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Basingstoke (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1911

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE


RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

BASINGSTOKE

For the Year 1911.

PORTSMOUTH :
HOLBROOK & SON, LTD., PRINTERS, 154-155, QUEEN STREET.



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1911.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT.

WINTON HOUSE,
February 2nd, 1912.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for 1911, this being my first report as your Medical Officer of Health.

The Rural District of Basingstoke covers an area extending for $16\frac{1}{2}$ miles North and South and $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles East and West, having its centre in the town of Basingstoke.

The Northern portion is wooded, and consists of a heavy soil overlying the London clay.

The Southern portion is open downs and uplands, the soil being shallow and overlying chalk.

There is a narrow belt of Reading Beds, extending from Ramsdale to Up Nateley, which divides the chalk in the South from the London clay in the North. At Hartley Wespall is a small area of sand and gravel beds overlying the clay, and this also occurs between Pamber and Bramley.

All the Northern District tends to be damper and to become more easily flooded than the Southern, the surface water having to run off in streams instead of percolating.

The streams in the District are the Loddon, which runs through Basingstoke, Basing, Sherfield, and Stratfieldsaye, Northwards into the Thames valley. This receives the Lyde, arising at Up Natley, at Sherfield, and another tributary, which arises at Sherborne and runs through the Vyne and Bramley at Lilley Bridge, North of Sherfield. There are a few small streams coming from Pamber and Bramley to join these. All the streams are in the North area of the District. There are no streams in the South area. The water that flows South to the Itchen and Test valleys starts from the extreme Southern edge of the Rural District.

The elevations vary considerably, being 680ft. above sea level at Farleigh and Ellisfield, and only 160 feet at Stratfieldsaye.

There is a small amount of heath land at Pamber, but the rest of the District is agricultural and mostly arable.

The population in 1901 was 11,918, and in 1911 was 12,371, an increase of 453, which is an average increase of 45 per annum. Calculating to the end of June, 1911, I estimate the population at 12,382.

Occupation.

This is chiefly agricultural, but there is a little brick making in the District.

The year 1911 has been an exceptionally healthy year in the Rural District, and the amount of illness has been very small. With the exception of a few trifling outbreaks

of chicken pox, measles, mumps, and whooping cough, necessitating the closing of some schools for short periods, nothing important has arisen.

There have been only 10 cases of infectious diseases notified, 5 scarlet fever, 3 diphtheria, 1 enteric, and 1 erysipelas. These have been very mild cases with no deaths, and the diagnosis was considered doubtful in at least 2 of the scarlet fever cases.

Death Rate.

The total number of deaths registered in the District was 150, giving a rate of 12.11, adding 12 transferred from other Districts and subtracting 18 transferred to other Districts leaves a nett total of 144, or a rate of 11.62 per 1000, 1910 being 13.05, and the average for the last 5 years 12.5.

Birth Rate.

The corrected number of births is 270, giving a rate 20.19, 1910 being 20.9, average for the last 5 years 22.8.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 23 deaths registered in infants under 1 year. This gives a rate per 1000 births of 85.18, 1910 being 86.2, the average for 5 years being 89.8. The general rate for England and Wales for 10 years, 1901-1910, was 127. This, therefore, is a low infant mortality rate. Of these 23 deaths 8 were due to premature birth, and in 2 instances were those of twins, who survived a few hours. 8 were caused by debility and wasting, 1 was suffocated by being overlaid, 2 by diarrhoea and enteritis. This is remarkable considering the conditions of last summer.

Table III. shows that 69 deaths were at ages of 65 and upwards, 23 under 1 year. The deaths of children were remarkably few, only 3 being registered between the ages of 1 and 15 years. Many of our children have to go long distances to their schools, often in severe weather, and are occasionally exposed to outbreaks of infectious diseases which arise in these centres. These conditions do not seem to do them much harm, and the care bestowed upon them by the School Medical Officers shows its effect. Four deaths were due to diarrhœa and enteritis, 2 being infants. There were a number of cases of this disease last summer and autumn, due to the hot and dry climatic conditions then prevailing, but the cases were very mild. I drew up a leaflet with instructions for preventing this disease, which was distributed around the Rural District.

