rate produces £358 0s. 0d., subject to empties and losses on collection, and 30 per cent. allowance on Cottage Property.

The Cottage Hospital, with accommodation and beds for 34 patients, maintained by voluntary subscriptions, treated during the year 1308 patients: Ordinary 757, X Ray 201, Ophthalmic 350. There were 14 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. A clinic is now held at the Dispensary premises, 22, London Street, on every Tuesday afternoon, 2 p.m. for males, 3.30 p.m. for females.

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 Infant Welfare Centre maintains its useful work, and continues to be appreciated, as is shown by the attendance returns. These make a total of 3876 for the past year, and include 2192 children and 1684 adults.

Two Health Visitors assist at the weekly meetings, and five or six 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 151 deaths, giving a death rate of 11.6 per thousand (population 13,000), as against 11.9 in 1924. The number of Infants dying under one year was 19. None Illegitimate.

The number of births was 235, as against 217 in 1924, giving a birth rate of 18.08.

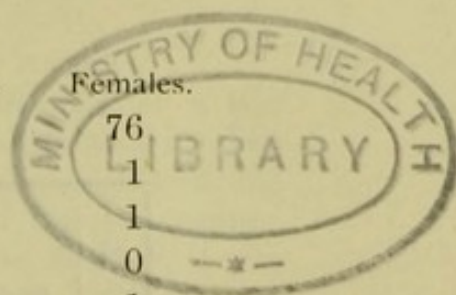
There were 11 illegitimate births (Males 7, Females 4), as against 13 in 1924.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Males.	Females.
All causes	75	76
Enteric Fever	0	1
Measles	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	2	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	8	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	0
Cancer, malignant disease	4	14
Rheumatic Fever	1	0
Diabetes	1	2
Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	7	4
Heart Disease	5	4
Arterio-sclerosis	2	0
Bronchitis	12	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	2
Other respiratory diseases	1	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	4	0
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	0
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	2	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Congenital Debility, etc.	5	5
Suicide	0	1
Other deaths from violence,	4	1
Other defined diseases	10	26
Cause illdefined or unknown	0	0
Infants under 1 year	10	9

The following cases were notified during the year :

Scarlet Fever—123 cases, as against 18 in 1924.
 Diphtheria—1 case as against 4 in 1924.
 Enteric Fever—2 case, as against none in 1924.
 Puerperal Fever—2 cases as against none in 1924.
 Erysipelas—7 cases as against none in 1924.
 Chicken Pox—114 cases.
 Tuberculosis 16 cases—16 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis,
 as against 12 cases in 1924.



AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	PULMONARY.		NON PULMONARY.		PULMONARY.		NON PULMONARY.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0							1	
1								
5	1	1						
10		3						
15	2				1			
20		3	Nil.	Nil.	1	2		
25	2	1			1			
35	1				2			
45					1			
55								
65								
TOTALS	8	8			5	5	1	

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., 1899.
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 and Worting bottom.

Smoke Abatement.

No local readings are taken of atmospheric impurity from smoke, and no action was taken with a view to the abatement of nuisance from smoke, such action not at present being deemed to be necessary.

Scavenging.

The Refuse of the Town is being satisfactorily dealt with, some 2752 loads being disposed of annually by the Destructor, averaging $16\frac{3}{4}$ -cwt. per load. Removal of House Refuse is by public scavenger, who collects twice weekly.

Slaughter Houses.

These were regularly inspected and well kept. Number of Slaughter Houses remaining on the Register,

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered	3	3	3
Licensed	5	5	5
Total	8	8	8

Meat Regulations, 1924.

The efforts of the Health Committee to enforce the provision of glass fronts to all shops, to prevent contamination of meat by dust and flies, have been largely discounted by the want of explicit definition in the Regulations themselves and the absence of case law governing the matter.

The occupiers of slaughter houses have, in all cases, given the days and times of slaughter of animals on their premises.

