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Contributors

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**BIGGLESWADE RURAL
DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

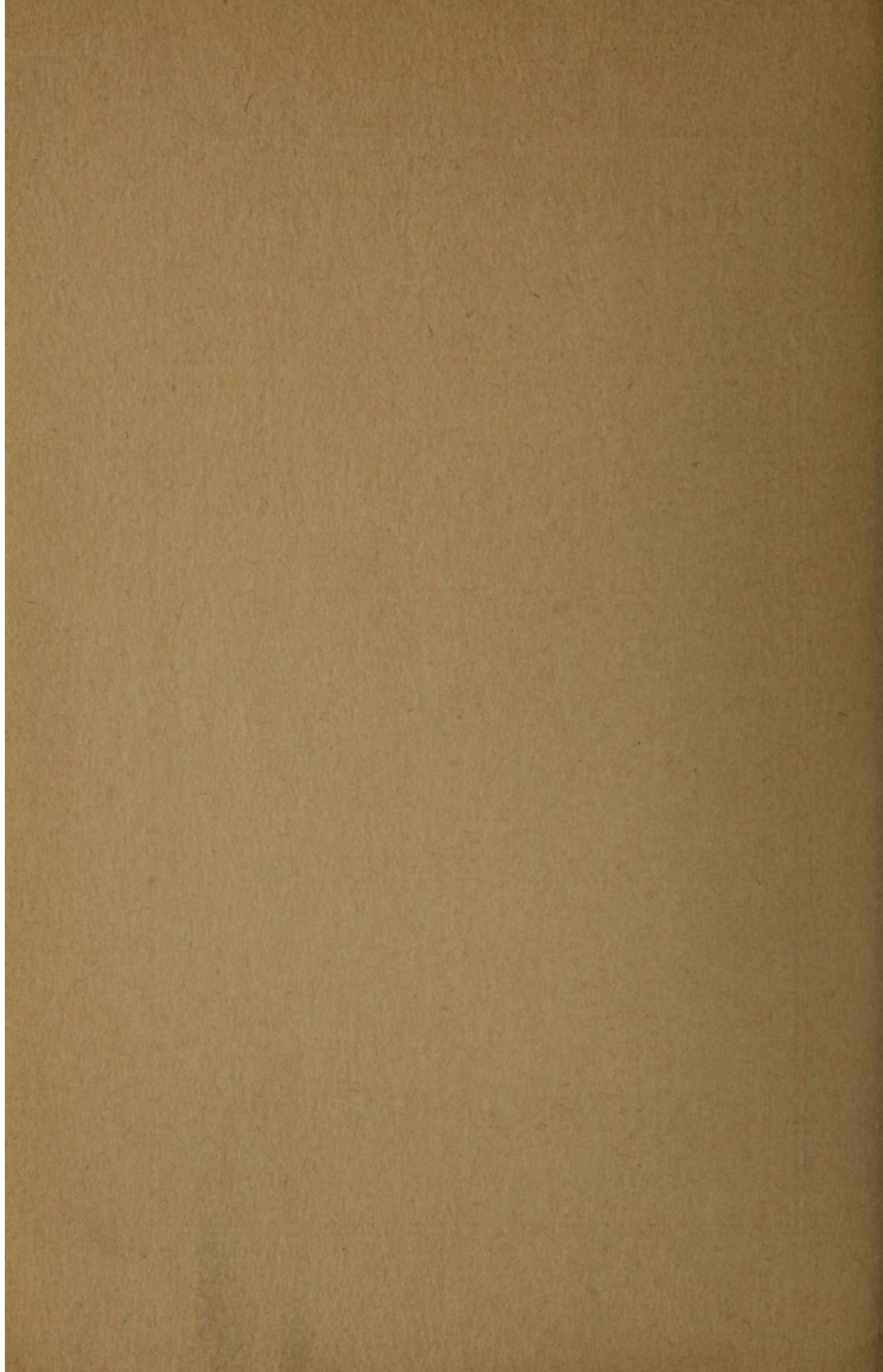
FOR THE YEAR 1937

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR



**BIGGLESWADE RURAL
DISTRICT**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

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SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Biggleswade Rural District for the year 1937.

