

[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Brackley R.D.C.

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Brackley (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1938

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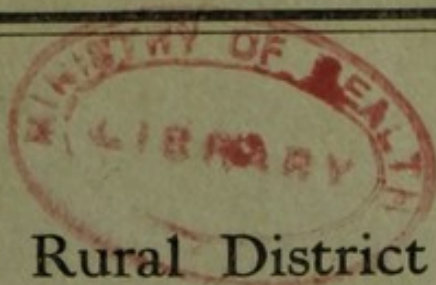
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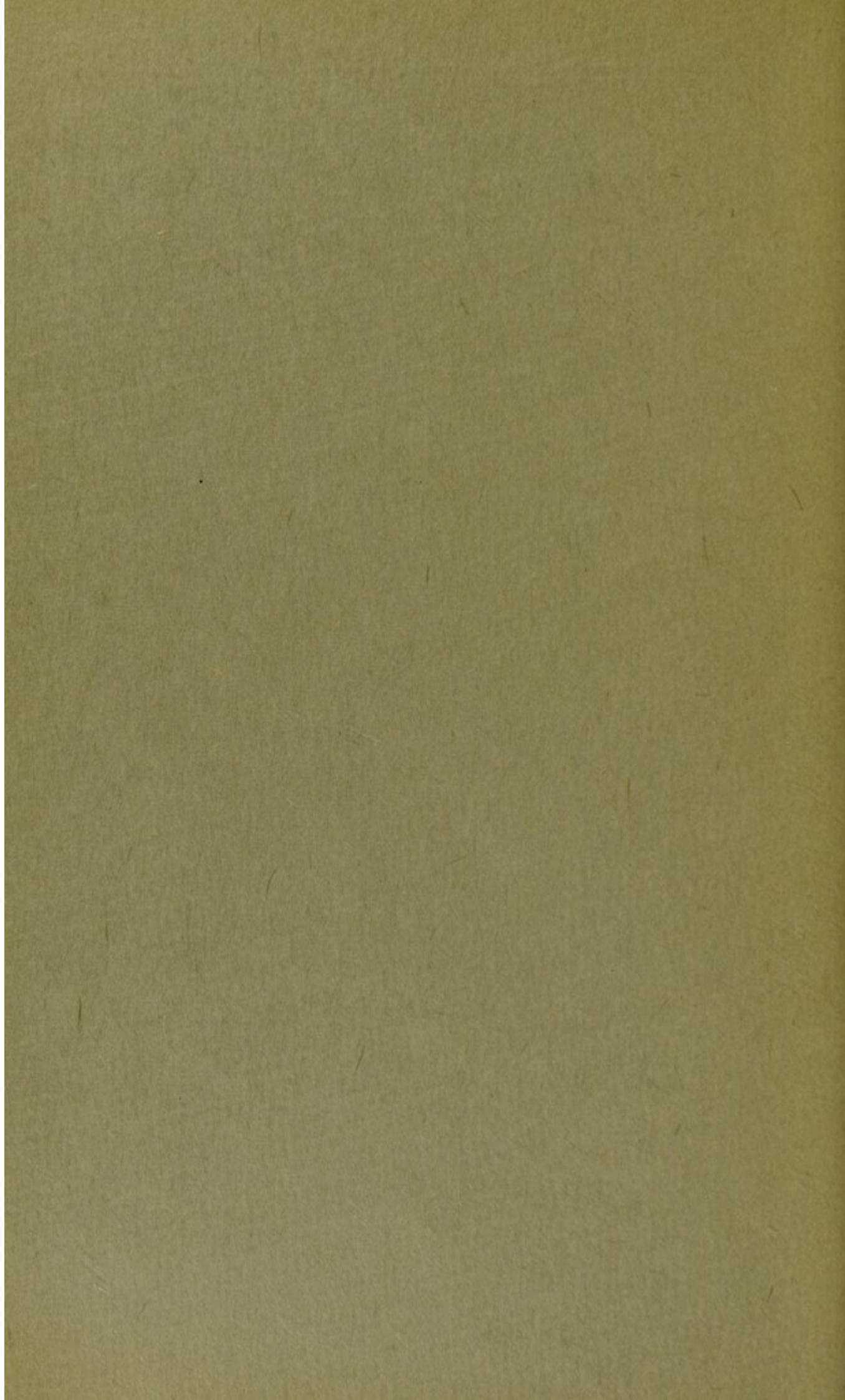
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1938.



BRACKLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended 31st December, 1938,

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JOHNSON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938. The report is drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1650 (England) issued by the Ministry of Health. I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to members of the Council and of the Staff for their co-operation since my appointment.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. A. DUNCAN.

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
NORTHAMPTON,

June, 1939.

Public Health Officers.

In September, 1938, Dr. Ivor J. Jones, the former Medical Officer of Health, was promoted to the post of Medical Officer of Health of the County of Montgomery, his place being taken by Dr. J. A. A. Duncan.

The Sanitary Staff remained the same as in the preceding year.

Medical Officer of Health:

J. A. A. DUNCAN, M.C., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: SIDNEY J. ROGERS, A.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: R. HOWARD, P.A.S.I.

Junior Assistant Sanitary Inspector: R. ANKER.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Resident Population (Registrar-General's mid-1938 estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	8,210
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books)	...	...	...	...	...	2,714
Rateable value (1/4/38)	...	...	...	...	...	£29,798
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£120 3s. 9d.

The District is entirely rural, and as in former years the main industry is agricultural, and very little unemployment is present. The population is almost stationary. The presence of the Aluminium Works in the adjacent town of Banbury, Oxfordshire, has been the cause of a slight immigration into the western part of the District.

Vital Statistics.

The following extract from the Vital Statistics of the year relate to the births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.

				Rate per 1,000 population			
						Brackley R.D.	England and Wales
			Total	Male	Female		
Live Births	Legitimate	...	123	64	59	15.59	15.1
	Illegitimate	...	5	2	3		
Still-births	...	...	5				
Deaths	...	...	125	66	59	15.2	11.6

<i>Deaths from puerperal causes :</i>	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other puerperal causes	0	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	23.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	8.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	400

<i>Deaths from—</i>	Total	Male	Female
Cancer (all ages)	12	6	6
Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil		
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil		

Adjusted Death-rate (1938) ... 11.7

The Adjusted Death Rate is obtained by applying to the crude death rate an Area Comparability Factor supplied by the Registrar-General (in this case 0.77) which corrects for the difference in age and sex distribution of the population of the District from that of England and Wales as a whole.

The registered causes of death were :—

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	0	2	2
Other Tuberculosis	1	0	1
Cancer	6	6	12
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	3	8	11
Heart Disease	22	10	32
Other circulatory disorders ...	7	5	12
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	2	2
Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
Other digestive disorders	1	2	3
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	3	0	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	0	1	1
Senility	10	9	19
Violence (other than Suicide) ...	4	1	5
Other Liver disorders	0	1	1
Ill-defined or not known	1	1	2
Diabetes	0	1	1
Aneurysm	1	1	2
Other respiratory disorders ...	0	1	1
G.P.I. tabes, etc.	1	0	1
Other defined diseases	2	7	9
ALL CAUSES	66	59	125

Heart Disease continues to be the commonest cause of death, followed in order by Senility, Cancer and Other circulatory disorders.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a). LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The pathological department of the Northampton General Hospital continues to examine all swabs submitted by general practitioners in the area, the Council paying 2/6 for each examination. During the year six such samples were sent.

The pathological section of the County Health Department undertakes the bacteriological analysis of water samples submitted and charges a nominal fee of 10/- per sample. Eight samples were submitted during the year.

Samples of milk taken under instruction of the County Medical Officer of Health are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and are examined in the pathological section of the County Health Department. During the year 140 samples were taken, and of these 97 were good, 7 moderate and 36 bad, shewing an improvement over the figures for 1937.

(b). AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Under the Western Northamptonshire Joint Hospital Board scheme, in which this Council is a participant, an ambulance based on Staverton Isolation Hospital is available for removing infectious cases to this institution.

(c). NURSING IN THE HOME.

Under the County Council scheme and by arrangement with the County Nursing Association and affiliated District Nursing Associations, four District Nurse-Midwives are available in the area for the nursing of sickness in the home, and for attendance on parturient women.

(d). CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic is held monthly at Brackley and is being attended in increasing numbers. Mothers and children are brought in from the outlying district by buses, part of the cost of this transport being borne by the County Council.

