

**[Report 1938] / Medical Officer of Health, Calne Borough.**

**Contributors**

Calne (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1938

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**BOROUGH OF CALNE**

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

**31st DECEMBER, 1938**

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R. S. HEATH, CALNE, WILTS.



## **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

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### **MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—**

I. B. Lawrence, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., who, in addition, held the post of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire, was Medical Officer of Health up to 31st May, 1938.

C. L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., of Lowden Lodge, Chippenham, has been Medical Officer of Health since 1st June, 1938.

Dr. Broomhead in addition holds the position of Assistant County Medical Officer for Wiltshire and Medical Officer of Health for Chippenham Borough and to the Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

Tel: Chippenham 2435.

### **SANITARY INSPECTOR:—**

T. V. Oliver, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., etc., who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor.

Tel: Calne 101.

### **VETERINARY INSPECTOR:—**

C. H. Ducksbury, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Tel: Calne 61.

# Borough of Calne

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

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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
BOROUGH OF CALNE

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report on the Public Health of this Borough, which has been compiled in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health. It is to be regretted that the Report is not so complete or full as one would wish, but owing to the demands of Air Raid Precaution work, little opportunity has been given for the normal activities of the Health department.

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### I. General Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area	1276 acres
Population—	
By Census, 1931	approximately 4563
As calculated by the Registrar-General for the purpose of Vital Statistics (Residents)	4824
Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1931 (Old Area)	970
Number of families or separate occupiers, 1931 (Old Area)	967
Number of Inhabited Houses end of 1938 according to Rate Book	1424
Rateable Value at December 31st, 1938	£24970 0 0
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£97 18 6

## Social conditions—

The principal industry in Calne is bacon curing, together with the manufacture of sausages, pies and potted foods of various descriptions, carried on by Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd. This affords employment to the greater part of the working class inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood. The firm has also one of the most up-to-date by-products plants in the country, which is run entirely without nuisance.

The other industries are those which are usually carried on in a country town, such as corn milling, agricultural implement making, etc., and, in the added area, dairy farming.

Neither the situation of the town, the nature of the soil, nor the occupations of the inhabitants, can be said to have any particular influence on public health.

## II. Extracts from Vital Statistics.

## Live Births—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	54	23	31
Illegitimate	3	3	—
Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			11.82

## Stillbirths—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	1	—	1
Illegitimate			—
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births			17.24

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths	67	31	36
Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population			13.88

## Deaths from puerperal causes:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	—	0.00
Other puerperal causes	—	0.00
Total	—	0.00

## Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1000 live births	17.54
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	17.54
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0.00

NOTE. In making the above calculations the comparability factor of 0.80 has been disregarded in each case.

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	11
"	" Measles (all ages)	—
"	" Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
"	" Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	1
"	" Influenza (all ages)	1
"	" Respiratory Diseases (9, 19, 20, 21)	10
"	" Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels, (15, 16, 17, 18)	21

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, neither is there any evidence that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (a) **Laboratory Facilities—**

The arrangements at Salisbury Infirmary, provided by the County Council, continue unchanged.

### (b) **Ambulance Facilities—**

- (i) Infectious cases. A motor ambulance is stationed at the Chippenham and Malmesbury Isolation Hospital at Chippenham, of which the Borough of Calne is a constituent authority.
- (ii) For non-infectious and accident cases, a motor ambulance is provided by the local Nursing Association.

### (c) **Nursing in the Home—**

- (i) General Nursing. This is provided by the Calne Nursing Association and is in every way satisfactory.

### (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics—**

Orthopædic Clinic. At Corsham Nursing Home on Wednesday mornings. This is a voluntary organisation, but the services of the Surgeon and Nurses are provided by the County Council.

Ante-natal and Infant Welfare. At Corsham Nursing Home on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons of each month. The Clinic is staffed by one of the Assistant Medical Officers of the Wilts County Council and by the Matron and Nurses from the Home.

Tuberculosis Dispensary (Wilts County Council) At the Halve, Trowbridge, every Wednesday from 10.0 a.m. to 1 p.m. A previous appointment is not required.

