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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF BURY.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health,  
1923.



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# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

## For 1923.

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Population at Census, 1921	-	-	-	9,466
Estimated Population for 1923	-	-	-	9,632
Area of District in Statute Acres	-	-	-	12,017
Number of Inhabited Houses	-	-	-	2438

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To the Rural District Council of Bury.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for 1923. The statistics are based on the figures supplied by the Registrar General.

The district is a wide and scattered one, being composed of all that part of the Bury Union which is not Urban, and contains five townships, Ainsworth, Birtle-cum-Bamford, Outwood, Unsworth, and Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth. It is of an undulating character, varying in height above sea level between 125 feet at Molyneux and 1500 feet at Whittle Pike. The subsoil varies from clay and gravel at Ainsworth to a heavy soil overlying rock at Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth.

The district contains both agricultural and industrial communities. The chief centres of population are in parts of each of the townships of Ainsworth, Outwood, Bamford, and Unsworth, Birtle to a less extent, and Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth is mainly agricultural. The inhabitants in these centres of population are chiefly employed in textile industries, consequently there

is a large demand for female labour, many married women being employed. The agricultural part of the population are mainly engaged in the milk supply, most of which is carried for sale in the urban districts in the neighbourhood. There is a colliery in Outwood, and a large machinist's shop at Ainsworth.

**Birth Rate.**—147 births have been registered during the year, of which 70 were males and 77 females. This gives a Birth Rate of 15·2 per 1000 persons living, compared with a rate of 14·7 in 1922.

**Death Rate.**—112 deaths of residents (Civilian Population) have been registered, 56 males and 56 females. This gives a death rate of 11·6 per 1000 persons living, compared with 11·5 in 1922.

**Infantile Mortality.**—10 deaths of infants under one year old have occurred, compared with 10 in 1922. The death rate per 1000 births being 68 as against 70 in 1922. This is satisfactory. The average for the 10 years 1913 to 1922 being 80. The causes of these deaths were 2 from Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, 4 from Diseases of Respiration, 1 from Whooping Cough, 2 from Tuberculous Diseases, and 1 from Congenital Syphilis.

The deaths occurred at the following ages, 1 in the first week, 1 in the second week, 1 between 1 and 3 months, 2 between 3 and 6 months, 3 between 6 & 9 months, and 2 between 9 & 12 months.

**Illegitimate Births.**—3 have been registered, 1 male and 2 females. The death of 1 illegitimate child under one year old has occurred.

The other deaths occurred at the following ages. 4 between 1 and 5 years, 2 between 5 and 15 years, 5 between 15 and 25 years, 11 between 25 and 45 years, 35 between 45 and 65 years, and 45 over 65 years.

**Mortality under Five years of age.**—14 out of the total number of deaths occurred among children under 5 years of age. This is at the rate of 12·4 per cent. of the total deaths.

**Mortality over Sixty-five years of age.**—The deaths of 45 persons over 65 years of age occurred. This is at the rate of 41·7 per cent. of the total deaths.

**Zymotic Death Rate.**—3 deaths have occurred from Whooping Cough, 1 from Diphtheria, 1 from Influenza, a total of 4. This gives a death rate of .41 per 1000 persons living compared with .62 in 1922.

**Tubercular Diseases.**—12 deaths have occurred, 10 from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System, and 2 from other Tuberculous diseases, giving a death rate of 1.24 per 1000 persons living, compared with 1.35 in 1922. The Phthisis death rate was 1.03 per 1000 as against 1.04 in 1922.

**Cancer and other Malignant Diseases** have caused 12 deaths, 5 males and 7 females, as against 11 in 1922, giving a death rate of 1.24 per 1000 persons living, compared with 1.14 in 1922.

**Respiratory Diseases** have caused 13 deaths, giving a death rate of 1.34 per 1000 persons living, compared with 3.01 in 1922.

