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Contributors

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C.

M.D., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

FOR THE

BRAINTREE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR

1925.

COGGESHALL :

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1927.



Public Health Offices,
Braintree.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Braintree Rural District for the year 1925.

While there has been no outstanding incident to report, yet I consider the record of the year has been one of steady progress in sanitary matters, particularly in the provision of houses.

This Report, being one of the "Survey" Reports, required by the Ministry of Health, I have endeavoured in it to give a review of the past five years, and this fact, entailing, as it has, much extra labour in the compilation together with the fact that I have three such Reports to prepare, with but limited time to give to them, accounts for its belated appearance, which I greatly regret.

I should again wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance I have received during the year from my colleagues on the Council's Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN.

BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Physical Features—The District is a large one and comprises 23 Parishes. The greatest length is a little over 20 miles and the greatest width about 10 miles. The physical character of the District is broad valleys, drained by the two rivers, the Blackwater and the Brain or Pod's Brook, with gentle slopes between the valleys, the height above Ordnance Datum ranging from 70 feet to 370 feet.

The subsoil is of various characters, chiefly gravel and loam and water is usually obtainable. In the N.W. part of the District a considerable amount of boulder clay is found and water is not so easily obtained. Below the subsoil, a thick mass of London clay is encountered, resting on the chalk which lies at a depth of 200—300 feet.

Population and Social Conditions—At the Census of 1921 the total population of all ages was 18,779 and the estimated figures of the Registrar-General for 1925, is 19,010. The chief occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture. The whole area is under cultivation with a considerable proportion of grass land, and dairy farming is a feature of the District. In the N.W. part of the District, agriculture is practically the sole employment, but in the central portion, industrial employment is increasing. There is a large textile factory in Bocking and the engineering works in the Urban District of Braintree provide employment for a number of men from the Rural District. With increased transport facilities, this number will increase and this denuding of the agricultural district of the available labour is a serious problem. In the S.E. part of the District there is a good deal of seed growing which has the advantage of providing more constant work and of employing more men per acre than ordinary farming.

In the textile factory at Bocking, there is a considerable amount of employment for women and also in a clothing factory at Great Coggeshall, but apart from these there is little employment for women. Unemployment has, in common with the rest of country, been a serious problem but has not been nearly so acute as in other districts. Agricultural wages are fixed by the Agricultural Wages Board and at present stand at 30/- per week compared with 15/- per week in 1914. This would seem to correspond with the increased cost of living, but it compares ill with the rates paid in the factories, when it is remembered that the farm worker is no mere labourer but a skilled man.

TABLE I.—VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1925 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated mid-year.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.										
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.			TRANSFER-ABLE.				NETT.					
			Number.	Rate.	Rate England & Wales.	TOTAL NUMBER REGISTERED IN DISTRICT.	of Non-registered Residents in District	of residents not registered in District.	Under 1 year of age.			At all ages.			
									Number.	Rate per 1,000 net Births.	Rate England & Wales.	Number.	Rate.	Standard-ised rate for comparison with E & W.	Rate England & Wales.
1916	17197	318	16.9	20.9	262	19	17	21	66	91	260	15.1	11.9	14.4	58
1917	18711	262	13.2	17.8	247	9	23	20	78	96	251	14.5	11.4	14.4	3
1918	17272	250	13.0	17.7	233	33	18	13	52	97	218	12.7	10.0	17.6	32
1919	17144	271	14.9	18.5	282	36	26	21	78	89	272	15.7	12.4	13.8	3
1920	17309	393	21.4	25.4	246	49	20	25	64	80	217	12.0	9.4	12.4	169
1921	18031	366	18.5	22.4	253	38	17	18	51	83	232	12.3	9.8	12.1	117
1922	18770	312	16.2	20.6	293	48	22	16	52	77	270	14.3	11.2	12.9	37
1923	18850	303	16.0	19.7	295	36	32	18	59	69	291	15.4	12.1	11.6	11
1924	18830	285	14.7	18.8	238	35	23	11	39	75	226	11.8	9.3	12.2	55
1925	19070	243	13.0	18.3*	254	30	26	6	24	75*	250	13.1	10.3	12.2*	2

Area of District in acres land and inland water ... 18,779 } At Census of 1921.
*Provisional

62,348

Total population at all ages ... 18,779 }
Total families or separate occupiers ... 4,954 }

Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths).

VITAL STATISTICS (see Table I).

In Table I will be found the vital statistics for 1925 and previous years, so it is unnecessary to recapitulate the figures here.

BIRTHS. The serious feature of the past five years has been the yearly decrease in the number of births. In 1920 the nett births in the District were 386, while in 1925 they are only 248. The seriousness of the situation is brought home by the figures in the last column of Table I, showing the "Natural increase" or excess of births over deaths, which for the first time since 1919, shows an actual "Decrease."

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS. In 1925 the number of illegitimate births was 8.

YEAR.	NO. OF ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BIRTHS.
1921.	18	5.15.
1922.	14	4.56.
1923.	16	5.29.
1924.	6	2.13.
1925.	8	3.26.

DEATHS. During the year 1925, there have been 254 deaths registered in the District, to which must be added the deaths elsewhere of 26 residents and a deduction made in respect of 30 non-residents who died in the District. This gives a total of 250 and a death rate of 13.1. This last figure requires correction for the undue proportion of elderly people in our population, among whom the death rate is naturally high, before comparing it with other areas, and the standardised death rate for comparative purposes is 10.3.

Table II shows the ages at which deaths have occurred in the past five years. It will be noted that in the five years, 60.36 of the total deaths were at ages of 65 and upwards.

TABLE II.—AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1925.
BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.

Year.	All ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
1921	232	18	1	2	3	4	22	46	136
1922	270	16	3	3	6	8	16	59	159
1923	291	18	1	3	3	9	26	60	171
1924	226	11	2	1	1	10	18	49	134
1925	250	6	3	3	6	6	18	42	166

In Table III an analysis is given of the causes of death during the year 1925. It is satisfactory to note the absence of deaths from enteric fever, small-pox, or scarlet fever.