#### Venereal Disease Clinics.

Free consultations are held as under:—

County Council Clinic, The Halve, Trowbridge.

Men.

Women.

Thursday, 5—6.30 p.m.

Tuesday, 5—6.30 p.m.

The Infirmary (Skin Dept.) Salisbury.

Men.

Women.

Tuesday, 11.30—1 p.m.

Wednesday, 6—7.30 p.m.

Friday, 6—7 30 p.m.

Saturday, 11.30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Isolation Hospital, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Men.

Women.

Wednesday, 6.30 p.m. 8 p.m.

Monday, 5—6.30 p.m.

Friday, 6—7 p.m.

Friday, 2—3.30 p.m.

Clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of—

1. Ear, Nose and Throat
2. Eye and
3. Cardiac Defects,

are available for all elementary and secondary school children, and in most cases for children under school age, through the County Council Scheme

#### Hospitals—

As stated previously, Calne is a constituent authority of the Calne, Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital Committee. In addition to the ordinary notifiable diseases, admission can often be secured for pneumonia or for cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases. The existence of several single and double-bedded rooms, quite apart from the ordinary wards, renders the possibility of cross infection unlikely.



**Maternity and Child Welfare—**

## (i) Midwifery and Maternity Services.

There is one midwife in the area, who is working under the County Council Scheme through the Calne Nursing Association, and a grant is received from the County Council in respect of this service.

## (ii) Institutional provisions for Mothers or Children.

None exists within the area

## (iii) Health Visitors and School Nurses.

Duties carried out by County Council Health Visitor.

A Children's Care Committee, which is recognised by the Wilts County Council, has recently been formed and investigates necessitous cases amongst the elementary school children. In approved cases, parents are helped with clothes, boots, travelling facilities to clinics, etc.

## (iv) Child Life Protection.

No facilities within the area other than the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector, who, however, does some very useful work and carries out his duties with considerable tact and discretion.

**Registered Maternity and other Nursing Homes within the Borough.**

None exist.

**Mortuary Accommodation—**

The Chippenham Public Assistance Committee has provided a Mortuary with post-mortem room and viewing room at the Chippenham Public Assistance Institution, and the Committee is willing that this accommodation should be used for the purposes of a public Mortuary for bodies from outside the Institution.

This is a very satisfactory solution to a problem which has claimed the attention of the Town Council on many occasions in the past

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.****Rainfall—**

Mr. P. W. Phillips, of "Ridgeway," Calne, who keeps an official record for the Air Ministry, has kindly supplied the information from which the following table has been compiled :

Month.	Total Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 Hours		Number of days with 0.1 or more recorded.
	Inches			
January	3.14	.39	12th	22
February	.88	.27	27th	8
March	.15	.05	24th & 26th	4
April	.15	.08	2nd	3
May	1.85	.42	27th	13
June	.95	.30	27th	11
July	2.05	.52	14th	14
August	3.82	1.22	4th	15
September	3.21	1.19	18th	16
October	4.66	1.10	3rd	21
November	3.96	.50	25th	22
December	3.56	.59	13th	18
	28.38	—	—	167

In the previous year August was the driest month with a rainfall of 0.67 inches, and February the wettest month, with 5.63 inches.

During 1938 there were two absolute droughts, March 1st to 16th, and April 3rd to 21st. A partial drought also occurred from February 28th to May 24th, and two dry spells were recorded, from March 1st to 21st, and June 9th to 26th.

There is also a rain gauge at the Sewage Outfall works at Conigre, which is read daily at 9.0 a.m. These figures shew a total rainfall of 27.79 inches.

The average for the three previous years was 34.31 inches.

#### **Water Supply—**

Water is supplied to the Borough, and certain portions of the parish of Calne Without immediately adjoining, by the Calne Waterworks Company, except in a few isolated cases.

The Water is obtained from Lower Greensand springs at Calstone Wellington, about 3 miles to the south-east of the town.