The Report has been prepared on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health in the Circular No. 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

The outstanding feature of the Report is the remarkable decline in the infantile mortality rate, the figure being 20.54 as compared with 48.2 in 1936. In addition, there were no deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth. It can be reasonably assumed that this satisfactory condition is in a considerable measure due to the increased facilities for advice available in the area through the maternity and child welfare clinics.

I should like to express my thanks to the Clerk to the Council for his assistance and also to your Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their co-operation, which has always been freely given.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. HARVEY.

Ladbrooke,
Biggleswade.
June, 1938.

Medical Officer of Health,

ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:
C. A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
C. M. ROBINSON, F.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.
as Sanitary Inspector, and Meat and Foods Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:
H. W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B. as Sanitary Inspector.

Junior Assistant Inspector:
D. W. POPE.

Housing Assistant:
P. MILLER.

Clerk:
Miss D. SIVYER.

JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

Medical Officer:
FRANCIS BOLSTER, M.D.

Matron:
Miss M. WRIGHT.

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	49,152
Population (Census 1931)	20,962
Population, Registrar General's Estimate for 1937	23,250
Number of inhabited houses end of 1937 according to Rate Books.....	5,723
Rateable Value	£83,998 0 0
Sum represented by a penny rate	£329 19 11

Social Conditions.

The main occupation in the district is that of Market Gardening and Farming.

In addition the following industries are also carried on and employ a considerable number of people:—

Arlesey	Brickmaking.
Cockayne Hatley	Apple orchards.
Meppershall	Glove making.
Potton	Leather dressing and parchment making
Shefford.....	Laundries.

At Henlow there is a large Depot of the Royal Air Force and the Officer Commanding has collaborated willingly with the Officers of your Authority in matters of common public health interest.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births:

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	280	144	136
Illegitimate	12	5	7

Birth-rate, 12.6 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

Stillbirths

	Total.	Males.	Females.
.....	5	1	4

Rate, 16.83 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Deaths

	Total.	Males.	Females.
.....	249	136	113

Death-rate, *9.3 per 1,000 estimated resident population.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child birth:—

From sepsis	0
From other causes	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	20.54
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.43
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)

Deaths from Whooping-cough (all ages)

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)

POPULATION.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General mid-year 1937 was 23,250. This represents a decrease of 1,170 since the previous year, which is largely due to change of personnel at the R.A.F. depot at Henlow.

NOTE.—*This figure is arrived at by multiplying the crude death rate by .87—the adjusting factor supplied by the Registrar-General.

This is necessary in order to make the death-rate of the district comparable with that of England and Wales on the basis of equal sex and age distribution.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 292, which is 19 less than in 1936. This gives a birth-rate of 12.56 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 12.7 for 1936.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 14.9.

Twelve illegitimate births were registered in 1937 as compared with 9 in 1936. This figure equals 4.28 per cent. of the total births.

The number of still births was 5, being a rate of 16.83 per 1,000 of all births.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in 1937 was 249, an increase of 1 from the previous year. This gives a death-rate of 9.3 as compared with 8.7 in 1936.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The death-rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 12.4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 6 deaths of Infants under one year of age, all Legitimate Births, an increase of 9 from the previous year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 20.54 per thousand live births as compared with 48.2 in 1936.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 58.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table gives the causes of death:—

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0	0
Measles	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	2
Influenza	6	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	7
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	3
Syphilis	0	0
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis ...	3	0
Cancer Malignant Disease	21	15
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	8	6
Heart Disease	37	30
Aneurysm	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	10
Bronchitis	5	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	3	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	1	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	4
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0

Other Puerperal Causes	0	...	0
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	1	...	2
Senility	9	...	8
Suicide	1	...	1
Other Violence	9	...	4
Other Defined Diseases	8	...	5
Causes ill-defined or unknown	0	...	0
	136		113

STATISTICAL TABLE 1932--1937.