18 deaths were certified from cancer or other malignant disease, against 14 in 1910.

Eight deaths occurred from consumption, 12 from respiratory disease, 28 were certified as senile decay.

House Accommodation.

The Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, is now being gradually carried out in this District.

It entails a great amount of work by the Sanitary Officer and increasing responsibility on the Medical Officer of Health.

There are 37 villages in the District, and many scattered cottages in connection with the farms.

The largest village is Old Basing, with a population of 1,138, and the smallest Weston Corbett, with 22.

It is estimated that there are about 2,000 houses which come under Section 17, Sub-section 1 of the Act, i.e., have a rental of £16 per annum or less. These are gradually being inspected and details of their condition being noted on forms provided for that purpose. Up to this date 161 have been examined. Defects requiring repairing and lime-washing were carried out in 57 cottages, 3 cottages have been compulsory closed, and two more are under statutory notice to be repaired or closed. There have been 6 new houses built. When the whole District has been completed I shall have in my possession the exact details of every cottage in this Rural District with its number of occupants and all possible information about it. This will be of immense value, and will go a long way on the road towards improving and increasing the houses of the rural population. It is a long and tedious work, but I feel sure will repay all the trouble.

A good many of the old cottages are of the usual type found in the Country Districts generally, being brick floored, with attic bedrooms open to the lower part of the house.

It has been stated that there is a demand for more cottages and larger cottages in this District; I have made numerous enquiries, but it is very hard to get definite information as to this. Your Council have sent out enquiry forms as to this point to all the Parish Councils, and up to the present 16 have replied. Twelve of these say there is no dearth of cottages; 4 state that there is. The 4 being Pamber, who say there is a slight deficiency, Mapledurwell, Preston Candover, and Ellisfield. The position appears to me that this question is not acute in our District at present, but will become so later. In the matter of improving the present houses there is not much difficulty with the big

landed proprietors, who I invariably find are willing to help and do everything that is suggested towards this end, but the smaller owners of cottages are not always in a pecuniary position to be able to do so. I would like to bear testimony to reasonableness and willingness to help which I receive from the Agents in the District in matters connected with the public health and sanitation.

Water Supply.

At Newnham and Natley Scures a few dwellings are supplied by the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company, but the rest of the District takes its supply from wells and rain water tanks.

The water supply on the whole is good, the water is very hard. The rain water tanks are constructed in duplicate to hold 3,000 gallons each.

The wells vary in depth from 20 feet to 300 feet, these latter being in the Southern District, and going down into the chalk. I think that the wells ought to be cemented or steened down to a greater depth than I generally find them. Most of them are simply bricked, and therefore must let in a quantity of surface water before it has been sufficiently filtered by passing through the earth.

In 3 instances I have advised and have had tube wells sunk, and in all with success, the water obtained being pure and abundant, and with much less chance of becoming contaminated. I should like to see these wells sunk in all parts of the District where they are practicable.

There was some shortage of water in the Dummer District last Summer, but elsewhere it held out well. The

number of samples of water tested was 39, and 4 were condemned. Four new wells were provided.

Milk Supply.

There are 44 registered Cowkeepers, Dairymen, and Purveyors of milk. Their premises have been systematically inspected by me twice in the year, and more frequently by the Sanitary Inspector. The cowsheds are kept reasonably clean and sweet, they are all limewashed twice a year, and some more often. In 3 instances notices were served as to cleanliness, and all were complied with.

The cows are mostly out, except in bad weather, and only brought in to be milked.

The milk is mostly exported to London and other places, some being sold in the District.