Within the last five or six years, the Water Company have constructed, at the source, a service reservoir of approximately 27,000 gallons capacity, and have put down duplicate pumping plant. They have also extended their mains where necessary.

Notwithstanding these improvements complaints continued to be received of shortage of water in the higher parts of the Borough, particularly at week-ends. The effect, too, of the new main in the Oxford Road area, has been to increase the hydraulic gradient, thus depleting the North End area of some of their former supply.

The Town Council both as the health authority and as the largest individual property owners in the district, have taken up this state of affairs with the Water Company from time to time, and the latter have now obtained a Provisional Order, *inter alia*, to increase their supply at the source.

The Company have also laid a 9-inch main to augment their existing 6-inch supply, and so increase the supply to the town generally.

The water is of good quality, non-plumbo solvent, and has 31 degrees of total hardness. Samples of water are taken periodically for bacteriological examination, and the Analysts' Report on a sample taken on the 6th December, states that "Bacteriological examination shows no evidences whatsoever of harmful pollution." Nevertheless, a water supply which is distributed for consumption without the usual precautions of aeration, filtration, chlorination, etc., needs carefully watching.

The consumption per capita per diem is now estimated at 18 gallons for domestic purposes and 4 gallons for trade purposes, making a total of 22 gallons.

The actual number of houses relying on well water for their domestic supply is 50, or 3½% of the total number of houses in the district. This percentage is gradually being reduced and it is the policy of the Town Council to have samples of water from every well analysed. If found unsuitable for domestic purposes, the wells concerned will be closed.

During the year 52 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and as a result 18 Statutory Notices were served under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, on the owners concerned, to provide a wholesome water supply. Four owners appealed, and in one case the Ministry of Health upheld the Town Council's action, whilst decisions had not been reached in the other three cases at the close of the year.

### Drainage and Sewerage—

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always, of necessity, be a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into cesspools or are provided with earth closets.

There were no new sewers laid during the year. The mileage of the town sewers is now eight, and the length of Outfall ~~into~~ sewer is approximately two miles.

### Sewage Disposal—

The Outfall works are situated at Conigre, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the north-west of the town, and within the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

These works were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000 and consist of detritus chambers and continuous flow sedimentation tanks in duplicate, four filters with rotary sprinklers fed from a central dosing chamber by automatic syphons; humus tanks and digestion tanks together with a 9 h.p. Blackstone Diesel oil engine with "unchokeable" sludge pump to raise the sludge, which is afterwards dried on sludge beds and subsequently burnt to a fine red ash. Unfortunately this ash has been found on analysis to have no commercial value.

A Lea Recorder is provided at the inlet to the works and the average daily dry weather flow is about a quarter of a million gallons, thus showing a not inconsiderable ingress of subsoil water.

The sewage effluent, which discharges into the River Marden just below Hazeland Mill and about 1 mile below the Outfall Works, is usually of a fairly high standard.

A sample taken on the 18th August, by Dr. Jean Murray, an Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the County, showed the following analysis:

Free and Saline Ammonia	0.15	parts per 100,000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.14	do.
Chlorine	71.20	do.
Oxygen absorbed (4 hours)	1.04	do.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	2.78	do.
Dissolved Solids	166.00	do.
Solids in suspension	3.30	do.
Total Solids	169.30	do.

Dissolved oxygen absorbed after 5 days' incubation—

1.7 parts per 100,000

“ This is quite a good effluent, although the suspended solids are just above the standard. The nitrification is satisfactory.”

The percentage of purification in this case is no less than 90.55.

Considering the large proportion of trade waste from Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bacon Factory (about half the total flow) compared with the amount of domestic sewage, these results may be considered most satisfactory.

The under-drains on the four sludge beds have been renewed and fresh ashes and clinker put down at a cost of £67 11 8.

### **Rivers and Streams—**

One case of pollution of the River Marden was noted during the year within the urban district, and reported to the the County Council.