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

Beef	63 pounds
Pork	155 „
Fish	179 „

26 Samples of Food taken during the year 1925, in the Borough by the Inspector, under the Food & Drugs Act, 1 Arrow-root, 9 Butter, 1 Citric Acid, 1 Cream of Tartar, 14 New Milk:—None were adulterated with the exception of 1 Mustard, which was unsatisfactory.

The Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds were regularly inspected.

Three samples of Certified Milk were taken and submitted for Bacteriological examination under the Milk (Special Designations Order, 1923), when the same was found to be satisfactory. One Licence was issued for the sale of Certified Milk.

Isolation Hospital.

The number of cases admitted for the year was 167, as against 28 in 1924, 121 cases from the Urban District and 46 cases from the Rural District.

Analysis of Cases :

Urban District—Scarlet Fever	117
Diphtheria	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1
Cerebria Spinal	1
Enteric	1
Rural District—Scarlet Fever	43
Diphtheria	1
Para Thyphoid	2
There was 1 death—	
Rural. Para Thyphoid	1

Ambulance Facilities.

Two Ambulances are provided by the Council, one a new Morris Motor Ambulance for the removal of Infectious cases, has been provided by the joint Authorities, at a cost of £275, and is 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 for three weeks owing to an outbreak of Scarlet Fever. The Class rooms were thoroughly disinfected at Fairfields, St. John's and Lower Brook Street Schools. The Sanitary Convenience at each School is in good order and kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

All infected bedding is now removed from infected premises to Isolation Hospital in Motor Ambulance, which has locker accommodation for this purpose, and after disinfection of Ambulance and bedding has taken place is returned in the same vehicle, which is more expeditious in the removal and return of articles of clothing bedding, &c., and thus doing away with the unsightly and often dirty open cart. This method of fumigation of rooms will in future be generally superseded by the spraying of all rooms with Formaline. All disinfections are carried out in the evening.

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).

Factories and Workshops.

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 163 out-workers have been received.

	Inspections.	Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories	16	1	Nil.
Workshops	146	4	„

Defects found in Factories and Workshops---

	Found.	Remedied.	Prosecutions.
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	Nil.
Sanitary Accommodation			
Defective	1	1	„
	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 5	

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 29.

The number of dwelling houses suitable for people of the working classes is 2655.

There are 2993 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.

The number of houses erected during the past five years was 273.

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
121	52	58	13	29

An average of 54.6 per annum.

Of the 29 houses erected this year, 5 were unassisted and 24 received the Government Subsidy.

There is a considerable amount of overcrowding arising from want of housing accommodation. There is a waiting list of about 300 applicants for houses, some of which may be found, on further enquiry when allotment of houses is being made, either to have left the district, or their requirements have been met, so the number may be a few less. To meet the want, a new scheme by the Town Council for the erection of 74 new houses is now being proceeded with.

There were 83 houses inspected under the Housing Acts (Inspection of District Regulations) and recorded, of which 83 were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. Defects were remedied after the serving of informal notices. Two Statutory Notices were served. Informal Notice was served on the owners of 84 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	...	2821
Complaints	...	55
Notices—Informal	...	129
Do. Statutory	...	3
Nuisances abated	...	88
Rooms coloured or whitewashed	...	20
Ceilings whitened	...	72
Rooms papered	...	44
Walls and ceilings cemented or plastered		29
Roofs repaired	...	17
Floors repaired	...	12
Walls repaired	...	5
Windows repaired	...	10
New sash cords	...	4
New doors or repaired	...	6
Yards paved or repaired	...	1
W.C.'s rebuilt or repaired	...	1
Flushing apparatus	...	4
New or partly new drains	...	19
W.C. Pans	...	2
New seat or riser	...	1
New doors or frames	...	1
Drains cleared of obstruction	...	22
Offensive deposits removed	...	2
New traps	...	7
Grates repaired	...	4
Guttering and spouting	...	1
Copper repaired	...	3
Damp courses	...	3
Drains tested—Smoke	...	2
„ Water	...	4
Houses disinfected after infectious disease		149

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. REES-THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.