TABLE III. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1924.
BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.
Enteric Fever	...	...
Small Pox	...	...
Measles	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	1
Diphtheria	1	...
Influenza	1	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...
Meningococcal meningitis	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	4
Other tuberculous diseases	1	2
Cancer, malignant disease	21	24
Rheumatic Fever	...	...
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	11	10
Heart Disease	17	23
Arterio-sclerosis	12	3
Bronchitis	10	14
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	6
Other respiratory diseases	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	1	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...
Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...
Acute and chronic nephritis	1	5
Puerperal sepsis	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	2	4
Suicide	6	...
Other deaths from violence	2	2
Other defined diseases	23	26
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...
Totals	121	129

CANCER. This disease is shown as the cause of death in 21 males and 24 females.

The number of deaths from cancer occurring in the District during the past five years is as under :—

1921	...	...	29
1922	...	...	32
1923	...	...	40
1924	...	...	24
1925	...	...	45

Thus it will be seen that out of a total of 1269 deaths in the five years, 170 or roughly 13.4 per cent. are due to malignant disease. Truly is cancer called the "Captain of the Hosts of Death."

INFANTILE DEATH RATE. The number of infants dying before reaching the age of one year is shown in Table I and is shown in detail as to legitimacy below.

Nett births in 1925	{ Legitimate	240
	{ Illegitimate	8
Nett deaths in 1925	{ Legitimate	6
	{ Illegitimate	0

The total number of infantile deaths for 1925 is 6 which represents a rate per 1,000 births of 24. It will be seen from Table I that there has been a gratifying diminution in the infantile death rate in the past decade and that the local rate compares favourably with the rate for the country as a whole.

TABLE IV. INFANT MORTALITY. 1925.
BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death.				Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths Under 1 Year.
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth				1	1	...	3	...	...	...	1	6
Totals				1	1	...	3	.	...	...	1	6

In Table IV will be found the causes of death under 1 year for 1925 and it will be noted that the whole of the 6 deaths were due to congenital causes. This would indicate that there is as urgent a need for increased ante-natal care as for vigilance in the first year of existence.

POOR LAW RELIEF. For the year ended 31 3, 1925, the amount expended in Poor Law Relief in the Braintree Union, which include the Braintree R.D. was £6,537-7s. 4d. Separate figures for the Rural District are not available, but the amount expended was not abnormal.

HOSPITAL ACCOMODATION. The Cottage Hospital at Braintree, which has been extended and splendidly equipped, is of great value to the District and is largely made use of as is also the Union Infirmary. Other hospital accomodation is utilised at Chelmsford, Colchester, Cambridge and London.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

TUBERCULOSIS. The County Female Sanatorium is situated at Black Notley within the Rural District. The Medical Officer of Health also acts as Medical Superintendent.

FEVER. The Braintree Joint Hospital Board provides an Isolation Hospital situated in the Urban District of Braintree.

SMALL-POX. The Small-pox Hospital is at Sible Hedingham, in the Halstead Rural District. This is at present used by the County Council for the treatment of tuberculous children with an undertaking that the hospital be vacated if an outbreak of small-pox should occur. An arrangement has been made for the reception of sporadic cases of small-pox in the Colchester Borough Small-pox Hospital.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, and homeless children.

There is a maternity home for unmarried mothers at the "Red House," Coggeshall. This is not subsidised by the Local Authority.

The Braintree Board of Guardians maintain a home for homeless children at "The Friars," Bocking, to which children are transferred from the Union Workhouse.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) **FOR INFECTIOUS CASES.** A horsed ambulance is provided for the transport of cases of infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital. When this is not available, or for cases from the outlying parts of the District, use is made of the motor ambulance belonging to the Braintree and Bocking Cottage Hospital.

(b) **FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES.** There is a motor ambulance provided for the transport of cases to the Cottage Hospital.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(a) **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.** Cases from the adjacent Parishes attend the Braintree Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and there are also centres held at Bocking and Hatfield Peverel. These are conducted by local committees working under the County Council Scheme which provides the services of a Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and also some financial assistance. The remainder of the necessary funds have to be raised locally, and I think it regrettable that what is, after all, an essential public service, should have to find the requisite money by means which have a savour of charity.

Further centres are needed in Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Finchingfield, and I hope it will be possible to establish these.

(b) SCHOOL CLINICS. Held weekly at the Co-operative Buildings, Bocking End. This is provided by the County Education Committee.

Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopædic Clinics are also held at intervals.

(c) TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. This is provided by the County Council, and is held weekly at the Co-operative Buildings, Bocking End.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., B.A.O., D.P.H.

The Rural District Council is one of the constituent authorities of the Braintree and Dunmow United (Sanitary) Districts, which have adopted the Essex Scheme for Combined Medical Service whereby a whole-time officer is appointed who also acts as Assistant County Medical Officer for the area. At the end of 1925, the scheme having been in operation for over two years, I was asked by the County Medical Officer for a report on its working, and I feel that I cannot do better than reproduce my report here.

COMBINED MEDICAL SERVICE.

BRAINTREE AND DUNMOW AREA, 1925.

The scheme for combined medical services has been in operation for a little over two years. The advantage of the arrangement are the avoidance of overlapping and the multiplication of officials, and from this point of view the scheme has much to commend it.

In this area the difficulty has been the extent of the District and the size of the area to be supervised by one medical officer. From the County Council side, the advantage is that the various medical activities are carried on by a local officer, and there is also a financial saving.

From the Local Authorities' point of view, there is the advantage of having an officer devoting the whole of his time to Public Health duties. The scheme is, I think, undoubtedly preferable to that of having a part-time Medical Officer of Health, who is also engaged in practice, especially as Public Health is becoming so greatly a specialised branch of medicine, but it has the disadvantage of engendering a fear that it is an attempt to subordinate still further the Local Authorities to the County Council. From the view point of the officer himself, the scheme has the advantage of providing a variety of work, but this has also the drawback that no man can hope to be an expert in all branches of the work, and as a result some are bound to suffer. There is also the difficulty of a multiplicity of employers, all conscious of the work which the officer should carry out for them, but by no means unanimous on such matters as his remuneration. In this area the work is still further hampered by the obviously inadequate allowance for travelling.

My own opinion is that the scheme has proved advantageous to the County Council, and has much to commend it in the case of the smaller Local Authorities, but that unless the remuneration and conditions of the service are improved, it is not one which will, if adopted generally in the country, attract good men into the Public Health Service

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and Housing Inspector :—

E. O. WHEELER, A.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and Housing Inspector :—

S. L. BUNDY.

The advent of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, emphasised what had been plain for some time, that the work was beyond the compass of one official, and in June, 1925, Mr. S. L. Bundy was appointed as assistant to Mr Wheeler, more particularly to deal with the work under these Regulations.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

In the following Parishes local Nursing Associations have been established, and District Nurses are provided. These local associations are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, but no financial contribution is made by the Rural District Council.