The last sample of river water taken for analysis, at a point near Chivvy Well Bridge—which is below the town and some 200 yards from the last possible source of any trade or domestic pollution—shewed the sample to fall into the category of “Fairly Clean Rivers,” based upon the Royal Commission standard.

The Marden as far as Quemerford Bridge, is within the area controlled by the River Avon (Bristol) Catchment Board, as regards flood prevention. The Board, by an arrangement entered into a few years ago with the millers and other interested persons, with regard to raising the various hatches along the river's course during heavy and/or continuous rain, have safeguarded the town, as far as possible from unnecessary flooding.

### **Closet Accommodation—**

As mentioned earlier in this Report, the urban portion of the added area has now been sewered and a further 18 houses (not including new dwellings) were connected during the year.

The number of houses not connected to the town sewers is 114, of which number no sewer is reasonably available for 50, leaving 64 to be dealt with as nuisances arise.

### **Public Cleansing —**

The refuse from some 1,410 houses is collected weekly from receptacles placed on the kerbside by the householders. This

work is done under Contract, the Contractor providing a properly equipped motor vehicle.

The Contractor also provides the tip, which is about 1½ miles from the town in a north-easterly direction and in the adjoining Rural District. The refuse is covered immediately after disposal and no complaint as to nuisance therefrom has arisen.

Owing to the growth of the Borough, the weekly collection is now spread over three days, instead of two as heretofore.

Every householder has been circularised and urged to provide a proper galvanised dustbin (where this had not already been done), and at the same time to burn as much refuse as possible, and not deposit wet rubbish in the dustbin.

It was also pointed out that a reduction of 2 lbs weight per dustbin per week would result in a decrease of 65 tons per annum of putrescible matter to be collected from the whole town. The cost of collection and disposal is 5/9 per house per annum, which compares very favourably with other districts.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the year's work under Article 27 (18), of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

### General Information.

Dwelling Houses inspected	...	...	243
Re-inspections and visits	...	...	56
Inspections for Housing Records	...	...	49
Registered and Licensed Premises inspected	...	...	385
Number of New Building Inspections	...	...	201
Number of Inspections of Sewage Works, Sewer Extensions and Drainage Systems	...	...	109
Number of Inspections of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	8
Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits	...	...	329
Complaints received and inspected	...	...	74
Houses disinfected	...	...	6
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	47
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	—
Number of letters sent and received	...	...	194
Number of interviews with owners, etc.	...	...	56
Number of samples of sewage effluent taken and analysed	...	...	1
Number of samples of river water taken and analysed	...	...	—
Number of well water analyses	...	...	32

Number of Town water analyses	...	...	2
Number of samples of milk taken and analysed			—
Number of improvements carried out	...	...	800

**The Tabulated List of Improvements is as follows :—**

Number of existing houses connected to Main Drainage System	...	...	...	18
Number of new houses connected to Main Drainage System	...	...	...	8
Number of new houses connected to Town Water Supply	...	...	...	8
Number of existing houses connected to Town Water Supply	...	...	...	28
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	59
Drains new and relaid (lengths tested and approved)	...	...	...	57
Connections to sewer inspected and approved	...	...	...	25
Conversions of vaults and pail closets to water carriage system	...	...	...	13
Houses previously drained into cesspools, etc. connected to town sewers	...	...	...	5
W.C. Pans renewed	...	...	...	2
Ditto cleansed	...	...	...	—
Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	10
Sinks provided	...	...	...	23
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	11
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	35
Spouting or guttering repaired	...	...	...	14
New E.C. buckets supplied	...	...	...	—
Plastering repaired	...	...	...	6
Houses decorated	...	...	...	7
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	80
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	47
Water fittings repaired and renewed	...	...	...	121
Waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	16
Yards paved	...	...	...	2
Polluted wells closed for domestic purposes	...	...	...	15
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...	—
Nuisance from Rats and Mice abated	...	...	...	22
Overcrowding dealt with	...	...	...	8
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	144

**Arrangements for Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

1.—In ordinary cases the house, or part of the house, is sealed up and disinfected by means of a sufficient number of

collapsible Formaldehyde fumigator lamps, articles other than bedding and personal clothing being suspended in the room or so arranged that the vapour has access thereto. The clothing, bedding, etc., used by the patient, is removed in the vehicle attached to the Chippenhan Isolation Hospital, and disinfected in Thresh's Disinfector at the latter place.