I find that there is much better understanding and knowledge about the necessity of having pure milk now among the purveyors of milk than formerly. It seems to me that the actual milkers and employees who handle the milk ought to be thoroughly educated as to the importance of this, as no matter how clean the sheds, utensils, etc., are, the milk may become contaminated without this knowledge. This was brought to my notice forcibly in one case. The man, wishing to show me how good his milk was, stooped down and blew away the froth, thereby I suspect adding many more microbes to that sample.

One cow I suspected was tubercular was killed at once.

We have no regular veterinary inspection of cows, but I am allowed to call in a Veterinary Surgeon if I consider it to be necessary.

Food Inspection.

The slaughter-houses and bakehouses have been periodically inspected, 4 orders were made to limewash, otherwise they were all clean and in good order.

There are 2 private slaughter-houses, which are always kept clean and wholesome.

No samples of food have been examined.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

There is none.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is none.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.

This is carried out by the occupiers on the gardens and allotments.

There are still many "privy middens," but they are gradually being converted into "pail and earth closets."

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.

Carried out as above.

Nuisances.

Those dealt with are shewn in the Sanitary Officer's report; all were complied with without having to take action.

Byelaws.

We have no byelaws.

The Dairy and Cowsheds Regulations are in force. It is now under the consideration of your Council whether the Local Government Byelaws (modified) as to Tents, Vans, and Sheds should be adopted in this District. There are 3 families of the gipsy type permanently resident here, who live in tents and move about the District. If these model byelaws are adopted we shall be able to exercise some control over these people.

Schools.

There are 25. They have been inspected regularly. In 3 instances notices have been given as to improvement of the sanitary conditions, and one for the better ventilation, by making more windows to open. This is a point I am very particular about, that as many windows as possible without creating a draught shall be open when the children are in school, and all should be kept constantly open when the children are not there.

I am also strongly of the opinion that disinfectants should be provided for the boys' urinals, as however well they are washed down I constantly notice that they smell.

Hartley Wespall, Tunworth, Oakley, Mapledurwell, and North Waltham Schools were closed for short periods for measles, whooping cough, or mumps.

Infectious Disease.

In all cases of notifiable disease the house is visited, and in most cases the patient is removed to the Isolation Hospital. The rooms and clothes are disinfected by the Sanitary Officer, who uses formalin candles and washes down with Jeyes' fluid, the apparel, sheets, etc., being boiled in a weaker solution. The room is afterwards scrubbed and limewashed or repapered.

We use the Urban Isolation Hospital, where there are 20 beds which can be increased, and 3 diseases can be treated concurrently.

We have the power of putting up tents for the treatment of small pox.

There is no steam disinfecter in the Rural District, but we have the use of the one at the Isolation Hospital.

Bacteriological work and the supply of antitoxin to practitioners is carried out by your Council.

There have been 10 cases notified in 1911, 5 scarlet fever, 3 diphtheria, 1 enteric, and 1 erysipelas. The scarlet fever and diphtheria cases were all extremely mild. They were all removed to the Isolation Hospital. The enteric fever case occurred at Old Basing and was removed to the Isolation Hospital. I visited this house and found that the well was situated under the kitchen. The water was found to be grossly polluted, but no *Bacillus Typhosis* was found. I had the well closed and a tube sunk some distance from the house.

There were no deaths from infectious disease.

The Bacteriological work done in connection with these cases was through the Medical Officer in charge of the Isolation Hospital.

This is the smallest number of cases notified in the Rural District for some years.

One case of Poliomyelitis was notified from the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, in a child whose parents lived at Holt Lane, Hook. There have been no other cases notified from there. Poliomyelitis and Cerebro Spinal fever are now made notifiable to this District.

Tuberculosis.

There were 8 deaths certified as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a rate of .64 per 1000. The average rate for the Basingstoke Rural District 1900-1909 was .71, and for the Rural Districts of the County for the same period was .79.