Bocking,	Hatfield Peverel,
Kelvedon,	Terling,
Rayne,	Wethersfield,
White Notley,	Finchingfield,
Stisted,	Pattiswick,
Bradwell.	

The number of Certified Midwives practising in the District is nine.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

With the exception of the examination of water, this work is carried out by the County Council. As far as I can discern the following includes the work performed for this District.

Diphtheria Swabs	...	...	...	...	252
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli	...	...	...	...	20
Blood for Widal's Typhoid Reaction	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	5
Chemical Examinations of Water Samples	...	...	...	...	17

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

BYELAWS, ADOPTIVE ACTS, ETC. The following adoptive Acts are in force and apply to the whole District :—

- I. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III., *in so far as it applies to Rural Districts*.—Adopted 17th June, 1914.
- II. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890—Adopted 17th June, 1914.

III. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, came into force 18th February, 1915.

Part II., Sections 22, 23, 25, 30 and 33.

„ III., „ 34-38, 43-46 and 49.

„ IV., „ 52, 53, 55-59, 62 and 65-67.

The Council has the following Urban Powers granted by the Local Government Board by virtue of the Public Health Act, 1875.

	<i>Obtained Feb. 3rd, 1887.</i>	APPLIES TO :
Sec. 42, P.H., Act, 1875	Street watering.	Gt. Coggeshall.
	<i>Obtained April 30th, 1900.</i>	
Sec. 42 „ ...	All the other Urban powers of the Section.	Gt. Coggeshall.
Sec. 165, as extended by Sec. 46 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.	<i>Obtained April 15th, 1902.</i>	Gt. Coggeshall.
	Lighting and winding the Town Clock.	
Sec. 154, P.H.A., 1875	<i>Obtained 28th Nov. 1904.</i>	Lt. Coggeshall.
	Road improvements at the Hamlet.	
Sec. 49, P.H.A.A., 1890	<i>Obtained 16th July, 1906.</i>	Whole District.
	Refers to special expenses	
Sec. 149, P.H.A., 1875	<i>Obtained 25th Feb. 1914.</i>	Bocking Bridge
	Enables Council to acquire land.	
Sec. 169 (ii & iii) 170 P.H.A., 1875, and 29-31, P.H.A.A., 1890...	<i>Obtained 26th May, 1914.</i>	Whole District.
	Control of Slaughterhouses and making of Byelaws.	
Sec. 161 (i) and 163 P.H.A., 1875.	<i>Obtained 31st Dec., 1918.</i>	Bocking.
	Street Lighting.	

BYELAWS. Byelaws controlling new buildings (and the construction of new closets, ashpits and cesspools, for existing buildings), and slaughterhouses were finally allowed by the Local Government Board in 1915, and are now in force. So far as I am aware no other byelaws are in force in the district. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations have been in force since January, 1907.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY. *Bocking.* The supply has been maintained though the rest level of water in the well has fallen, and an increase of pumping time has been required. It will be necessary to augment the supply available in the near future.

Coggeshalls, Kelvedon and Feering. A continuous supply has been maintained from these works, but in common with other parts of the District a drop in the rest level is taking place, and the Council will have to consider how the supply may be increased. The water main was extended for a length of 30 yards at West Street, Coggeshall, and for 250 yards at London Road, Kelvedon. In 1925 there were 25 new connections to the water mains for the supply of 57 houses.

Stisted. The arrangement made in 1919 by which the Council took over mains, stand pipes, &c., supplying the Village, and purchase the water from the owner of the waterworks continues satisfactorily.

Terling. The supply of water from this spring continues to be satisfactory. The water is pumped from the spring to supply the houses in the neighbourhood and I would suggest the advisability of providing a storage tank in order to complete the scheme and to permit of a continuous service being maintained.

The remainder of the District is supplied from springs and shallow wells.

The supply is on the whole adequate, though there are instances where cottagers have to be supplied from wells at some distance. The public supplies from shallow wells, &c., now maintained by the Council are 29 in number, and are situated in Parishes as under :—

Black Notley	5	Bradwell	3
Cressing	4	Finchingfield	4
Faulkbourne	1	Fairstead	1
Great Saling	1	Rayne	2
Rivenhall	2	Shalford	1
Wethersfield	3	White Notley	2

In two cases public wells were improved and cleansed, and the pumps improved and cleansed in a further 13 instances: Ten new private wells were sunk, and a satisfactory supply obtained, and one private well was cleansed. Applications for water certificates were received in 57 cases of which 56 were granted and one deferred, while 17 chemical examinations of water samples were made.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The major portion of the District is drained by the river Blackwater and its tributaries. Pollution of this river system occurs at various points and the Council has been seriously perturbed by this knowledge, as has also the County Council. Measures to reduce this pollution, where it arises from sewage effluents, have been proposed, and it will be necessary resolutely to cope with the difficulties, financial and otherwise, which confront the Authorities.

Trade effluents are also discharged into the river at various places, at Bocking great care is taken to deal with the effluent from the dyeing processes at the textile factory, but elsewhere, notably at Kelvedon, more effective measures are necessary.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Most of the more populous Parishes have a more or less efficient system of sewers, the majority of which are old road drains or piped-in ditches. When portions are relaid, or extensions made, care is taken so far as possible to relay them so that they may form part of a complete system, should such ever be required.

Bocking. The two populous portions of the Parish, Church Street and Bradford Street areas, have been sewered. The Bradford Street portion is chiefly old, and formerly discharged into sewer ditches, and maintenance is troublesome and costly.

The Church Street portion is of more recent construction and will form a portion of any future scheme of sewage disposal.

Since the inauguration of the water supply, the provision of water closets has not been increased as most of the sewers discharge almost directly into the river. A scheme for the provision of the necessary sewage disposal works was prepared some time ago, and whether this scheme or another is followed, it is urgently necessary that measures for the disposal of the sewage of this populous and growing area be adopted before long. In the Rayne Road area several properties including the Union Workhouse drain into the Braintree Urban District Council's sewer. This is by private agreement, and one short length of sewer belonging to this Council discharges into the Urban District Council's sewer at the top of Sandpit Lane.