Residents of the Northern part of the District attend the clinic held at Byfield in the Rural District of Daventry.

The two Health Visitors of these clinics also act as School Nurses and attend the Medical Officer in his biannual visits to schools, which they also visit regularly to examine children for vermin and general uncleanness.

The Manfield Orthopædic Clinic continues to hold clinics at Brackley for the treatment of children suffering from orthopædic defects, while the services of the County Dental Service and Oculist are regularly available for children requiring their services.

The following Hospitals are available for those cases requiring institutional treatment or care:—

Brackley Cottage Hospital, Brackley.
 Horton General Hospital, Banbury.
 Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby.
 Oxford Eye Hospital, Oxford.
 Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, Northampton.
 Northampton General Hospital, Northampton.
 Radcliffe Infirmary and County Hospital, Oxford.
 Rushden House Sanatorium, Rushden, Northants.
 Staverton Isolation Hospital, Staverton.
 Wingfield-Morris Orthopædic Hospital, Headington, Oxon.

Section C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i) WATER.

In general this section calls only for a record of any new source of supply or of improvements to existing supplies or services. Therefore unless otherwise stated supplies and services may be taken to be as they were outlined in my predecessor's Reports of 1936 and 1937.

Charlton-cum-Newbottle.—During the year the construction of a new reservoir of 8,000 gallons capacity has been completed and the existing mains have been extended to service the 8 new Council Houses.

Eydon.—Though the source of supply remains the same, improvements are to be effected by installing asbestos pipes to replace the existing corroded iron pipes, and by lifting the well water to a service tank from which water will flow by gravity to the already existing Council houses and to the four new houses proposed to be built. The possibility of utilising a new service to supply the whole of the village is under consideration.

Greatworth.—It has been decided to improve this supply by installing a second ram to ensure a greater head of pressure in the existing service reservoir. The work will be carried out in 1939.

Helmdon.—To service the eight Council houses now in course of erection a spring which outcrops at a higher level is impounded in a ground level reservoir and is thence piped by gravity a distance of approximately 150 yards to the houses.

Kings Sutton.—To service the 40 new houses, now nearing completion, a well has been sunk on the housing site; the water will be raised by electric pump to a service tank and then piped into the houses. A major scheme to supply the whole of the village is in course of preparation by the consulting engineers employed by the Council.

Middleton Cheney.—To supply the 28 new houses a well has been sunk on the housing site; water being electrically lifted to a service tank from whence it is piped to the houses. A scheme to service the whole village with a pipe borne supply is under consideration.

Sulgrave.—In December, the Minister of Health held a Public Enquiry at Sulgrave to consider the new supply proposed by the Council. The scheme in general was approved and it is expected that the work will commence in 1939. The advisability of extending the supply to Culworth was advocated by the Medical Officer, and the Minister directed that this end should be kept in view when drawing up plans for specification for the Sulgrave supply.

Whitfield.—To ensure a supply when there is insufficient wind to drive the wind engines, an electric motor has been installed with easy means of attachment to the present pumping plant.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

These services have not been greatly altered during the period under review, though in all cases where new Council houses have been erected due provision for the carriage of surface and slop waters has been provided.

Croughton.—A scheme for new treatment works and for new sewers where necessary is under course of preparation.

Eydon.—The relaying of new sewers to replace the worn out old ones has been completed.

Kings Sutton.—A new length of sewer has been laid to service the new Council houses.

Overthorpe.—A scheme for new treatment works to deal with sewage from the northern part of the hamlet has been submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Syresham.—A new length of sewer has been laid to take the sewage from new Council houses to the existing treatment works.

The Surveyor states that the existing sewage facilities have continued to work satisfactorily during the year.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Council's Surveyor continues to co-operate with the Officers of the Thames Conservancy Board to avoid the pollution of any streams which might arise through the institution of new sewage works. Evidence of this is to be found in drawing up of a new scheme for the village of Overthorpe.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year no major scheme of conversion has been instituted, and in general it may be said that earth closets or privies service the majority of the district. It is hoped to service all new Council houses with water borne sewage systems wherever possible. Owners taking advantage of the provisions of the Housing (Rural Workers) Act are induced to fit water closets.