YEAR.	DEATH RATE.		BIRTH RATE.		INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE	
	Biggleswade R.D.	England and Wales.	Biggleswade R.D.	England and Wales.	Biggleswade R.D.	England and Wales.
1932	12.8	12.0	15.7	15.3	62.6	65.0
1933	11.0	12.3	14.7	14.4	57.1	64.0
1934	8.8	11.8	13.2	14.8	49.6	59.0
1935	8.4	11.7	14.4	14.7	19.5	57.0
1936	8.7	12.1	12.7	14.8	48.2	59.0
1937	9.3	12.4	12.56	14.9	20.54	58.0

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the district can obtain free Bacteriological Examinations in cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever and Meningitis. These examinations are carried out by the Lister Institute, as the Council does not possess the necessary fitted laboratory.

Provision of Antitoxin.

Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin. It is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Potton Road, Biggleswade, and doctors can obtain it according to their requirements.

Ambulance Facilities.

- Infectious Cases.—A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board, and is stationed at the Hospital.
- Non-infectious and Accident Cases.—The use of the motor ambulance provided by the County Council under the supervision of the police was discontinued during the year. Pending agreement between the Biggleswade Rural District Council, the Biggleswade Urban District Council and the Sandy Urban District Council for the provision of a joint ambulance, the services of the Hospital Board ambulance were available.

Nursing in the Home.

None provided by this Authority, but the County Council employ a Health Visitor for certain work.

Many of the parishes employ a district nurse, whose services are of the greatest value.

Midwives.

Registration and supervision exercised by the County Council.

Clinics and Treatment Centres under the County Council.

Child Welfare Centres.

Arlesey.
Biggleswade.
Potton.
Shefford.
Stotfold.

Ante-Natal and Post Natal Clinics.

Shefford.
Stotfold.
Biggleswade.

Tuberculosis.

St. Andrew's Rooms, Biggleswade.

Venereal Disease.

Bedford County Hospital.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

Hospital.	Situation.	Authority.	Accommodation.
(1) Tuberculosis	...Mogerhanger Park	...County Council	—
(2) Maternity	Public Assistance Infirmery	" "	—
(3) Children	...None		
(4) Isolation	...Potton Road, Biggleswade	Jointly with Biggleswade U.D.	22 Beds
(5) Smallpox	Langford Road, Biggleswade...	Jointly with Biggleswade U.D.	12 Beds
(6) Mental	...Stotfold	County Council	—
(7) Public Assistance Institution	...London Road, Biggleswade	County Council	—

Patients in the district are also admitted to General Hospitals in Bedford, Cambridge and Hitchin, and it is understood that many residents subscribe to the funds of these Institutions.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

The Local Supervising Authority is the County Council.

There is one private nursing home at Shefford.

Prevention of Blindness.

Arrangements by the County Council for the provision of treatment, etc., for persons threatened with blindness.

Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

All the 25 parishes in the Rural District are now supplied with water from the public mains.

131 new connections have been made during the year.

The Water Supply for the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Previously it was the practice to have a chemical and bacteriological examination of the water supply at indefinite intervals. It has now been arranged that samples should be submitted monthly for bacteriological examination.

A sample of the public supply was taken from the Topleys Hill Reservoir on January 7th, 1938, and submitted for analysis, the result being as follows:—

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

Appearance	Clear and Bright
Colour	Normal
Odour	None
Reaction pH	Neutral 7.3
Free Carbonic Acid	2.0
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	560
Total Solids 180°C.	37.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates	Nil
Nitrites	Absent
Hardness: Permanent	5.0
Temporary	21.0
Total	26.0
Metals	Absent
Free Ammonia	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0004
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	0.020

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.	
On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	3
On Agar in 1 day at 37°C.	0
On Agar in 2 days at 37°C.	1
The Bacillus Welchii	Absent in 100 c.c.
The Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.

REPORT.

"This sample is clear and bright, of normal colour, and neutral in reaction. The water is hard in character, though not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of salinity, and no metals. It is of a high standard of organic and bacterial purity, and is regarded, therefore, as pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

SHALLOW WELLS.

Four samples of water from shallow wells supplying dwelling-houses were submitted for analysis, two of which were reported to be unfit for drinking and domestic purposes, and in these cases arrangements were made to lay on a supply from the public mains.

EXTENSION OR IMPROVEMENTS.