Kelvedon. The sewers which have been relaid or extended in the last few years, have been designed with a view to inclusion in a complete scheme of sewage disposal when such comes into being. A sewerage scheme was I believe prepared in 1908, but it has not been proceeded with. There are numerous water closets connected with the sewers which discharge into the river either directly or through sewer ditches which are noisome and objectionable. In 1925 a 12-in. extension of the main outfall was laid.

Great Coggeshall. The sewers here discharge into the "Back Ditch." An improvement has been effected by flushing the ditch by means of a sluice from the river, and by regular cleansing of the ditch, while the effluent reaching the river is considerably purified by passing along a very long sewer ditch; but the arrangement is far from satisfactory and a scheme to deal adequately with the sewage from Coggeshall and Kelvedon is a necessity which cannot be deferred much longer.

There are several water closets connected with the sewer in this town, and the number of houses connected with the sewer probably corresponds fairly closely with the number on the public water supply.

Other Parishes which have sewers are :—

Little Coggeshall.	Terling.
Feering.	Stisted.
Hatfield Peverel.	White Notley.
Finchingfield.	Cressing.
Wethersfield.	

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AND SCAVENGING.

The approximate number of privies, pail closets, water closets, &c., in the District is as follows :—

Privies	227
Pail Closets	4061
Flushing Water Closets	462
Hand Flushed Closets	37

Formerly cesspit privies were the rule in this District, but conversion to pail closets has been going forward, if slowly.

The number of conversions during the past five years is :—

		W.C.'S. PAIL CLOSETS.	
1921	Privy Middens converted to	0	0
1922	"	0	4
1923	"	1	14
1924	"	0	0
1925	"	2	3

It will be noted that water closets are found in only about 10 per cent. of the houses, and these are chiefly in the larger houses, and in the Parishes of Bocking, Coggeshall and Kelvedon. In the absence of adequate arrangements for sewage disposal, notwithstanding the establishment of public water supply, the Council has for some years arranged for the emptying of the pail closets. This is an expensive matter and the work is difficult to arrange. The provision of the necessary sewage disposal works and the adoption of the water carriage system are urgently required and the benefit to health in the District will be great. The collection of house refuse suffers at present from the necessity of utilising available labour in the disposal of night soil.

Arrangements were made in 1925 for a scavenging of a portion of the Parish of Black Notley.

In those Parishes where the collection of house refuse is not undertaken, the provision of a simple form of incinerator, where the inhabitants could burn their waste, would be an advantage.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Appended below (Table V. and Va.) is a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector's department during 1925.

TABLE V. SANITARY INSPECTOR'S RETURNS.

						1925.
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	170
Total Inspections and Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22,681
Nuisances detected	...	...	...	...	...	243
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	} No. of Premises:	...	243
Notices outstanding, Jan. 1st.	...	...	...		...	150
" " Dec. 31st.	...	...	...		...	165
" " complied with	...	...	...		...	228
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	92
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convictions	...	...	...	...	...	...
Work carried out by Council (Sec. 36, P.H. Act, 1875. &c.)	...	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding discovered	...	...	...	...	...	4
" outstanding, Jan. 1st.	...	...	...	...	...	6
" abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
" outstanding, Dec. 31st.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Filthy Houses Cleansed ((Sec. 46 P.H. Act, 1875)	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privies converted to W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	...	2
" " Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	3
Additional Closets to existing property	}	W.Cs.	...	...	...	1
" " Pail Closets		Pail Closets	...	...	...	2
Approx. No. Privies	...	...	...	...	...	227
" Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	4,061
" Flushing Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	462
" Hand-flushed ditto	...	...	...	...	...	37

CONTROLLED PREMISES. Further details of the inspection of these during 1925 are as follows :—

TABLE V. (A.) CONTROLLED PREMISES.

Further details of the inspection of these during 1925 are as follows :—

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections made.	Notices Served.	Notices Complied with	Legal Proceedings (if any)
Common Lodging Houses	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bakehouses	39	39	103	0	0	0
Cowsheds	69	69	138	4	4	0
Other dairies and Milkshops	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slaughter Houses	22	22	2000	31	31	0
Knackers Yards	2	2	25	0	0	0
Offensive Trades	0	0	0	0	0	0

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS. There are none in the District.

OFFENSIVE TRADES. The Council has not Urban Powers, and so has no control over these.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, &c. There are 53 cowkeepers on the register and no other dairies or milkshops registered in the District. These 53 cowkeepers occupy 69 premises, an increase of 2 over 1924. The approximate number of milch cows is 1886.

Large quantities of milk are sent daily to London. Four notices were served in 1925 for reconstruction and cleansing of cowsheds.

At the beginning of 1925 the Council arranged for an inspection of the Cows, Cowsheds and Dairies in the Rural District by a Veterinary Surgeon. This is referred to under the section dealing with the Inspection and Supervision of Food.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. The number of registered and licensed slaughter houses in the District is shown below.

	1920	Jan. 1925	Dec. 1925
Registered	18	21	21
Licensed	1	1	2
Total	19	22	23

The majority of these premises are old and of timber construction and always difficult to keep clean. Since the introduction of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, it has been possible to insist on a higher standard, and I am glad to say that the owners and occupiers of these premises have made great efforts to improve the premises, though further improvements are to be desired. 31 notices for renovation and cleansing of slaughter houses were served during 1925.

KNACKERS YARDS. There are two in the District, and these have been inspected. They are well isolated and carried on without any nuisance.

BAKEHOUSES. There are now 39 bakehouses in the District, and none of these are underground. They are all kept under regular supervision.

WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, &c. The following inspections were made during the year :—Factories, 24, Workshops, 103, Workplaces, 2.

In one case a lack of cleanliness was noted, and this condition was remedied.

HOMEWORK. This appears to have practically died out in the District, only one or two names having been received in the past five years.

TENTS, VANS, &c. Nothing unsatisfactory has been discovered,

SCHOOLS. The Public Elementary Schools or Departments in the District now number 32, with about 3,000 children in attendance. There is one County Secondary School accommodating 220 children, and an Intermediate School accommodating 380 scholars.

The Medical Officer of Health visits the schools in his capacity as Medical Inspector for the County Council, and at the same time opportunity is taken to enquire into the sanitary condition of the school premises.