2.—In special cases, e.g. typhoid fever, death from tuberculosis, etc., the rooms used by the patient are thoroughly cleansed, and where necessary, wall papers removed and burnt, rooms whitewashed and then submitted for disinfection. In bad conditions the bedding, clothing, etc., is burnt; compensation being paid if necessary.

3.—In certain special cases, (i.e. those houses, schools, and other places in which cases may arise from time to time), the whole house or place is sealed up for two or three days with a sufficient number of collapsible Formaldehyde fumigator lamps burning therein, and afterwards thoroughly cleansed. Arrangements are made for the case and the rest of the household to be suitably accommodated (in the case of a house) whilst this is being done.

Flea infested houses are sprayed with Zaldecide.



I.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health. Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (2)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	5		
Factories without mechanical power ...	1		
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises).	2		
Total ...	8		

2.— Defects found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature ... ..	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences { insufficient ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	15
{ unsuitable or defective ... ..				
{ not separate for sexes ... ..				
<i>Other offences—</i>				
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health, (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
Total ... ..	—	—	—	—

3 Home Work Outworkers' Lists.

Nil.

## **Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.**

There are sixty premises in the Borough which come within the definition of "Factory" under the Factories Act, 1937, including four bakehouses, five slaughter houses, one By-Products Factory, and one gut-scraping yard.

There are Bye-laws in force controlling Offensive Trades.

Complaints as to smells are very infrequent, and Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., who are the owners of food factories and by-products plants in the town, quite voluntarily treat all vapours emanating from the latter plant by chlorination, so that no smells can possibly arise from this source, provided, of course, the plant is working satisfactorily.

The Sanitary Inspector makes periodical inspections and no Statutory action has been necessary.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

### **Tents, Vans, Sheds. etc.**

Bye-laws are in existence regulating the above, but no action has been necessary during the year.

### **Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1923.**

There are no premises in the district which are governed by the provisions of the above Acts.

### **Rat and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919**

National Rat Week was supported locally by means of posters issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and by advertisement in the local press.

Rat biscuits of a non-poisonous character to domestic animals were issued where required, and placed in the rat holes or "runs" with beneficial results.

The Town refuse tip is outside the district, but this, as well as the sewage farm, is under the supervision of the Borough Sanitary Inspector, and both are baited with Rat Biscuits as occasion requires.

It is very noticeable how the general public are becoming more conscious of their responsibilities under the above Act, and more anxious to rid their premises of these vermin than they were a few years ago.

### **Shops Act, 1934**

All premises have been inspected under this Act, which came into operation on the 30th December, 1934. No Statutory action has been necessary.

### **Camping Sites.**

None exist in the district.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

The difficulty experienced in the past, regarding the emission of gritty particles from one of the factory chimneys in the town, appears to have been satisfactorily overcome as far as is practicable.

No Bye-laws under the Public Health Acts, 1936, are at present in force in the town.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools**

The Swimming Baths, on the bank of the River Marden, which had been in existence since 1896, were not re-opened this year and will remain closed.

The Town Council are considering the question of providing a modern open-air swimming bath in the centre portion of the town adjoining the river (although properly sterilised Company's water only will be used). The Town Council are in touch with the National Fitness Council, and hope to obtain a substantial grant from this body if the project fructifies.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs**

No houses in the district are known to be infested with bed bugs.

However, if the need arose, disinfestation would be carried out by the Local Authority by spraying the house and its contents with one of the well-known proprietary articles such as "Zaldecide."

## Schools.

All the elementary schools in the district are now in good sanitary condition and connected with the town water supply and main drainage system.

The Senior School in Silver Street is a modern building and serves as a central school for the Borough of Calne and surrounding villages.

## HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1938.

### 1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	245
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	299
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. ...	49
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	50
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ...	23
(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. ...	17

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	17
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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 ;		
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	

	(a)	By owners	...	...	—	
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners			—	
(b)		Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—				
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	—	
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:				
		(a)	By owners	...	...	—
		(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners		—	
(c)		Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936;				
	(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made			1	
	(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...		—	
(d)		Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936;				
	(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	—	
	(ii)	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 IV—Overcrowding:—

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	1
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein			1
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein			10
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	7
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	7
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases			41
(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 on which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report			—

The following is a summary up to the 31st December of the cumulative action taken under the Housing Act, 1936, and the corresponding provisions in the Housing Act, 1930.

Number of insanitary houses demolished under section 11	...	...	11
Number of persons displaced	...	...	42
Number of dwelling-houses made fit (Sections 9 to 12)	...	...	3
Number of insanitary houses demolished in anticipation of formal action under Section 11	...	...	18
Number of persons displaced	...	...	55
Number of insanitary houses closed (but not demolished) on an undertaking (which has not been cancelled) of the owner under Section 11	...	...	9
Number of persons displaced	...	...	22
Number of houses made fit as the result of Informal Notice preliminary to formal notice under Sections 9 to 12	...	...	110

As in previous years, improvements were carried out wherever possible as a result of personal interviews or letters in lieu of Informal and Statutory Notices, as this has been found to maintain a more friendly spirit and ready response.

On the 14th September Mr. S. G. Bulstrode, A.R.I.B.A., one of the Ministry of Health's Housing Inspectors, held an Inquiry at the Town Hall, relative to the appeal of four owners of 22 houses in five Clearance Areas, against the Town Council's application for confirmation of Clearance Orders in respect of these five Areas.

After hearing the evidence of the Council's Officials and of the owners and their representatives, the Inspector visited the property.

The Minister of Health confirmed each of the Clearance Orders, without modification, on the eighth day of December.

The Royal Air Force Wireless School at Yatesbury, situated some four miles to the east of the Borough, in the neighbouring Rural District, has brought a certain number of the staff into the town as residents, and, chiefly to meet this need, some thirty houses were in the course of erection by private enterprise at the close of the year.

However, this does not relieve the Town Council of their responsibility to provide houses for the working classes, and a scheme for the provision of a further 56 houses, at North End, was well in hand at the close of the year.

This number includes those required to replace the dispossessed tenants under the Council's five Clearance Orders, referred to above.

The number of Council houses will then be 289, including 13 bungalows for old-age pensioners. In addition to this, the Council own seven other houses and are interested in 71 houses on which subsidies have been granted under the Housing Acts of 1923 and 1924, and 11 in respect of which loans have been granted under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts (which the Council adopted in 1937); so that the Council are financially interested, either directly or indirectly, in no less than 25% of the total number of houses in the district.

### **Rent and Mortgage Interest and Restrictions Act, 1923**

No application for a Certificate under this Act was received during the year.

## **INSPECTION AND PROVISION OF FOODS.**

### **A. Milk Supply : -**

There is an ample supply of pure and wholesome milk available.

The milk shops generally, are kept clean and sanitary, and the cans, vehicles, &c. for distributing milk are kept in good order.

There is one producer of Accredited Milk, in the district, one retailer is licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk, one to bottle and sell Accredited Milk, and one retailer is licensed to sell Pasteurized milk produced in a neighbouring district.

Milk is supplied daily, during sessions, to the Secondary School, Senior, Junior and Infant Schools in the town, by a farmer in the adjoining Rural district.



No action has been required as regards tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle. No tuberculous person, so far as is known, is employed in the milk trade.

There are six cowkeepers in the district and the number of cows normally in milk is about 80.

**B. Meat :—**

Meat inspection has been carried out regularly throughout the year and the weight of meat condemned was 16 cwts., all voluntarily surrendered. About 30 per cent of the carcasses slaughtered are inspected

By arrangement with Messrs. C. & T. Harris (Calne) Ltd., any condemned carcasses of meat or parts thereof, either seized or voluntarily surrendered in the Borough, are destroyed at their By-products plant.