- (a) Public water supplies.—160 yards 3in. mains, Stotfold House Estate, Stotfold; and 72 yards 3-inch mains, Mill Lane, Potton. The Water Board in the year embarked on a scheme for the augmentation of its supplies. Four boreholes have been sunk at Dunton, the tests of which were so successful that when the scheme is completed the capacity of the existing station at Toplers Hill will be duplicated. The scheme is progressing satisfactorily and it is hoped that it will be completed within the next twelve months.

The following table prepared by the Water Engineer shows the number of houses in the various parishes supplied with water from the public mains:—

PARISH.	No. of inhabited dwelling- houses, Dec. 31st, 1937.	No. of Houses Supplied
Arlesey	768	173
Astwick	12	12
Blunham	180	162
Campton	101	98
Chicksands	11	5
Clifton	292	297
Cockayne Hatley	37	33
Dunton	121	127
Edworth	20	25
Everton	61	56
Eyeworth	28	26
Henlow	328	330
Langford	339	340
Meppershall	170	150
Mogerhanger	137	133
Northill	369	365
Potton	616	612
Shefford	510	503
Southill	304	291
Upper Stondon	17	13
Stotfold	878	868
Sutton	69	65
Tempsford	130	125
Warden	97	97
Wrestlingworth	128	124
Totals	5723	5630

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold.

Main drainage schemes are in operation in these three parishes.

With very few exceptions the whole of the premises in the drainage area are now connected to sewers.

Shefford, Clifton and Henlow.

In previous annual reports attention has been called to the necessity for a modern drainage and sewerage scheme for the above parishes. The County Council are now considering this very urgent question, and it is to be hoped that in the near future it will be possible that these parishes will have their drainage and sewerage system brought up to date, and that the parish of Langford will be included in the scheme.

Public Cleansing.

Weekly collections of house refuse are made in the parishes of Arlesey, Henlow, Langford, Potton and Shefford and a monthly collection in the remainder of the district.

Further details of the work done is given on page 22.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, showing the number of

inspections carried out and the action taken with regard to the defects and nuisances discovered is appended to this report.

Swimming Pools.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the district.

This was opened for a short period only during the season.

The owner is arranging for filtration of the water in the pool and samples will be taken with a view of ascertaining its condition.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

In only eight instances during the year have bed bugs been discovered in dwellinghouses.

In four cases, where the premises inspected were Council houses, disinfection was carried out by the spraying with special insecticide liquids and following up with fumigation with sulphur compounds.

In the case of the private houses, the owners applied for advice and were supplied with the necessary materials at cost price.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the area is satisfactory and all the schools are now provided with water through the public supply.

There were no closures of schools during the year for infectious disease.

Section D—HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

1 (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1335
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2228
2 (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	243
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	642
3 Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	45
4 Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	248

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	210
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	11
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	9

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	29
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	13
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0
Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....	20
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	20
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	Adults 102
	Children 31
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ...	80
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	Adults 484
	Children 100
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	1

HOUSING.

The following table shows the number of houses built by the Council, including 22 completed during the year under review:—

Parish	Pre-War 1914	Assisted Housing Scheme 1919	Housing Act 1924	Housing Act 1925—1930		Total
Arlesey		52	92	36	2	182
Blunham		10	14	—	6	30
Campton		26	6	—	—	32
Clifton		32	10	6	—	48
Dunton		8	10	—	2	20
Everton		6	4	—	—	10
Henlow		26	12	—	4	42
Langford	20	42	12	4	8	86
Meppershall		12	14	—	2	28
Mogerhanger		14	20	—	4	38
Northill		46	30	—	2	78
Potton		56	50	—	—	106
Shefford		44	14	12	2	72
Southill		56	—	—	—	56
Stotfold		61	74	22	2	159
Sutton		12	—	—	4	16
Tempsford		30	—	—	—	30
Upper Stondon ...		—	—	—	2	2
Wrestlingworth ...		16	—	6	6	28
Totals	20	549	362	86	46	1063

Factories and Workshops.

1. Inspections (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector):—

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	19	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces (including Workshop Laundries)	163	13	—
Total	182	13	—

2. Defects:—

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.Inspr.	Number of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	13	13	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Total	13	13	—	—

Section E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Particulars of the bacteriological examination of 152 samples of milk will be found on page 21.