HOUSING.

During the five years, 1921—1925, the policy of the Rural District Council has been to press forward the provision of houses, firstly by the encouragement of private building, but at the same time it has been clearly recognised that private enterprise cannot be relied on in the present circumstances to provide houses at rents which are within the resources of the lower-paid classes of the community and particularly of the agricultural workers.

During the five years reviewed in this Report, the number of houses erected by private enterprise in the District has been as under and all these houses have been built with State assistance, under the Housing Acts.

1921	...	21	1923	...	28
1922	...	18	1924	...	23
		1925	...		49

A comprehensive survey of the housing needs of the Rural District was made in 1919, and is set out in my predecessor's Report for the years 1916—19. The estimate of the requirements of the area in that Report was 472 houses and following the Report, schemes were prepared for the District to provide a total of 450 houses.

At the end of 1923, the Council had erected a total of 98 houses, in Parishes as detailed below:—

PARISH	YEAR			TOTAL
	1921	1922	1923	
Bocking	30	4	—	34
Kelvedon	10	16	—	26
Hatfield Peverel	9	11	—	20
Great Coggeshall	—	—	8	8
Little Coggeshall	—	—	4	4
Panfield	—	—	6	6
	49	31	18	98

These houses were erected under the Assisted Housing Scheme of the Housing Act, 1919.

At the end of the year 1923, a further survey of the housing needs of the Rural District was submitted to the Ministry of Health. In this survey, the total needs of the District were estimated at 266 houses, but it was thought that the possibilities of building in the area would limit the number which could be provided in the first three years to 140.

Below is a tabular statement based on this survey showing the number estimated as required in each Parish, with the number which it was proposed to build in the first three years, and in the last column I have added the number completed in each Parish on December 31st, 1925.

PARISH.	NUMBER REQUIRED.	NO. TO BE PROVIDED IN FIRST 3 YEARS.	NO. COMPLETED AT END OF 1925.
Bocking	50	20	—
Bradwell	12	8	—
Great and Little Coggeshall	30	12	12
Cressing	12	8	8
Fairstead	12	8	6
Faulkbourn	—	—	—
Hatfield Peverel	24	8	—
Finchingfield	12	12	—
Feering and Kelvedon ...	30	12	—
Marks Hall	—	—	—
Black Notley	12	8	8
White Notley	8	8	—
Panfield	8	—	—
Pattiswick	—	—	6
Rayne	12	8	8
Rivenhall	12	8	12
Great Saling	—	—	—
Shalford	8	8	6
Stisted	—	—	—
Terling	12	—	12
Wethersfield	12	12	—
Total	266	140	78

At the end of 1925, 78 of these houses had been completed and the schemes completed and in hand gave a total of 158 houses, and the estimated output of 140 houses will have been attained by the end of the first three years.

The schemes in hand at the end of 1925 were 9 in number and intended to provide houses for Parishes as under :—

PARISH	NUMBER OF HOUSES
White Notley	8
Hatfield Peverel	12
Rivenhall	12
Stisted	12
Wethersfield	8
Blackmore End	6
Terling	8
Finchingfield	6
Rayne	8
Total	80

These schemes are all being erected under the Housing Act, 1924, with the exception of the houses at Hatfield Peverel, which are erected under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1923.

It is anticipated that the total of 158 houses will be completed before the end of the three years, but while this is a considerable achievement, it is still far short of the estimated 266 necessary for the District and this provision of new houses has only helped to meet the urgent requirements and it has not yet been possible to make progress with the replacement of the old and insanitary dwellings that are found in the District.

Housing Statistics for the Year, 1925.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR—

(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	105
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
I.	By the Local Authority ...	46
II.	By other bodies or persons ...	49
		95

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

INSPECTION :—

(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	243
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...	205
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	19
(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 ...	224

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	228
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ...	8
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners ...	8
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	3
B.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:—			
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		49
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
	(a) By owners		228
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		0
C.—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14, AND 15 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925:—			
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders		19
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made		19
(3)	Number of Dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit		1
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made		2
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders		1
(6)	Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily		1

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

MILK SUPPLY. All the milk consumed in the area is produced locally, and in addition a large quantity is sent daily to London. In February and March 1925, a Veterinary Inspection of the cows, cowsheds and dairies in the Rural District was carried out by Mr. J. Bishop Young, F.R.C.V.S. M.R.S.I. At this inspection 11 cows were found to be tuberculous, and all these were removed from the herds. Mr. Young's report is re-produced below, and I would most strongly urge the importance of the parts he has stressed as to removal of manure, and the regular grooming of the cows. The cowsheds and dairies were also inspected by Mr. Young, and by your Sanitary Inspector. Four notices for renovation and cleansing of cowsheds were served. Twenty-two samples of milk were taken in connection with this inspection, and one positive result was obtained.

REPORT OF MR. JOHN BISHOP YOUNG,
(Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute)
TO THE

Rural District Council of Braintree,

Upon his first Inspection of Cows, Cowsheds, and Dairies in their
District in February and March, 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present to you the Statistical and General Reports of my Inspection of the Cows, Cowsheds and Dairies in your District, trusting they will meet with your approval. I fully appreciate your confidence in selecting me for the first Veterinary Inspection in your area, and trust some good may result.

My visits were in every case unexpected, giving me the opportunity of seeing the herds under normal conditions. No objection whatever was raised to my inspection, on the contrary, it appeared to be anticipated and often welcomed. In every case where I advised alteration in management or improvement in existing buildings, I was listened to with attention, and was given a promise that the dairyman would adopt my suggestions, or at least would consider them and report to me later. To myself personally the inspection has been both interesting and instructive. The cow and her products are a big field for study, and to me they have always been a pleasant one, both in theory and in practice.

Your District presents one remarkable and outstanding feature in the splendid herds, sheds and dairies owned or managed by the firm of Messrs. Strutt and Parker, with which I include the dairies of Lord Rayleigh and The Governors of Guy's Hospital. It was a pleasure and a privilege to observe their practical and up-to-date cowsheds, with every convenience for the comfort and health of the cows, with light and air-space in plenty, and with floors, gutters, drains and mangers correctly constructed and fitted. All materials used for these cowsheds are impervious to dirt and non absorbent, and everything designed for ease and keeping clean. The sheds are of red bricks with tiled roofs, well-built yet without undo expenditure. For years these buildings will require but little further outlay except an occasional coat of paint. The dairies are built upon similar up-to-date lines, with pasteurising plants and all appliances and utensils necessary for the production of "Grade A" milk, and all kept beautifully clean. None of these dairies have any direct communication with the cowsheds, a fault which is found in many places in your area. This practice is now considered undesirable, and should be avoided wherever this is practicable.