The following Tables supplied by the Registrar General are inserted for comparison and information :

**Birth-rate, Death-rate, & Analysis of Mortality during the year 1923.**

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civilian Population								Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths		
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales -	19.7	11.6	0.01	0.14	0.03	0.10	0.07	0.22	0.44	7.7	69	92.0	6.9	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London,	20.4	11.6	0.01	0.15	0.03	0.12	0.09	0.22	0.40	9.9	72	92.2	7.2	0.6
155 Smaller Towns, 1921 Populations 20,000-50,000	19.8	10.6	0.01	0.19	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.21	0.38	6.4	69	92.6	6.1	1.3
London	20.2	11.2	0.01	0.08	0.02	0.09	0.13	0.17	0.45	10.2	60	90.8	9.1	0.1

**Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year 1923.**

		Total	Male	Female
Births	Legitimate	144	69	75
	Illegitimate	3	1	2
Deaths	-	112	56	56
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth				1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :				
	Total 10	Legitimate 9	Illegitimate 1	
Deaths from Measles, all ages			—	
„ Whooping Cough, all ages			3	
„ Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age			—	

	Rates per 1000 of Population			Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Phthisis Death-rate	
Mean of 10 years 1912-1921 . . . . .	16·9	14·2	0·78	88
1922 . . . . .	14·7	11·5	1·04	70
1923 . . . . .	15·2	11·6	1·03	68
Increase or Decrease in 1922 on— Ten Years' Average . . . . .	—1·7	—2·6	+0·25	—20
Previous Year . . . . .	+0·5	+0·1	—0·01	—2

The following Table shows how the births and deaths are distributed over the five townships of the district :

Locality	Area in Statute Acres	Population			Births				Deaths		
		Cen-sus 1911	Cen-sus 1921	Esti-mated 1923	Male	Female	Illegit	Rate per 1000 of Populn	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 of Populn
Ainsworth . . .	1460	1908	2122	2155	16	17	1	15·3	17	9	12·06
Birtle-cum-Bamford . . .	2413	1676	1734	1759	16	10	1	15·9	16	7	13·07
Outwood . . .	1938	2099	2510	2563	16	23	0	15·2	12	20	12·4
Unsworth . . .	3067	2707	2542	2584	15	23	1	14·7	7	18	9·6
Walmersley-cum-Shlwh	3139	658	558	571	7	4	0	19·2	4	2	15·07
Totals . . .	12017	9043	9466	9632	70	77	3	15·2	56	56	11·6

**Water Supply.**—Nearly the whole of the district is served by Water Boards which provide a constant supply. Many of the farms and some of the outlying portions of the district have private supplies. The Water Boards which serve the district are the Bury and District, the Heywood and Middleton, and the Bolton Corporation. No complaints have been received and the supply is efficient and of good quality. As regards the private supplies, 2 samples have been bacteriologically examined during the year.

**Rivers and Streams.**—These are under the control of the Mersey and Irwell Rivers Committee.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—Outfall works are provided in most of the populous parts of the district. Particulars of the sewage treatment in each township are as follows :

#### AINSWORTH.

**Bradley Fold.**—Treatment is effected by septic tanks and continuous filtration. These works are designed for a population of 3000, with an approximate dry-weather flow of 75000 gallons per day.

**Black Lane.**—Sewage from this district is now treated by arrangement with the Radcliffe Urban District Council.

#### BAMFORD.

Treatment is effected by septic tanks, storm tanks, and continuous filtration. These works have an approximate dry weather flow of 30000 gallons a day and receive the sewage from nearly the whole of the village of Bamford.

#### OUTWOOD.

**Irwell Bank.**—This is a small sewage works laid down to treat the sewage from the Irwell Bank Mill and the houses in the immediate neighbourhood. It consists of septic tanks, storm tanks, and continuous filtration.

**Prestolee.**—These works consist of a detritus chamber, septic tank and cinder beds. They serve a population of about 700. These works are being improved and enlarged.

**Ringley.**—These works are designed for a population of about 675 and consist of septic tanks and continuous filtration.

**Outwood.**—These are situated at the north-west end of the township near the Colliery, and provide treatment for a population of about 300. They consist of detritus tanks, screens in duplicate, covered septic tank, and filter bed.

#### UNSWORTH.

**Croft Lane, Hollins.**—The daily dry-weather flow is about 11000 gallons, and the approximate population served is 800. The method of treatment is by sedimentation, continuous filtration and finally land filtration.

**Parrs Lane.**—Treatment is by means of a septic tank, filter beds with circular sprinkler and humus tank. They serve a population of 700.

**Kilner Croft.**—The sewage from a few houses in this area discharges on to a filter bed and thence to the Foxley Brook.



