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CALNE AND CHIPPENHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

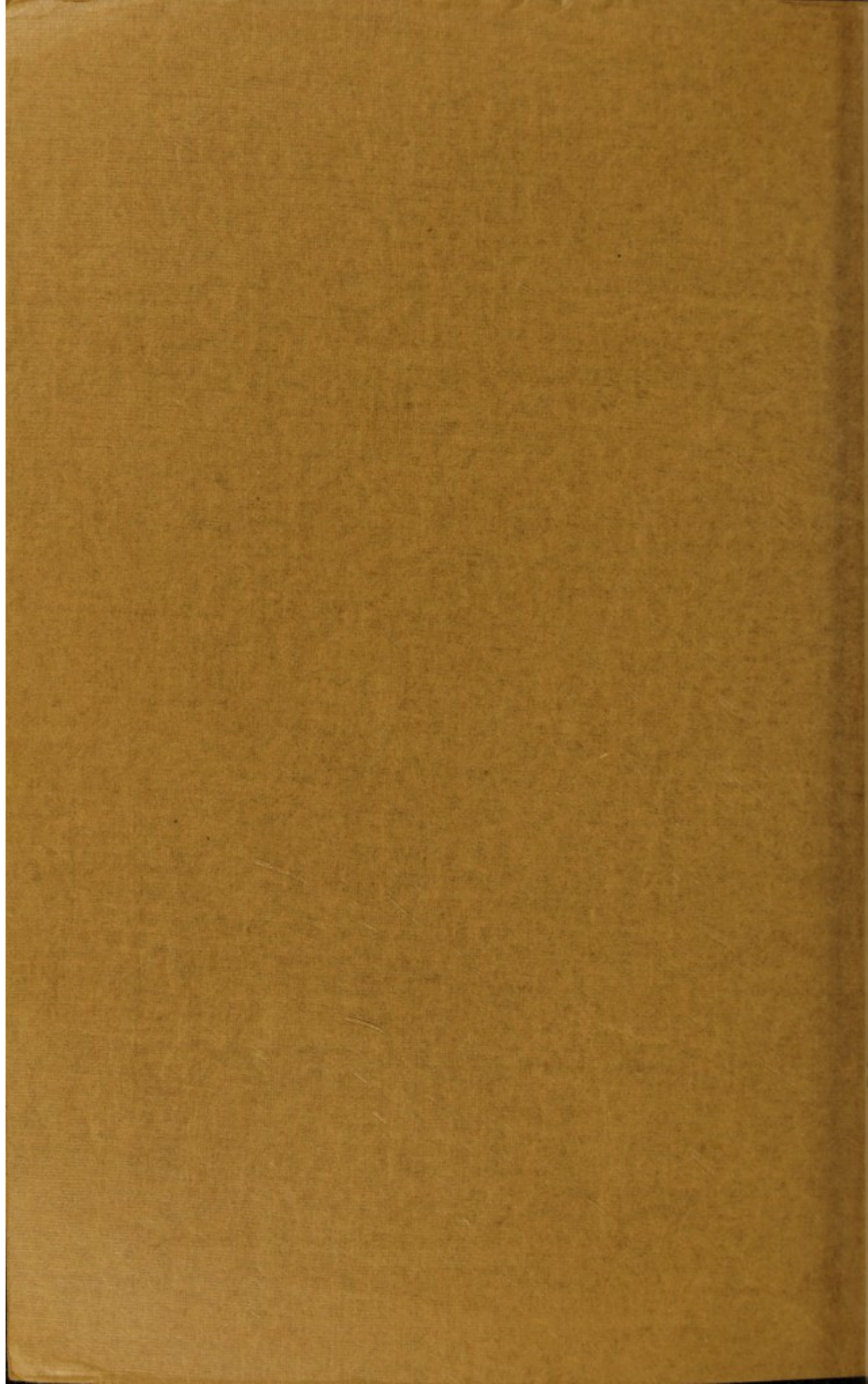
REPORT


OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER, 1937.





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Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health:—

J. B. LOWE, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
who in addition is Medical Officer of Health for
the Borough of Chippenham and Deputy C.M.O.
Wilts.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:—

E. W. STEVENS, M.R.SAN.I., F.R.I.P.H.H.,
A.M.INST.S.E.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:—

G. E. WILLIAMS, CERT.S.I.B., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

H. J. TAYLOR, CERT.S.I.B., A.R.SAN.I.

Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER, 1937.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Fourth Annual Report on the Public Health of the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham. The report follows the directions of Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	86,034
Population (modified figure)	...	...	18,000
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1937 according to Rate Books)	...	...	5,484
Rateable value (1st April, 1938)	...	...	£76,509
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£332

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture, stone quarrying at Box and Corsham, and glove making in Corsham.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	
Live Births—Legitimate	252	130	122	Birth Rate 14.5
" Illegitimate	10	7	3	
Still Births	9	3	6	Rate per 1,000 total Births—34.3
Deaths	247	120	127	Death Rate 10.8
Deaths from puerperal causes	{			from sepsis—0.0 from other causes—2.0

Death Rate of Infants, under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	19.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Births	19.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0.0
„ from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.0
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0.0
Deaths from Influenza	1936 1937
„ „ Respiratory Diseases (19, 20, 21)	6 14
„ „ Cancer	19 17
„ „ Diseases of Heart and Blood Vessels (15, 16, 17, 18)	35 33
	102 100

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided at Salisbury Infirmary by the County Council and include examination of clinical material (sputum, swabs, etc.) During the year 63 specimens were examined, an increase of 24 over the number examined last year. The increase is partly accounted for by the use of the laboratory facilities on the occurrence of a few cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For Infectious Diseases. Chippenham Isolation Hospital garage their own ambulance adjoining the Hospital premises.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases, application should be made to :—The Matron, Cottage Hospital, Chippenham (Chippenham 2231) Borough of Chippenham Ambulance.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.* This service is provided by the District Nursing Associations.