The following comparative table shows the present position :—

PARISH.	CLOSETS.		
	W.C.	E.C.	PRIVY.
Evenley	3	51	0
Hinton-in-the-Hedges ...	0	7	9
Whitfield	2	5	8
Croughton	7	35	21
Aynho	5	17	50
Helmdon	1	30	14
Greatworth	0	21	11
Marston St. Lawrence ...	0	5	8
Moreton Pinkney	2	5	18
Culworth	0	6	26
Eydon	7	11	10
Thorpe Mandeville ...	0	9	0
Syresham	3	26	11
Boddington	1	19	1
Radstone	0	10	2
Charlton	9	4	8
Thenford	6	4	0
Chacombe	1	16	16
Sulgrave	0	13	12
Chipping Warden	1	16	23
Farthinghoe	0	15	9
Middleton Cheney	15	64	24
Kings Sutton	7	52	10
Edgcote	0	9	1
Warkworth	0	3	0
Aston-le-Walls	2	2	5

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The systematic monthly collection of house refuse was commenced on April 1st and has proved satisfactory in working. Refuse is deposited at six "tips" suitably distributed in the District which are situated at safe distance from the adjacent villages, viz., Charlton, Croughton, Greatworth, Kings Sutton, Moreton Pinkney and Whitfield.

The Parishes are served as follows:--

VILLAGE.	DATE OF COLLECTION.	REFUSE TIP.
Kings Sutton	Alternate Fridays	Kings Sutton
Aynho		Croughton
Middleton Cheney ...	First "Tuesday" in each Month	Greatworth
Chacombe	" " " "	" "
Chipping Warden ...	" Wednesday "	Moreton Pinkney
Aston-le-Walls ...	" " "	" "
Boddingtons	" " "	" "
Eydon	" " "	" "
Thenford	Second Tuesday "	Greatworth
Thorpe Mandeville ...	" " "	" "
Marston St. Lawrence ...	" " "	" "
Culworth	" " "	Moreton Pinkney
Moreton Pinkney ...	" " "	" "
Greatworth	" Wednesday "	Greatworth
Sulgrave	" " "	" "
Helmdon	" " "	" "
Farthinghoe	Third Tuesday "	Charlton
Charlton	" " "	" "
Croughton	" " "	Croughton
Hinton-in-the-Hedges ...	" Wednesday "	" "
Evenley	" " "	" "
Whitfield	" " "	Whitfield
Syresham	" " "	Greatworth

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

During the year systematic inspection of properties was carried out by the Sanitary Staff in so far as their other duties permitted, and in this connection it must be borne in mind that Air Raid Precautions measures took up a good deal of the Officers' time during the last quarter of 1938.

During the year 246 cottages were inspected and 54 preliminary notices for abatement were issued.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action was necessary or was taken during the year. Form 572 is attached.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

No camping sites have been set up in the District.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was necessary.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no baths or pools subject to inspection in the district.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During systematic inspections no evidence was seen and no reports of infestation were received during the year.

4. SCHOOLS.

Most of the institutions are under the control of the County Education Department, and are visited by the Medical Officer of Health in his capacity as Assistant County Medical Officer. Inclusion in this report would therefore not be relevant. It was not necessary to close any school owing to infectious disease.

D. Housing.

Suitable action in this most important sphere of Public Health was continued throughout the year, during which twenty-six new Council houses were completed and the construction of 100 new houses was commenced ; schemes for the erection of 80 new houses were also in process of being drawn up.

The accommodation to abate completely the overcrowding in the District has been included in the housing programme which it is hoped to finish in 1939.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	246
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	302
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	246
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	302
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	54

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

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	—
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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	101
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners... ..	23
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	54
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By Owners	151
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(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	12
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
(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	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	12
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	12
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	71
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	75
(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	—
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	—

SUMMARY OF HOUSING PROGRAMME.

DATE.	No. of houses included in Clearance Areas and confirmed by M.O.H.	No. of houses included in Dem. Orders and confirmed	No. of new houses built	No. of new houses in course of erection	No. of houses to be built
1935 ...	13	21	...	...	...
1936 ...	30	16	27	...	...
1937 ..	90	3	23	...	...
1938 ...	106	12	26	100	80
TOTAL ...	239	52	76	100	80

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are at present 225 Registered Cowkeepers in the District of which 41 are accredited Milk Producers. During the year 135 inspections were made; 140 samples of Milk were taken for examination by the "Methylene Blue" Test; of these 97 were satisfactory, 7 moderate and 36 were bad, these figures shewing a slight improvement over those for the previous year.