**Closet Accommodation.**—About 60 per cent. of the closet accommodation is by privy middens or pails. There have been 3 conversions to water closets during 1923. The 14 new houses erected are on the water carriage system.

The following Table shows the types of closets and the provision for house refuse in the various townships :

Locality	No. of Privy Middens	Privy Closets	Pail Closets	Fresh Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Ashpits	Ashbins
Ainsworth ...	166	297	21	158	23	27	151
Birtle-cum-Bamford ...	23	80	120	181	26	111	59
Outwood ...	167	296	4	216	6	72	64
Unsworth ...	215	464	5	71	45	32	58
Walmersley-cum-Shlwh	35	86	26	3	—	20	—
Totals ..	606	1223	176	629	100	262	332

**Scavenging.**—In Ainsworth this is carried out by contract and is done in a satisfactory manner. This system should be extended to all the other townships until the Council is prepared to carry out the work by their own employees. In the other townships arrangements are made with one or more farmers in each locality to empty the various privies and refuse bins at the expense of the various tenants and owners.

**Schools.**—There are 7 Elementary Schools in the district, viz: at Ainsworth, Buckhurst, Hollins, Prestolee, Ringley, Turn, and Unsworth. The buildings are in good condition, and the premises are kept clean and are well ventilated. Except at Prestolee and Unsworth, which are provided with water closets, they all have privy middens or pail closets. The water supplies of these schools is derived from one or other of the Water Boards except at Turn and Buckhurst, which have private supplies. Samples of these two have been examined during the last few years and were found to show no evidence of pollution. The medical inspection of the children is entirely in the hands of the County Council.

**Milk Supply.**—Most of the agricultural part of the district is concerned with the milk supply of the population of this and the urban districts in the neighbourhood. The dairies are kept in a clean condition, but there is, however, very little storage of milk, it being taken direct from the shippons to the customers. There are 103 cowkeepers and 10 purveyors of milk in the district, all of whom are registered. The shippons are in a fairly satisfactory condition, but in some instances in the older shippons there is insufficient airspace and the ventilation and sanitary arrangements are not all that can be desired. In several cases the manure heaps are situated too near the shippons. Every opportunity is taken to urge the farmers to remove the manure away as early as possible. The cows are all grazed during the summer months.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.—This is under the control of the County Council.

**Meat.**—There are 3 slaughter houses in the district, but these are not used to any great extent, much of the meat being brought into the district from the urban districts in the neighbourhood. There is no public abattoir, and no arrangements are made for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter. Meat exposed for sale is frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

**Bread.**—There are 3 bakehouses in the district. Most of the bread is either baked privately or brought in from the surrounding urban districts.

**Infectious Diseases.**—Chickenpox was made notifiable under a temporary Order for 12 months from December 11th, 1922. The total number of notifications received during the year was 67. This number included 2 cases of Diphtheria, 27 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, 7 of Pneumonia, 8 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 8 of other forms of Tuberculosis, and 14 of Chickenpox. One school was closed for Measles from April 16th to May 7th.

**Removal to Hospital.**—29 cases in all were removed to the Hospitals or Sanatoria. Of these 2 were suffering from Diphtheria, 18 from Scarlet Fever, and 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The following Table shows the distribution of the cases in the various localities :

Locality	Estimated Population	Ordinary Infectious Cases					Tuberculosis Cases							
		Diphtheria	Scarlet Fev	Puerperal F.	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Total	Infectious Cases removed to Hospi Per cent. of cases to population	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other forms of Tub. Dis.	Total	Removed to Sanatoria	Per cent. of cases to population	
Ainsworth .....	2155	—	5	—	3	3	11	4	.51	2	3	5	1	.23
Birtle-c-Bamfrd	1759	—	7	1	—	—	8	5	.44	—	—	—	—	—
Outwood.....	2563	2	5	—	1	—	8	6	.81	5	4	9	6	.35
Unsworth .....	2584	—	9	—	3	11	23	5	.89	1	—	1	1	.03
Walmersley-c-Shuttleworth	571	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	.17	—	1	1	1	.17
Total...	9632	2	27	1	7	14	51	20	.52	8	8	16	9	.16

With regard to the non-notifiable infectious diseases the schools are frequently visited and inquiries made as to any prevalence. No vaccinations have been performed by me under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council and can be obtained at the Office.