Messrs. Strutt & Parker have the tuberculin test applied to all their cows every year, and those that react are at once removed. As a Class their animals are well adapted both in breed type and condition, to occupy these cowsheds; indeed, they are the best of their kind, and typical of their various pedigree breeds or crosses. I found a shed full of pure-bred Ayrshires—"the dairy cow of Scotland," good milk and breed type, small in size, but big at the pail. In another shed were Guernseys rich in colour and good in udder, a breed wonderfully free from tuberculosis. Blue Albions occupy another shed to themselves. This breed is quite a recent introduction into this county; they are very useful big cows and milk well. Their colour is a great attraction, they looked very smart, 78 of them all tied up together. Shorthorns (the most widespread and numerous of our dairy cows at the present time in this county, and very hard to beat as dual-purpose animals) were well represented in several sheds. In one I noticed 82, all of them first-calf heifers. In other sheds I found the herds made up of various breeds and crosses, good cows all; in particular I noted amongst these, several Jersey crosses, nearly all a nice brindle colour. I like the Jersey crossed with any breed for a dairy cow, giving a medium-sized cow, with shapely udder, and an abundance of good milk. Give me the small cow for milk, she is not nearly so susceptible to disease as some of the larger kinds. I found three sheds full of pedigree Friesians, a breed which this firm has done so much to bring to its present perfection and popularity. A cowhouse full of these stately ladies, all spotlessly clean, is a great sight, and after closely observing their straight top-lines, broad aitches, deep girth, and back ribs, fine shoulders, lean necks, with the beautiful head so gracefully hung on, and the Jersey-like udder, I wondered if anyone could associate this present Friesian with the sloppy old Dutch cow of only 12 years ago. It seems incredible that such an improvement could have been made in so short a time, yet it has been done; and now this is one of our most popular breeds of dairy cattle, without question the biggest milk producer, and since the importation of fresh blood from Holland in 1914, by special permission of the Ministry of Agriculture, they have made a further marked improvement, and now produce milk of quality as well as quantity.

The cowmen of this Company are a host in themselves, and a breed of their own. The right way to get a good cowmen is to breed and rear him. It is an education beyond book-learning to chat with the headman at the various sheds. They know their job and carry on whilst we are asleep. Always clean and quiet the cows tolerate them gladly, and thus are made the big milk records which are impossible unless there is mutual good feeling between the milkman and his cow. I hope I have not dealt too fully with this interesting topic, but as this firm has 17 sheds in your District and conduct the largest business of its kind in the Kingdom, both as milk-producers and distributors, they

must attract attention in any faithful report, and the Council should feel proud of their modern appliances and their up-to-date methods.

Several other herds of outstanding merit are worthy of special notice. A smallholder farming only 18 acres showed me a nice herd looked after by himself, his wife and a boy. They started with 2 cows and after years of hard work they now possess 16, producing this winter a daily average of 3 gallons. These cows and premises were beautifully clean, and a credit to this hardworking family. In another herd of heavy milking recorded cows my attention was specially drawn to one in particular, which had given the day previous to my visit 9 gallons, 3 pints (officially). The herd and general arrangements of another farmer very much appealed to me, the cowshed, calving boxes, cooling house and dairy were about perfect, and had all been built from existing buildings with unnecessary expenditure. The cows are of the Shorthorn type, displaying plenty of depth and quality, real dual purpose animals, heavy milkers and evenly covered with thick flesh. These cows had recently been accepted by the Shorthorn Society as foundation stock. now by using pedigree bulls their progeny will ultimately be eligible for entry into Coates' Herd Book. A herd of about 80 pedigree Jerseys upon another farm was of great interest, everything comfortable and clean, yet run upon commercial lines. Many cows in this herd are prize winners at the Royal and County Shows, yet they are useful as well as ornamental. their milk yields were excellent, the 37 in milk were producing over 2 gallons daily per cow. Great credit is due to the head cowman, he brings out prize winners in breed classes and milking competitions, yet can find time to keep the whole herd spotless with apparently little trouble or extra expense.

Dealing with the rest of your District, I found varying conditions, some pleasing others very disappointing. At many farms both sheds and cows were dirty. I cannot to forcibly impress upon our dairymen that if the cows are dirty the milk *must* suffer contamination during the process of milking, due to small particles of dirt, scales, hair, etc., falling into the pail. In many cases the fault lies with the unsuitability of the stall. Either they are too long or too broad, or the floors are laid with open bricks, or there is some other faulty construction in them or in the dung channels. In quite a number of sheds no attempt appeared to have been made to attain clean milking. I found cows being milked with unwashed teats, and the men with dirty hands, and without provision of milking overalls, or washing appliances, not even a towel. Cleaner and more up-to-date methods are necessary for modern requirements. Dairymen should be reminded that they are producing a national food, which (unless handled from the cow to the consumer with the greatest care and cleanliness) quickly becomes a breeding ground for microbes and bacteria of all kinds. Milk when taken from a cow that is in good condition and of healthy udder, is free from malignant germs, and will remain so for at least 24 hours, provided it is at once

cooled and kept free from dirt and dust in properly constructed receptacles. To accomplish this both the cow and cowman must be clean and in good health, and the sheds, dairies and surroundings free from dirt.

It must be obvious that the production of good clean pure milk is to the advantage of the producer. As civilization advances, so will the demand for pure milk increase, since there is no food in the world, either natural or artificial, to take its place. But the public will insist upon their right to a pure article, and from now onwards milk must be produced and handled by methods which are cleanly and in accordance with modern requirements. The up-to-date cowkeeper should know quite well the sources from which arise the enemies to pure milk, and should adopt all possible measures to keep them from the article he wishes to sell to the best advantage, whether this source be the cow herself, the shed, surroundings, means of transport or distribution. It is all to his advantage to know this, and to act upon it. By these methods he can place upon the market, in its cleanest most attractive and most marketable condition, a valuable food the demand for which will rapidly increase, and will pay him as well as any other branch of agricultural produce.