In all cases where the results were not considered satisfactory a copy of the report was sent to the Dairyman concerned.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

I am informed by the County Sanitary Inspector that 19 persons within the Biggleswade Rural District were licensed during the year to use the special designation "Accredited" and two for "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Meat and Other Foods.

This is carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors. A record of the work done and the action taken may be found in the report appended hereto.

Section F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year:

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Diphtheria	35	32	2
Scarlet Fever	33	24	—
Pneumonia	15	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	9	—	—

The distribution of the chief notifiable diseases in the district is shown in the following table:—

Parish	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever
Arlesey	10	—	1	1	—	—	11
Blunham	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Clifton	2	—	—	1	—	—	4
Dunton	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Eyeworth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Henlow	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Langford	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Mogerhanger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northill	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Potton	2	—	1	2	—	—	1
Shefford	3	—	—	1	—	—	—
Southill	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Stotfold	4	—	6	6	—	—	8
Sutton	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tempsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warden	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Wrestlingworth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
	35	—	9	15	—	—	33

An analysis of notified cases is set out under age groups in the following table:—

	Under one Year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	55	65 and over
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1	2	8	10	4	6	3	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	2	5	14	4	1	6	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3	4	3	2
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	2	1

Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

During the year the Council agreed to a scheme whereby children of school age could have protective inoculation against Diphtheria free of cost through the family doctor, who received a fee from the Council for each child so treated.

The number of children who were immunised was 45. The response to the Council's offer has certainly not been large, and it is feared that many parents wait until there is an epidemic before taking steps to have their children protected. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that parents should take full advantage of the facilities offered by the Council and not wait until Diphtheria is prevalent in the District. The greater the number of children who

have been protected against the disease the less danger there is of an epidemic.

There were two deaths from Diphtheria during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
5—	1	—	2	2	—	1	—	1
15—	3	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
25—	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—	—	2	—	2	1	2	—	—
45—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	5	2	5	2	7	3	3

The total number of notifications of tuberculosis was 26, of which 2 had been previously notified.

One death from tuberculosis was reported of a case which had not been previously notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken in respect of tuberculous employees in the milk trade under the above regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

(Compulsory removal to hospital).

No action was taken.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1937.

To the Chairman and Members of the Biggleswade Rural
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to present to you my twenty-sixth Annual Report of the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year ending 31st December, 1937.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes:

Summary of Inspections.

Dwelling-houses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts	1335
Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations 1925 (included above)	243
Re-inspections and visits to works in progress	893
Visits to Council Houses re defects and works in progress	3461
Inspections of new buildings	1602
Inspection of workshops including bakehouses	182
Inspection of dairies and cowsheds	324
Inspection of petroleum stores	113
Visits re infectious disease	119
Rooms disinfected	78
Visits re collection of house refuse	260
Piggeries inspected	3
Other miscellaneous visits	2254

Notices Served.

144 Intimation Notices or letters were sent, dealing with 203 premises, and 4 Statutory Notices were served in connection with 9 dwelling-houses.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

The following list sets out in the first column the work carried out by owners of property in the district at the request of the Sanitary Inspectors, and in the second column the general repairs carried out in connection with Council houses, under the supervision of this department:—

	Private Property.	Council Houses.
Houses re-decorated	—	62
Roofs, chimneys, eaves guttering and fallpipes repaired or renewed	60	169
External Walls repaired	27	—
Walls, ceilings and floors repaired	148	143
Stairs, doors and windows repaired	136	214
Improved lighting	35	—
Electric switches repaired or replaced	—	32
Firegrates, ranges or coppers repaired or renewed	39	875
Dampness remedied	48	1

New sinks provided or repaired and wastepipes trapped or repaired	20	103
Rooms cleansed	4	—
Water supply laid on	2	—
Overcrowding of dwelling-houses abated	52	38
New foodstores provided	14	—
Means of ventilation provided to foodstores	4	—
Outhouses repaired	9	—
Yards paved	11	—
Verminous houses disinfested	4	4
Nuisance from animals and poultry abated	10	—
Defective pumps repaired	2	—
New baths provided	1	—
Dangerous buildings demolished	4	—
Taps repaired, rewashed or renewed	—	875
Burst pipes repaired	—	65
Firebricks provided	—	420
Draining boards provided	—	44
Fences, and gates repaired or renewed	—	37
Rainwater tanks repaired	—	21
Repairs to hot water supply tanks	—	4

Drainage.