Bacteriological examinations have been made of 4 throat swabs, 6 specimens of sputum and 2 samples of water.

The notification of Tuberculosis is carried out satisfactorily by the medical practitioners.

**Sanitary Administration.**—In addition to the Medical Officer of Health, who is a part time official, there is one Inspector of Nuisances who devotes nearly the whole of his time to the duties.

**Hospital Accommodation.**—The Council is one of the constituent authorities of the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board. The Board provides accommodation for 40 cases of Smallpox and for 166 cases of other infectious diseases including Tuberculosis. It is satisfactory in every way.

The Council have adopted The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

Arrangements have been made with the Manchester Public Health Laboratory for the chemical and bacteriological examination of specimens.

## HOUSING.

14 new houses have been erected during the year. There is still a considerable amount of overcrowding throughout the district. Supervision is exercised in all cases and the evil mitigated as far as circumstances will permit. No definite action can be taken until further accommodation is provided.

The following Table shows the area, number of houses inhabited, population, assessable value, &c., in the various townships.

Township	Area in Statute Acres	Inhabited Houses			Population			Persons per house			Rateable Value	
		(Census)		Esti- matd			Esti- matd			Esti- matd	Amount 1923	Amount produced byald.rate
		1911	1921	1923	1911	1921	1923	1911	1921	1923	£	£
Ainsworth ..	1460	421	569	573	1903	2122	2155	4.52	3.7	3.70	18724	78
Birtle-em-Bamfrd	2410	439	495	499	1676	1734	1759	3.81	3.50	3.30	12437	53
Outwood ..	1938	433	537	545	2099	2510	2563	4.84	4.67	4.70	26944	112
Unsworth ..	3067	659	672	674	2707	2542	2584	4.10	3.78	3.67	20157	84
Walmersley-c-Sh.	3139	155	165	165	658	558	571	4.24	3.41	3.46	3694	15
Totals	12014	2107	2438	2456	9043	9466	9632	4.29	3.88	3.80	£81956	£342

The following statistics are required by the Ministry of Health :

## 1. GENERAL.

Population Estimated for 1923	-	9632
General Death Rate	-	11.6
Death Rate from Tuberculosis	-	1.24
Death Rate from Phthisis	-	1.03
Infantile Mortality	-	68
Number of dwelling-houses of all classes		2452
Number of working-class dwelling-houses		2210
Rateable Value	-	£81956
Sum represented by a penny rate	-	£342

Number of new houses erected during the year : *a* Total - 14

*b* With State assistance under the Housing Acts of 1919 or 1923

I By the Local Authority	-	None
II By other bodies or persons	-	5

Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme - None

Financial assistance for purposes of increasing housing accommodation :

Have any advances been made during 1923 :

<i>a</i> By loans - No	No. -	Amount of loans, £--
<i>b</i> By subsidy - Yes	No. 5	Amount of subsidies £75 per house

## UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES. Inspection.

1	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	-	-	-	74
2	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	-	-	-	60
	Have the particulars of these inspections been fully recorded as specified in the Regulations?	-	-	-	Yes
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	21
4	Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	-	-	-	39

## 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	-	-	-	25
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## Action under Statutory Powers.

<i>a</i>	Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning &c. Act, 1919				
1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-	-	-	19
2	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit				
<i>a</i>	By Owners	-	-	-	13
<i>b</i>	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	-	-	-	0
<i>b</i>	Proceedings under Public Health Acts				
1	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-	-	-	25
2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied				
<i>a</i>	By Owners	-	-	-	20
<i>b</i>	By Local Authority in default of Owners	-	-	-	0
<i>c</i>	Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing & Town Planning &c. Act, 1909				
1	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	-	-	-	0
2	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-	-	-	0
3	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	-	-	-	0
4	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-	-	-	0
5	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-	-	-	0
<i>d</i>	Number of houses demolished voluntarily by Owners or converted into workshops, &c.	-	-	-	0

## Annual Report of Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, & Homework.

### INSPECTION.

Premises	Number of Inspections
Factories .....	38
Workshops .....	14
Workplaces .....	—
Total .....	52

### DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness .....	3	3
Other nuisances .....	10	10
Sanitary accommodation, unsuitable or defective ....	5	4

### REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

1 Milliners  
 3 Clog Makers  
 2 Undertakers  
 1 Brewery  
 1 Tripe Dresser  
 3 Bakehouses  
 3 Dressmakers

Total number of workshops on the Register 14

### OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as } remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not } under the Factory and Workshops Acts (s. 5, 1901) }	Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s 101) in use at end of year	0

**Factory and Workshops Act.**—The usual inspections have been carried out and the factories and workshops have been found in a clean and satisfactory condition. There are 36 factories and 14 workshops in the district. They are situated in the various townships as follows :

Locality.	Ainsworth	Birtle-cum-Bamford	Outwood	Unsworth	Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth	Total
Factories ... ..	15	5	4	10	2	36
Workshops ... ..	3	4	1	5	1	14
Total ... ..	18	9	5	15	3	50

The factories consist of 3 cotton spinning mills, 7 cotton weaving sheds, 1 woollen mill, 2 fulling mills, 6 dyeworks, 1 calico print works, 6 bleach works, 3 wheelwrights' shops, 2 joiner's shops, 1 engineer's works, 1 firelighter's, 1 spindle and flymaker's works, 1 soap works, 1 tinner's shop.

Appended is the Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I beg to remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES W. COOK,

Bury, May 31st, 1924.

Medical Officer of Health.

# INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

## UNION OFFICES, BURY.

To the Rural District Council of Bury.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

<b>Table of Nuisances, &amp;c., from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1923</b>	<b>Alnsworth</b>	<b>Birtle-cum Bamford</b>	<b>Outwood</b>	<b>Unsworth</b>	<b>Walnersley- cum- Shuttleworth</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
No. of Journeys made to each District .....	82	46	61	58	12	260
„ Visits and Inspections made in each District	336	183	240	220	40	999
„ Notices sent (Legal and Preliminary) .....	24	14	32	13	2	85
„ Notifications received & reported upon to the M.O.H.	16	8	17	24	2	67
„ Houses disinfected and cleaned .....	14	8	17	24	2	65
„ Producers & Purveyors of milk, other than Cow- keepers, registered (Milk & Dairies Am. Act 1922)	19	41	12	25	16	113
„ Dairies and cowsheds registered .....	17	38	10	22	16	103
„ Inspections, Dairies and cowsheds .....	20	41	12	26	16	115
„ Houses inspected Regulation Act, 1910 ....	22	10	14	14	—	60
„ „ „ Public Health Acts ....	26	13	17	14	4	74
„ „ built during the year .....	3	4	5	2	—	14
„ Sanitary Improvements made, Water Supplies included	16	7	12	16	4	55
„ Other Nuisances dealt with, Privy Ashpits included	10	16	26	20	8	80
„ Nuisances abated .....	26	23	38	36	12	135
„ „ receiving attention .....	15	15	20	20	8	78
„ „ found, including Privy Ashpits .....	41	38	58	56	20	213



## House Dwellings.

14 new houses have been erected in different parts of your district, 10 of which are suitable for workmen's dwellings. The water supply to dwellings and the farms have again received attention especially water from private supplies. 73 houses in the Black Lane and Three Arrows portion of Ainsworth are now connected up to the joint sewer and 43 have now the fresh water carriage system. 65 houses have been disinfected and cleaned and sanitary improvements have been made to 55 dwellings.

## Dairies and Cowsheds.

115 inspections have been made and your regulations are fairly well carried out by the farmers, more care being taken by them to produce cleaner milk; this no doubt has come about through the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and the Dairies, Cowshed and Milkshops Order, 1885, having been put in force by you and the various Authorities in the immediate neighbourhood where our producers purvey their milk. You have 103 producers and 10 purveyors of milk in your various districts and sanitary improvements have been made to airspace, light, and ventilation to cowsheds.

## Factories and Workshops.

Observations have been taken of dense black smoke emitted from mill chimneys, and attention paid to the general sanitation of the factories and workshops; defects found 19, remedied 17. These defects consist principally of unsuitable or defective accommodations, want of cleanliness, and other nuisances. The workshops are kept clean and number 17. Canal boats have been inspected and no infringements of the Regulations of the Canal Boats Acts were found. This portion of the canal is very little used now by boats (with dwellings) only 8 having been inspected out of 61 visits.

Your obedient servant,

HENRY HURST,

Inspector.