In so far as the other duties of the staff permit, inspections of shops, etc., are carried out. There are 13 slaughter-houses distributed throughout the district but, as the following will demonstrate, action under this branch does not at present exist.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Number Inspected ...	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis ...	...	...	...	...	...

There are 15 Bakehouses in the District to which 21 visits were made during the year.

Tuberculosis.

All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, whence they automatically come under the care of the County Tuberculosis Officer, institutional care in the County Sanatoria being arranged by that Officer.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year six new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified; two females died from respiratory affection and one male from non-respiratory tuberculosis.

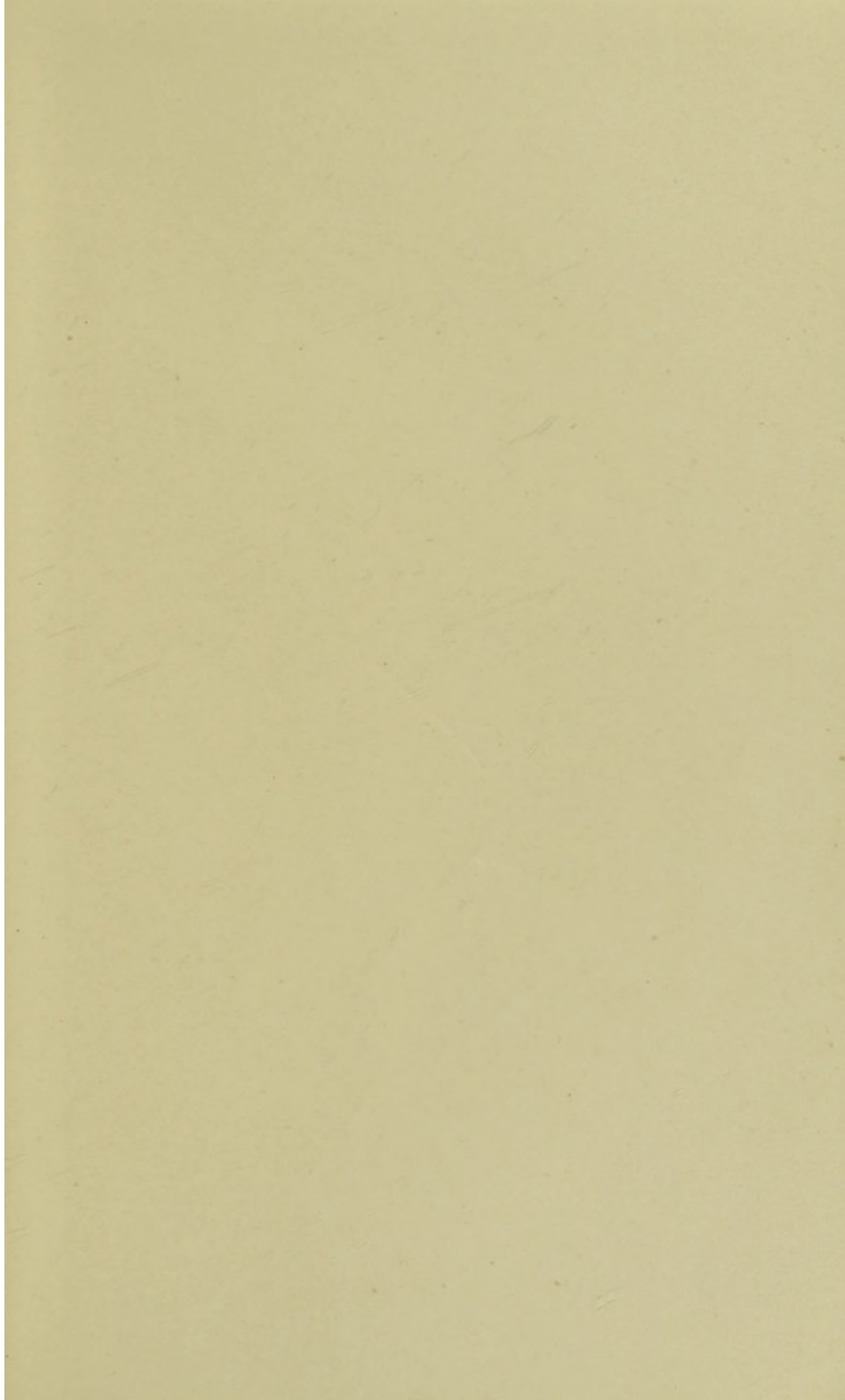
The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution :—