In the district there is one of the largest firms of wholesale butchers in the West of England, who regularly send meat, chiefly veal, to Smithfield Market.

The Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, has been carefully observed. The Council have by resolution, made Section 1 applicable to sheep.

There are 22 Licensed slaughtermen in the district.

Shops and vehicle for the sale or conveyance of meat are frequently inspected.

There are two Registered and three Licensed slaughter-houses in the district, but no public slaughter-house or knacker's yard.

Mr. C. H. Ducksbury, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M., acts as a whole time Veterinary Inspector of animals slaughtered at the Bacon Factories. The animals are inspected both before and after slaughter. He performs his duties with the utmost care, and all diseased carcasses or parts of carcasses are condemned. A weekly report of all condemned meat is sent to the Medical Officer of Health.

There is no Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Calne Market has been approved as a Certification Centre for the grading and sale of Fat Cattle under the Livestock Industry Act, 1937.

**C. Other Foods :—**

Other premises, such as bakehouses, provision stores, etc. where food is prepared or sold, have been visited from time to time and no unsatisfactory conditions were found to exist.

The County Council are the responsible authority under the various Food and Drug, etc., Acts.

No case of food poisoning has been reported.

One 6-lb. tin of Jellied veal, 3 6-lb. tins of corned beef and one 4-lb. tin pressed pork, were destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

## **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

**Infectious Diseases Generally :—**

Examinations of Swabs, Blood and Sputum, are paid for by the Authority, and full use is made of this arrangement.

The Dick Test for Scarlet fever and the method of immunization against Scarlet fever have not been used.

No Vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Small Pox Prevention Regulations, 1927.

The School authorities regularly notify all cases of infectious disease which occur among the school children, and the Medical Officer of Health investigates accordingly.

**Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)  
during 1938.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	1	—
Diphtheria .. ..	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	4	—	4
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—
Other diseases generally notifiable ... ..			
Other diseases notifiable locally ... ..			

**Cancer :—**

In co-operation with the Radium Centre at the Royal Infirmary, Bristol, the County Council hold Clinics at:—

- (i) The Halve, Trowbridge, at 11.0 a.m. every third Thursday.
- (ii) Swindon Victoria Hospital, at 11.0 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

**Prevention of Blindness :—**

There are no special local facilities for dealing with this.

**Tuberculosis :—**

The following Hospitals are provided by the County Council:—

(i) Winsley Sanatorium.

(ii) Harnham (Salisbury) Sanatorium.

The following table shews the notifications at the various age periods and also the mortality at the same periods :

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
15								2
25					1			
35						1		
45	1						1	
55		1						
65 and upwards					1			
	1	1			2	1	1	2

No action has been required under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient Servant,  
C. L. BROOMHEAD,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates, for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales, London 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly returns)

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Borough of Calne
<b>Rate per 1,000 population</b>					
<b>Births :—</b>					
Live ...	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	11.82
Still ...	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.21
<b>Deaths :—</b>					
All Causes ...	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	13.88
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers } ...	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Diphtheria ...	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.00
Influenza ...	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.21
<b>Notifications :—</b>					
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet fever ...	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	0.21
Diphtheria ...	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	0.00
Enteric fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas ...	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.00
Pneumonia ...	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.83
<b>Rates per 1,000 Live Births.</b>					
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	5.3	5.7	5.1	5.7	0.00
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age } ...	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	17.54
<b>Maternal Mortality :—</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.89	Not available			0.00
Others ...	2.19				0.00
Total ...	3.08				0.00
<b>Rates per 1,000 total Births (i.e. Live and Still)</b>					
<b>Maternal Mortality :—</b>					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	0.86	Not available			0.00
Others ...	2.11				0.00
Total ...	2.97				0.00
<b>Notifications :—</b>					
Puerperal Fever Puerperal pyrexia } ...	14.42	18.08	12.51	{ 3.53 15.46	0.00