Only 3 cases were notified in 1911, all being at the Workhouse Infirmary. I do not think that the voluntary notification of this disease has been at all a success. Under the Local Government Board Regulations, 1911, it is now compulsorily notifiable.

We have no facilities whatever for the treatment of Consumption, and, except through charity, have no way of giving the poorer people the chance of Sanatorium treatment. At present all that is done is that the patients are visited and advised how they shall live for their own good, and the measures to be taken to prevent their neighbours from becoming infected. They are supplied with spitting bottles, disinfectants, and directions.

If they die or remove we offer to disinfect the rooms, etc. Around the District are placed notices with regard to spitting.

There is a great movement in the Country to really tackle this white plague and stamp it out altogether. It is well known that the benefits derived from residence in a Sanatorium both goes a long way to cure the patient and thoroughly educates him as to his future life, for his own good and for the good of the public.

I think that the incidence and evils of this disease will be greatly counteracted by the National Insurance Bill when

it gets into working order, and especially if it becomes so modified as to meet with the approval and the willing co-operation of the Medical Profession.

The Board of Guardians are having alterations made at the Workhouse Infirmary, as the result of which we shall be able to give open air treatment to at least 8 cases at one time.

Factories and Workshops.

All these have been systematically inspected, and any defects found at such inspection have been promptly set right.

Local Government Board Enquiries.

None.

Improvements Required.

In consideration of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and the recent Tuberculosis Orders having made great and constantly increasing demands upon the time of your Sanitary Inspector, it is advisable that the Council should take into consideration the desirability of securing the whole time service of that Officer.

Appended are the Tables of the Vital Statistics, etc., and the work of the Sanitary Officer.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. WORTH, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	12,180	302		26.4	158	12.9			29	99.3	158	12.9
1907	12,180	268		22.4	140	11.4			26	96.6	140	11.4
1908	12,180	276		22.6	144	11.8			23	83.2	144	11.8
1909	12,180	266		21.8	166	13.6			22	82.7	166	13.6
1910	12,180	255		20.9	159	13.05			22	86.2	159	13.05
1911	12,382	274	270	20.19	150	12.11	18	12	23	85.18	144	11.62

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 72,759. Total population at all ages, 12,382. Number of inhabited houses, 2,908. Average number of persons per house, 4.25.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1911.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY						Total cases removed to Hospital			
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Sherfield	Weston Corbett	Hook	Upton Grey	Stevenston				Herrard	Basing & Walsby
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	1	5	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Totals	13	...	...	3	5	1	...	...	2	1	1	3	1	1	4	9	...

Isolation Hospital:—In Basingstoke Urban. Available beds, 20. Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.
Separate Hospital for Small Pox, 12 beds.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH		NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT								Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
		All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65		65 and upwards
All Causes	Certified ... Uncertified—Nil	162	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Measles	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	8	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	3	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	18	...	...	...	...	2	8	8	3
Bronchitis	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Pneumonia (all other forms)	...	6	...	...	...	1	1	2	2	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	4	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	6	...	...	...	2	1	2	1	2
Puerperal Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	...	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Senile Decay	...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	10
Other Defined Diseases	...	48	...	...	...	3	9	16	20	13
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	8	2	...	...	...	1	2	3	3
		162	23	...	1	2	10	24	33	36

TABLE IV.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	Certified	All	Uncertified Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	8
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	5	1	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	8
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
				10	2	...	...	12	8	2	1	...	23

Nett Births in the year : Legitimate, 260. Illegitimate, 14.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 21. Illegitimate Infants, 2.

TABLE V.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Factories Inspected	...	64
Workshops "	...	100
Workplaces "	...	6
		—
Total	...	170
		—

Number of prosecutions	...	Nil.
" " written notices	...	3
Other nuisances found	...	3
" " remedied	...	3

Registered Workshops.