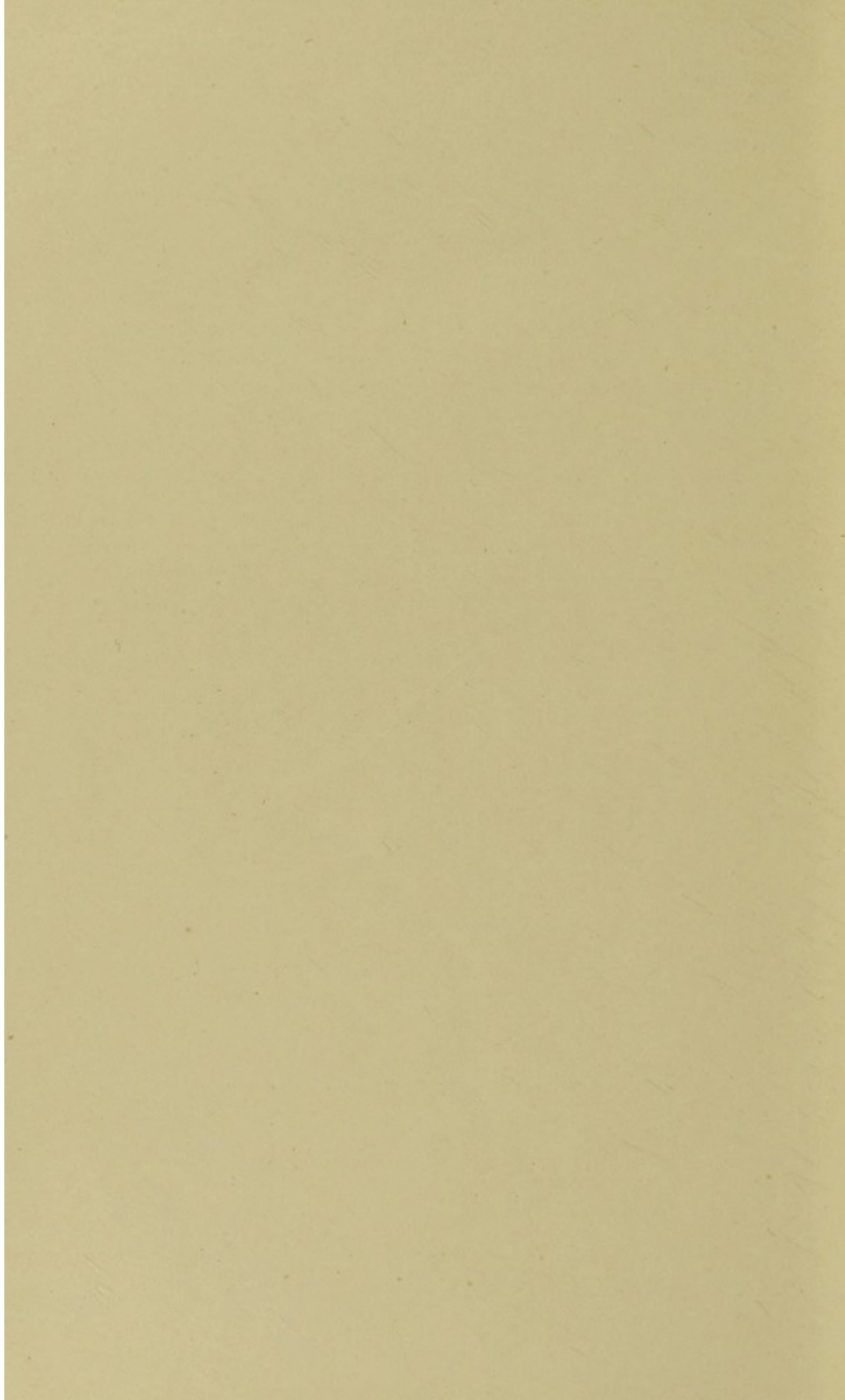
NEW CASES DURING 1938.