Houses and premises re-drained	23	—
Drains cleared, trapped and repaired	60	150
Ventilating shafts and soil pipes provided	2	—
Cesspools repaired or cleansed	12	1

Sanitary Conveniences and Ash Receptacles.

New W.C. apartments erected	6	—
New pedestal W.C. basins fixed	10	9
Lavatory seats refixed, repaired or replaced	—	9
W.C. flushing cisterns regulated, repaired or renewed	9	143
Pail closets converted to W.C.'s	9	—
New E.C. pails provided	20	71
Insanitary privies abolished	20	—
New E.C. apartments erected	4	—
New ashbins provided	42	77
Existing sanitary conveniences repaired	14	—
New urinals erected	1	—
Water supply pipes to W.C.'s repaired	2	—

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Dairies and cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	64	—
Cowshed floors repaired	7	—
New cowsheds erected	4	—
Cowsheds improved	6	—
New dairies erected	5	—
Drainage provided to cowshed	1	—

Miscellaneous

Accumulations of refuse or manure removed	25	—
Foul ditches cleansed	10	—
Miscellaneous repairs	—	3

HOUSING ACT 1936.

Overcrowding Survey.

The result of the overcrowding survey which was completed early in 1937 showed that 98 cases of overcrowding existed. The following table shows the position at the beginning and close of the year:—

	Private Dwellings.	Council Houses.	Total.
Number of dwellings found to be overcrowded at the completion of the overcrowding survey	57	41	98
New cases reported during 1937	2	—	2
	59	41	100
Number of cases abated during the year	43	37	80
Outstanding at the close of the year	16	4	20

Of those outstanding

6 exceed the permitted number by $\frac{1}{2}$ a unit.

5	"	"	"	"	"	1 unit
5	"	"	"	"	"	$1\frac{1}{2}$ units
1	"	"	"	"	"	2 units
2	"	"	"	"	"	$2\frac{1}{2}$ units
1	"	"	"	"	"	3 units

By the above it will be seen that 6 are only very slightly overcrowded.

Three cases are those of owner-occupiers, who are purchasing their houses through building societies, and are rather difficult to deal with.

Two other cases will shortly be relieved by the owners making additions to the houses.

For several families, Council houses will shortly be available.

In some three or four instances it will be necessary for the Council to consider providing houses at a reduced rent.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year 116 plans in respect of 205 proposed new buildings were deposited and approved and the following were erected:—

Dwelling-houses	66
Alterations and additions to dwelling-houses	17
Alterations and additions to public houses	5
Alterations and additions to retail shops	2
Garages erected	7
Farm buildings	2
Cowhouses	2
Slaughterhouse	1
Retail shop	1

Factories	2
Workshop	1
Greenhouses	28
Electricity sub stations	2
Other Buildings	10

The parishes in which the dwelling-houses were erected are as follows:—

Arlesey	7	Meppershall	2
Blunham	2	Northill	1
Clifton	5	Potton	7
Dunton	2	Shefford	5
Henlow	6	Stotfold	21
Langford	3	Warden	5

Council Houses.

In addition to the above, 22 dwelling-houses were erected by the Council, 14 in the parish of Shefford and 8 in the parish of Langford.

Town Planning Scheme.

An appeal was made to the Minister of Health against the decision of the Council to refuse to permit the erection of a bungalow, on the grounds that the materials and construction of the proposed building did not comply with the Council's Town Planning Scheme.

An enquiry was held by an Inspector of the Minister of Health, the result being that the Council's decision was upheld.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 133 Factories and Workshops on the Register and 182 visits of inspections have been made.

The following is a list of the premises on the Register:—

Bakers	19	Malt Makers	2
Boot Repairers	18	Motor and Cycle Engineers...	22
Blacksmiths	15	Mineral Water Works	1
Brickmakers	2	Laundries	2
Brewers	1	Portable Buildings	1
Carpenters and Plumbers	21	Printers	1
Cooked Food Manufacturers...	1	Saddlers	1
Cabinet Makers	2	Sawmills	6
Engineering	1	Soap Manufacturers	1
Fellmonger and Parchment		Stonemasons	1
Maker	1	Tailors	3
Flour Millers	4	Wheelwrights	5
Glove Making	1	Artificial Manure Makers ...	1

OUTWORKERS:

Needlework	1
Hat Makers	4
Glove Makers	33
	—
	38
	—

FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses and Foodshops.