Factories	...	...	16
Workshops	...	...	50
Workplaces	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	16
Underground Bakehouses			0
			—
Total	...	...	85
			—

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

BASING.—Four cottages have been repaired, six lime-washed, nine samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, two were condemned, two new supplies were provided by boring, which proved to be pure. This is one of the best systems for supplying water for rural districts, three wells have been cleaned out, one new curb, one new closet, and three cleaned out.

BRAMLEY.—Two cottages have been lime-washed, six samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, two wells were condemned and closed, two new wells have been dug, three new curbs, two offices converted into pail, three cleaned out.

BRADLEY.—Two cottages have been lime-washed, one sample of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one closet repaired, three cleaned out.

CLIDDESSEN.—Four cottages have been repaired, four lime-washed, one overcrowding case removed.

DUMMER.—Two cottages have been repaired, two lime-washed, one office cleaned out.

ELLISFIELD.—Two cottages have been repaired, two lime-washed, one new bungalow built, two samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test.

FARLEIGH WALLOP.—One cottage has been repaired, one lime-washed, one closet cleaned out.

HERRIARD.—Three new cottages have been built, one cottage lime-washed, one case of overcrowding removed, one sample of water taken for Medical Officer of Health to test.

HARTLEY WESPALL.—Seven cottages have been repaired, five lime-washed, one cottage closed, partly pulled down; four samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one new well dug, two curbs renewed, one repaired, two offices repaired and cleaned out.

MAPLEDURWELL.—Two cottages have been repaired, two lime-washed.

MORTIMER WEST END.—One sample of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one new cottage has been built.

NEWNHAM.—Three cottages have been repaired, three lime-washed, two overcrowding cases removed, two closets repaired, four cleaned out, one sample of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one new bungalow built.

NORTH WALTHAM.—Six cottages have been repaired, six lime-washed, four new well curbs, six offices repaired, two cleaned out.

NUTLEY.—Two cottages have been repaired, two lime-washed, two samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, two closets repaired, two cleaned out.

OAKLEY.—Two cottages have been repaired, three lime-washed, four samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one tank cleaned out and repaired .

PRESTON CANDOVER.—One cottage has been repaired, one lime-washed, one new cottage built, one new house built, two samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test.

POPHAM AND WOODMANCOTE.—Six cottages have been repaired, six limewashed, four cottages in Woodmancote village are unfit for human habitation. Winchester College are building three new cottages to take their place, which will be completed in the spring.

PAMBER.—Three cottages have been repaired, four cottages lime-washed, one overcrowding case removed, one new well curb, one new closet, five samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, three new cottages have been built, two new bungalows.

SHERBORNE ST. JOHN.—One cottage has been lime-washed, two samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test.

STRATFIELD SAYE.—One overcrowding case has been removed.

STRATFIELD TURGIS.—One new well has been dug, one sample of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test.

SHERFIELD.—Three cottages have been repaired, three lime-washed, four samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one well cleaned out, one new well curb, three closets converted to pail, three cleaned out.

UPTON GREY.—Three cottages lime-washed.

MONK SHERBORNE.—Three cottages have been repaired, three lime-washed, one new well curb, three offices cleaned out, three samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test, one well condemned, a new well is being dug.

WOOTTON ST. LAWRENCE.—Eight cottages have been repaired, six lime-washed, two cottages closed, two new offices, two cleaned, four samples of water taken for the Medical Officer of Health to test.

DAIRY SHEDS, BAKEHOUSES, AND SCHOOLS.

DAIRY SHEDS:—There are 44 dairy sheds registered, 176 inspections have been made; No. 1 notice was sent in four cases to limewash; the dairy sheds are clean and well kept, and meet the requirements.

BAKEHOUSES:—There are 16 bakehouses; 64 inspections have been made; No. 1 notice was sent in three cases to lime-wash.

SCHOOLS:—There are 25 schools; 95 inspections have been made; in four cases notices have been sent to remove nuisances.

RICHARD FORRESTER,
Inspector of Nuisances.