In the near future samples of milk will be taken officially and tested for cleanliness and purity, in the same manner as they are now taken for tests of other qualities.

Man, by skill and science and by generations of selective breeding, has converted into a huge milking-machine an animal that was intended by nature merely to produce and rear her offspring, and then go dry. As a result we have evolved a quadruped whose powers of resistance have been very much reduced. She is easily susceptible to many diseases and affections. She is supplied with large quantities of succulent foods, with the natural results, and she spends half the year tied up in the shed. Unless scrupulous care is taken she must get dirty, and it is up to us, who have assisted to bring the cow to her present artificial condition, to play the game and do our utmost to keep her decently clean and healthy. From practical experience I maintain that if a herd of healthy cows is given personal and interested attention by their owner, and the premises are suitable, it is an easy and inexpensive business to keep them and the shed clean. Now is the time of year for the farmer seriously to improve his methods. In the summer months he can begin with a clean cow and keep her so by spending about 3 minutes upon each animal night and morning, and the time expended is well repaid by an increased milk yield. I assure him he will find that animals kept clean and comfortable in a warm clean cowshed will, with less food, give more milk than those in dirty and uncomfortable sheds.

I would earnestly impress upon him to remove all manure daily instead of allowing it to accumulate round the shed doors, a disgusting heap of decomposing matter, in many yards rendering the approach

difficult to the sheds, and all the time a source of danger to man and beast. To me this dung question is the greatest crab to increased milk production and a slur upon the producers. If the cowmen are induced to work in clean, comfortable and healthy surroundings, they will find encouragement and their occupation will lose many of its objections.

I am a great advocate of milk recording, and the production of "Grade A" milk. They appear to me to go hand in hand and both are to the advantage of the producer in his business. I believe that there is nothing to-day on the farm that pays so well as this combination. The cowkeeper always has a certain asset and will improve his income if he keeps the correct type of milking cow (not necessarily pedigree), bearing in mind the adage, "Fewer cows produce the greatest milk average" if given personal and interested attention, kept in comfort clean and individual feeding. By means of the records all cows that do not pay by their milk yield can be cast and replaced by better ones, and the herd can be kept up to the required number by the introduction of heifers, weaned from the cows with best records. To keep cows and not officially to record is about as ridiculous as keeping a racing stud and not to race in public. These views are not mere theories for the results can be noticed all over the country, not only in the advanced market prices for cows, but in the increased demand for bull calves, whether sold quite young or as yearlings.

Altogether 67 cowsheds were inspected and 1,813 cows, examined. With the exception of those already noted as defective I found the cows in good health and the great majority in good condition. A few were in poor condition and taken as a whole they were lacking in breed type, but they make up for this deficiency in milk yields, indeed the quantity of milk produced is very good. Several dairyman had neglected to register, these are indicated by a* upon my Statistical Report. In each case I pointed out the necessity for registration at once and all farmers should now be aware that it is an offence to sell milk without being registered, except in small quantities at the door to neighbours and workmen for their accommodation.

I noted 71 cows with sore teats, all non-infectious, and caused by mud irritation or carelessness in not drying after milking. 15 cows had lost one or more quarters, they were quite functionless, barbed wire appeared to have been the primary cause in many cases, while others were due to a previous attack of mammitis. Some had the teat channel blocked by a foreign growth and a few were congenital. In several herds that very serious disease contagious abortion existed. This disease causes great losses amongst dairy cattle, second only to tuberculosis. At every farm the owner was protecting the rest of his herd by isolating the affected animals. In 37 cases there was non-tubercular induration of the udder, and I found 11 cows to be suffering from tuberculosis of the udder or some other organ. 22 milk samples were taken from cows with doubtful udders and microscopically examined. Tubercle bacilli were detected in one sample, but many

of the cows from which samples had been taken were so obviously affected with the disease that I at once had them isolated and disposed of in the most cases by slaughter. The owners of affected cows were apprised of Section 15 of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, which provides that milk from an obviously affected tuberculous cow shall not be mixed with other milk, shall not be sold or used for human food, and shall not be used for feeding swine or other animals unless it has been previously boiled.

These provisions are good as far as they go, but they do not go nearly far enough. The time is over-ripe for the re-introduction of Tuberculosis Order of 1914 with its compelling powers, for the slaughter and destruction of all manifestly diseased animals, with *full compensation to the owner*. This order worked well and did a deal of good, but it was dropped during the war and has not been brought into operation again. It is of the highest national importance that tuberculosis should be stamped out. At the very lowest estimate a third of England's dairy cows suffer from the disease in some form or another, any of these may at any time become a *tuberculous milk producer*. This very serious disease deserves the most careful and immediate attention of Parliament and the Ministry of Health, who are directly responsible for stamping out diseases which are transmissible from animal to man.

On the whole the premises and cows in your area can be regarded as fairly satisfactory, but I would suggest that the time has now arrived when the standard might well be raised, and the following points should receive particular attention:—

- (a) The floors of cowsheds should be made impervious, also the walls to a definite height, and daily washed down.
- (b) Direct communication between cowshed and dairy should be discontinued.
- (c) Light, air and floor space should not be less than certain defined limits
- (d) Yards should be kept free from manure accumulations.
- (e) Cows should be kept clean.
- (f) Udder and teats should be washed before each milking.
- (g) Milkmen should wear suitable overalls.
- (h) Provision should be made for washing.

To conclude, I fully realise, that Cowkeeping is not carried on upon philanthropic lines, but for a living. It is a hard and strenuous life, incurring many disappointments and often great losses, and I suggest that the Council should only insist upon such alterations being made as are really necessary for the production of a national food clean and free from dirt and disease-carrying germs.

"The ideal cowsheds, are only in our mind's eye, and perfection is only a dream."

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. BISHOP YOUNG.

March, 1925.

MEAT. The advent of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, accentuated the point which had been already urged, that the work had become too great for one officer, and in June, 1925, Mr. S. L. Bundy, was appointed as Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Housing Inspector. An increased amount of work in connection with the inspection of meat has been possible since the additional Inspector was appointed. During 1925, approximately 2,000 visits were paid to slaughter-houses and meat to the total weight of 723 lbs. was condemned. This is shown in detail below, and it is noteworthy that during the preceding four years, the only food condemned was 72 lbs. of tinned meat. The case for the additional officer would seem to be proved by this item alone, and one is left wondering how much unsound food has escaped detection in the past.