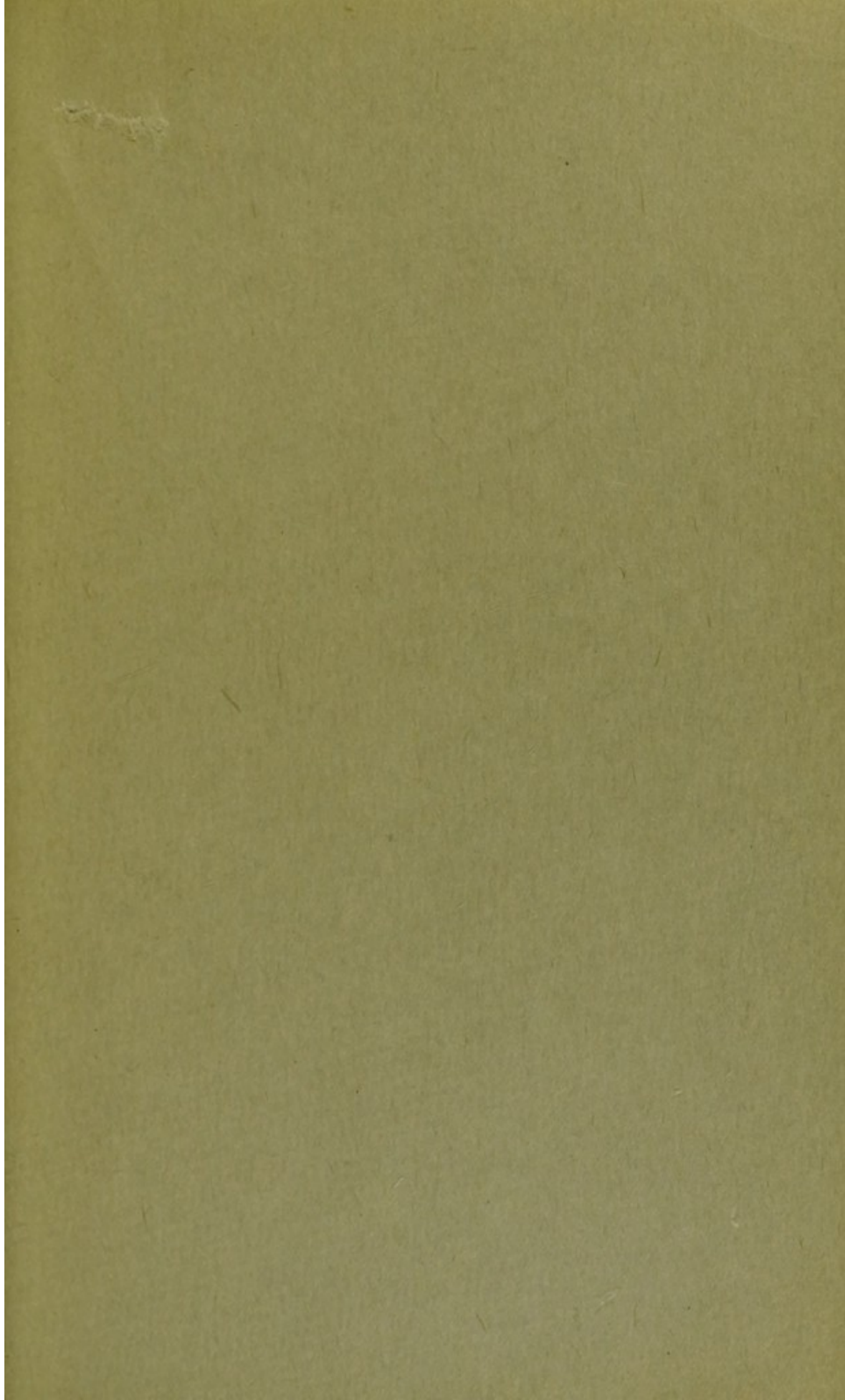
AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years				
0—1				
1—5				
5—15				
20—25	1			
15—25		1		
25—35	1	1		
35—45				
45—55				
55—65	1	1		
65 and upwards				
Totals ...	3	3		

J. A. A. DUNCAN,

June, 1939.







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