There are five registered slaughterhouses, seventeen licensed slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard in the district.

During the year 1,406 visits have been made to the slaughterhouses and foodshops, the number of carcasses examined being as follows:—

Bovines	781
Calves	16
Sheep	1,243
Pigs	5,758
Total	7,798

An endeavour is made to examine as many animals slaughtered as possible, but to inspect all with the present staff is quite impossible, one slaughterhouse in the district where large numbers of pigs are slaughtered for the London markets would take the whole time of one Inspector.

The following table, as set out in the circular issued by the Minister of Health, shows the number of carcasses inspected and diseased or unsound meat dealt with:—

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (approx.)	1430	16	2964	107120
Number inspected	781	16	1243	5758
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	2	204
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	—	5	1839
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.28%	—	0.562%	35.48%*
Tuberculosis only:—				
Whole carcasses condemned	9	—	—	24
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	11	—	—	813
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	2.56%	—	—	14.51%*

*These high percentages shown are due to the fact that at one establishment, where approximately 2,000 pigs are slaughtered each week for the London markets, the whole of the carcasses are first examined by an Inspector employed by the tradesman concerned, who places on one side all diseased or doubtful carcasses for the special attention of the Sanitary Inspector. Therefore, if the whole of the carcasses examined included those inspected by the private inspector, the percentages would read 1.90 instead of 35.48 and 0.78 in place of 14.51.

Details of the unsound or diseased meat dealt with are as follows:—

Bovines.

6 carcasses and offals	Tuberculosis
2 " " "	Tuberculosis and emaciation
1 carcass and offal	Tuberculosis and peritonitis
1 " " "	Pyæmia
2 forequarters beef	Tuberculosis
81 lbs. beef	Unsound
126 " "	Taint
9 ox heads and tongues	Tuberculosis
2 " " " "	Actinomycosis
4 ox livers	Tuberculosis
3 " "	Abscesses
1 ox liver	Flukes
7 sets ox lungs	Tuberculosis
1 set ox lungs	Abscesses
1 " " "	Cysts
6 ox mesenteries	Tuberculosis
2 ox kidneys	Cysts
1 ox kidney and fat	Putrefaction

Sheep.

1 sheep's carcass	Pleurisy
1 " "	Emaciation
4 sets sheep's lungs	Parasites
1 set sheep's lungs	Congestion

Swine.

85 Pigs' carcasses and offals	Fevered
34 " " " "	Pleurisy and peritonitis
24 " " " "	Tuberculosis
23 " " " "	Jaundice
22 " " " "	Abscesses
16 " " " "	Inflammation
15 " " " "	Extensive bruising and injuries
8 " " " "	Emaciation
6 " " " "	Pneumonia
3 " " " "	Dropsy
2 " " " "	Urticaria
2 " " " "	Septicæmia
1 Pig's carcass and offal	Pyæmia
1 " " " "	Nephritis
1 " " " "	Pericarditis
1 side of pork	Jaundice
2 pigs' kidneys	Cysts
813 pigs' heads	Tuberculosis
2650 pigs' plucks	Tuberculosis, congestion, etc.

Veal.

1 carcass and offal	Immature
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Miscellaneous.

1 rabbit	Putrefaction
1 tin jellied veal	Putrefaction

Total weight of meat unfit and voluntarily surrendered:—
19 tons 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 19 lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act 1933.

During the year 10 persons made application to slaughter or stun animals in compliance with the terms of this Act and were duly licensed.

Number of licensed slaughtermen on Register, 31st December, 1936	61
Number of slaughtermen licensed during 1937	10
Total on Register, 31st December, 1937	71

MILK SUPPLY.

At the close of the year 74 persons were registered under the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926; 3 new dairymen were added to the register and 5 names removed, the persons having discontinued business.

Of the 74 persons registered, 58 are cowkeepers and 16 purveyors of milk only.