MEAT CONDEMNED.

1 Head	...	...	...	21	lbs.
1 Liver	...	...	...	11	"
1 Head and Pluck	...	...	...	23	"
1 Pluck	...	...	...	8	"
1 Pig and Pluck	...	...	...	68	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	13	"
1 Sheep	...	...	...	53	"
1 Parcel of Mutton	...	...	...	17	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	14	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	12½	"
1 Parcel of Pork	...	...	...	24	"
1 Pig	...	...	...	140	"
1 Sheep	...	...	...	70	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	11	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	11	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	10	"
1 Head	...	...	...	9	"
1 Pluck	...	...	...	9½	"
1 Liver	...	...	...	6	"
1 Sheep	...	...	...	72	"
1 Cows Head	...	...	...	28	"
1 Pig	...	...	...	100	"

TOTAL	<u>723</u>	lbs.
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STALLS, SHOPS, STORES AND VEHICLES. No very great difficulty has been encountered in securing that meat exposed for sale was not liable to gross contamination, but many of the butchers shops are of old construction and open fronts, and it is to be hoped that these will be superseded by premises of more modern and cleanly construction. The practice of hanging meat outside the shop where it is exposed to filth, flies, and the attention of passing dogs, has been practically abolished, and I am glad to record that the local meat traders have supported me in this matter.

OTHER FOODS. The bakehouses in the area have been inspected. Apart from meat no siezures of unsound food have been made in the district.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

NOTIFIABLE.* During 1925, 61 cases of notifiable disease, other than tuberculosis, were reported. These are shown in detail as to age incidence on Table VI. Fifteen deaths from notifiable diseases were recorded—one from diptheria, one from encephalitis lethargica, and thirteen from pneumonia, but of the latter only five were notified cases.

During the years 1921—1925, the district has been remarkably free from serious outbreaks of notifiable disease, and there has been nothing in the nature of an epidemic.

SCARLET FEVER. The number of cases notified has been as under:—

1921.	49
1922.	10
1923.	20
1924.	12
1925.	35

There was one death from scarlet fever in 1921. The disease has been of the mild type, and it is probable that some cases are never ill enough to seek medical advice, and so pass unrecognised, and I consider that it is these mild unrecognised cases which are responsible for the continued incidence of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA. The cases in the past five years total 45 as under:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
1921.	8	—
1922.	7	1
1923.	8	—
1924.	14	1
1925.	8	1
	—	—
	45	3
	—	—

The most severe outbreak was in 1924, in the parishes of Fairstead, where there were six cases, and in White Notley, where there were four.

ENTERIC GROUP OF FEVERS :—

1921.	4
1922.	1
1923.	1
1924.	1
1925.	1

No deaths from forms of the enteric group have occurred during the five years reviewed. The vanquishing of these diseases is one of the visible results of modern sanitary work.

MALARIA, DYSENTERY AND TRENCH FEVER. No cases have been notified in the past five years.

SMALL-POX. No cases have occurred during the past five years, or for some years previously. One case which died at sea was reported to have visited Little Coggeshall during the preceding week-end, and the contacts were vaccinated, and kept under observation. No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health, under the Public Health (Small-pox) Regulations, 1917.

ENCEPHALITUS LETHARGICA. One case was reported in 1925, in a child of one year, and ended fatally. There were no cases in the preceding four years.

NON-NOTIFIABLE. No serious outbreak of non-notifiable disease was found during 1925. The most complete source of information is the school notification of disease which are sent to the Medical Officer of Health who is also the School Medical Inspector. The only outbreaks of disease which necessitated the closure of Schools were as under :—

Panfield School.	Measles.	5.	1.	25.	to	23.	1.	25.
Cressing School.	„	5.	2.	25.	„	20.	2.	25.
Fairstead School.	„	23.	10.	25.	„	6.	11.	25.

INFLUENZA has appeared in the district in each year, but to an extent in no way comparable to the epidemic of 1918. The most pronounced outbreak was in 1922. The mortality from this cause for the five years is—

1921—3, 1922—13, 1923—4, 1924—0, 1925—3.

There is no cleansing station provided in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons and their belongings. Disinfection of the houses and of articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the Council's Staff, and bedding etc., can be received for treatment in the steam disinfectant at the Isolation Hospital.

TABLE VI. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED DURING 1925.
BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.													CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS.
	At all ages.	At ages—years.													
		Under 1 year.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever...	...	1	1	1	2	17	6	4	2	1	1	..	..	27	..
Diphtheria ...	...	..	1	..	..	1	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	6	1
Para-Typhoid Fever ...	...	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13*
Pneumonia ...	...	..	1	..	..	..	2	1	4	..	4	2	1	4	..
Erysipelas ...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	...	61	2	3	2	18	11	7	7	7	6	2	1	39	15

*Only 5 of the notified cases died.

TABLE VI. (A) TUBERCULOSIS. YEAR 1925.
BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT.

Age Periods (years)	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 to 1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
1 " 5	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
5 " 10	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 " 15	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 " 20	...	3	2	1	...	...	..	...
20 " 25	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	1
25 " 35	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	..
35 " 45	...	2	2	...	...	1	...	...
45 " 55	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1
55 " 65	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
TOTALS.	10	8	5	3	1	4	1	2
	26				8			

The percentage of un-notified deaths is 50%
1 pulmonary and the 3 non-pulmonary deaths being un-notified cases.

APPENDIX.

1 GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	62,348
Population :—Census, 1921. (Registrar General's estimate mid-year, 1925)	18,779 19,010
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	4,891
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) ...	4,954
Rateable Value	£93,249
Sum represented by a penny rate	£296

2 EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.		M.		F.	
Births	Legitimate	240	...	131	...	109	Birth rate 13'0
	Illegitimate	8	...	6	...	2	
Deaths	...	250	...	121	...	129	Death rate 13'1
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of Childbirth							(from sepsis) nil.
							(other causes) nil.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—							
	Legitimate	24		Illegitimate	Nil.	Total	24.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			...		...	...	nil.
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)					...	...	1
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					...	...	nil.

ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925 for the Rural District of Braintree, on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1. — Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	24	—	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	103	—	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	2	—	—
Total	129	—	—

2- Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—†</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
{ unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—
{ not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Sched- ule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Trans- fer of Powers) Order, 1921).	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—

†Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.