The parishes in which the cowsheds and dairies are situated are as follows:—

Arlesey	6	Meppershall	4
Astwick	2	Mogerhanger	5
Blunham	1	Northill	5
Chicksands	2	Shefford	1
Clifton	3	Southill	1
Cockayne Hatley ...	2	Stotfold	6
Dunton	1	Sutton	2
Everton	2	Tempsford	6
Henlow	2	Warden	2
Langford	2	Wrestlingworth	3

Eleven dairymen residing outside the district retail milk within the district.

In 38 instances letters or notices were sent to cowkeepers calling their attention to contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926.

One hundred and fifty-two samples of milk were taken and submitted to the School of Agriculture, Cambridge, ten for Bacteriological Examination and one hundred and forty-two for the Methylene Blue Test. Eighty-nine were certified as satisfactory and sixty-three unsatisfactory.

In each case where the result was unsatisfactory the producer was communicated with and a visit made to the dairy at the time milking was in progress.

I am informed by the County Sanitary Inspector that 21 producers of milk in this district have been licensed under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested ...	2	Accredited	19
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One Supplementary Licence was issued by the Rural Council for the sale of Pasteurised Milk.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Arlesey and Stotfold.

The works and plant in both parishes have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Two new pumps were installed at the Stotfold outfall works at a cost of £101, to replace pumps that had become inefficient, and one new $7\frac{1}{2}$ b.h.p. electric motor to replace one of 4 b.h.p.

Potton.

Minor repairs to the engines and pumps have been carried out.

During the year the Council purchased six acres of land, known as Carrington's Field, which has been leased to the Council for the disposal of sewage for a number of years past.

Rainfall.

Rainfall is recorded at Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold Sewage Works, the amounts recorded being as follows:—

MONTH.	ARLESEY		POTTON		STOTFOLD	
	Rainfall in inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Rainfall in inches.	Days on which rain fell.	Rainfall in inches.	Days on which rain fell.
January	3.32	24	2.72	19	2.95	20
February	2.975	23	3.21	18	2.66	21
March	3.255	19	3.28	16	3.13	18
April	2.46	18	2.19	11	2.39	14
May	3.43	14	3.47	12	3.38	15
June	2.25	9	1.48	8	2.01	9
July	1.985	9	1.75	7	2.21	9
August	1.13	6	2.49	5	1.89	7
September	2.185	12	2.63	11	2.53	13
October	2.415	10	2.10	8	2.43	12
November	1.59	11	2.12	6	1.63	12
December	2.85	20	2.64	14	2.92	19
	29.845	175	30.10	135	30.13	169

Refuse Collection.

Household refuse and night soil is removed weekly in the parishes of Henlow, Langford and Shefford.

A weekly collection of dry refuse is made in Arlesey and Potton.

Throughout the remainder of the Rural District a monthly collection of incombustible refuse is made.

The work is carried out by Contract, with the exception of the parish of Arlesey, where the Council carry out the work by direct labour under the direction of the Parochial Committee.

The contract prices for the schemes in operation at the close of the year were as follows:—

Henlow	£5	0	0	per week
Langford	£4	0	0	" "
Shefford	£6	10	0	" "
Potton (dry refuse only)	£2	7	6	" "
Stotfold (dry refuse only)	£7	5	0	per month

In eighteen other parishes a monthly collection of incombustible refuse is made at a cost of £18 per month.

The cost of the weekly collection of all household refuse in the Parish of Arlesey by direct labour amounted to £3 4s. per week.

PETROLEUM LICENCES.

Licences renewed January 1st, 1937	77
New licences granted during the year	4
Number of stores licensed December 31st, 1937	81
Quantity of petrol permitted to be kept in licensed stores, 52,186 gallons.	

CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.

Licences renewed January 1st, 1937	13
New licences granted during the year	0
Number of stores licensed December 31st, 1937	13
Quantity of carbide permitted to be kept in licensed stores, 21 cwts.	
Amount collected in fees for Petrol and Carbide licences ...	
	£48 1s. 8d.

Conclusion.

I would again take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health, for their consideration and support, also to the staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. ROBINSON,

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

Council Offices,
Biggleswade.
May, 1938.