(b) *Infectious Diseases.* The nurses of these Associations are not available for nursing infectious diseases as they also undertake midwifery. Where, however, nursing in the home is required and is not available, admission to the Isolation Hospital can often be obtained even when the case is not one of the ordinary notifiable infectious diseases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Venereal Disease Clinics.

The Isolation Hospital, Gorse Hill, Swindon.

Men.	Wed. 6.30—8.0 p.m.	Fri. 6.0—7.0 p.m.
Women.	Mon. 5—6.30 p.m.	Fri. 2—3.30 p.m.

County Council Clinic, The Halve, Trowbridge.

Men.	Thurs. 5.30—6.30 p.m.
Women.	Tues. 5.30—6.30 p.m.

Mental Clinics.

- (1) At Trowbridge and District Hospital, Allcroft Street, held by Dr. Speer every Tuesday at 11.0 a.m.
- (2) At Victoria Hospital, Swindon, held by Dr. Leech every Monday at 2.30 p.m.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Held at Corsham Nursing Home on Wednesday mornings. This is a voluntary organisation, but the services of the Surgeon and specially trained Sister are provided by the County Council.

Infant Welfare Clinic.

At Corsham Nursing Home on the 2nd Friday afternoon of each month.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries (WILTS C.C.)

- (1) At the Halve, Trowbridge, every Wednesday from 10 to 1.
- (2) At 15, Milton Road, Swindon, every Thursday.

Eye Clinic.

Available for all Elementary and Secondary School Children and for many children under school age, this is held at the Church Hall, Chippenham.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

This is held on Tuesday at the Halve, Trowbridge. It is available for children as in the case of eye defects. An appointment is required.

Heart Clinics.

These are arranged for school children at the Public Assistance Institution when sufficient cases have been collected.

CANCER.

In co-operation with the Radium Centre at the General Hospital, Bristol, the County Council hold Clinics at

- (i) The Halve, Trowbridge at 11.30 a.m. every third Thursday.
- (ii) Swindon Victoria Hospital at 11 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month.

The function of these clinics is two-fold. In the first place for the selection of new cases suitable for treatment by Radium or Deep X-ray Therapy. This treatment is carried out at the Radium Centre at the Bristol General Hospital. In the second place they are the means by which cases which have received this treatment may be followed up and kept under observation by the Radium Officer from Bristol.

HOSPITALS.

This authority is one of those forming the Calne and Chippenham and Malmesbury Joint Isolation Hospital. The number of beds provided is 27.

During the year preliminary arrangements were discussed with a representative of the Air Ministry for the reception of cases of infectious disease from the Aerodrome at Hullavington. It has subsequently transpired that the Air Ministry has made other arrangements. The year once more was a fortunate one for notifiable infectious disease, and the capacity of the Hospital, as now constituted to deal with the enlarged area, has not yet really been tested.

**Prevalence of, and control over,
infectious and other Diseases.**

Infectious diseases fall into several groups, which it may be of interest to define.

GROUP 1.

Contains Smallpox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, and the fevers known by any of the following names: Typhus, Typhoid, Enteric or Relapsing, and includes, as respects any particular district, any infectious disease to which Part V of the Public Health Act 1936 has been applied by the Local Authority (in this district however no additional diseases have been so included by the Council). This group of diseases is defined by the Public Health Act 1936 as "notifiable" diseases, and is subject to the penalty clauses of Part V of the Act. It is to be observed that, while "notifiable" diseases must be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, there are other infectious diseases not in the group defined by the Act as "notifiable," which nevertheless have to be notified.

GROUP 2.

Includes Cerebro-spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Polio-encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Lethargica, Malaria, Dysentery, Acute Primary Pneumonia, Acute Influenzal Pneumonia and Puerperal Pyrexia. These diseases although not falling within the "notifiable" group given above yet require notification to the Medical Officer of Health. The legal requirements of this group are set out in a series of Public Health Regulations originally made by the Ministry of Health empowered by Sec. 130 of the Public Health Act of 1875, the functions of which section have been replaced by Sec. 143 of the Public Health Act of 1936.

GROUP 3.

Contains only Ophthalmia Neonatorum. This disease must now be notified by the practitioner in charge to the County Medical Officer and not to the Medical Officer of Health of this district.

GROUP 4.

"Infectious Disease" mentioned in the Public Health Act of 1936 is not defined, and into this group presumably fall Measles, Mumps, Whooping Cough, German Measles and Chickenpox.

It should be noted that "Primary Pneumonia" means any Pneumonia which is not secondary and includes Primary Broncho-pneumonia as well as Lobar Pneumonia, that "Puerperal Fever" has ceased to exist and that the cases formerly notified as this disease should be included under the term Puerperal Pyrexia, while the expression "Continued Fever" has vanished altogether.

There was a slight increase in the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever, and 19 cases out of the total of 23 notified were treated in hospital. There were no return cases or deaths; most of the cases occurred in Corsham, Box and Colerne during the summer and autumn.

Only two cases of Diphtheria occurred which both recovered in hospital, but there was one fatal case of Streptococcal Membranous Croup, a disease fortunately rare in this district.

Pneumonia, responsible for 12 notifications, shows some increase. It may be emphasised again that the notifiable varieties are any primary pneumonia.

One very severe and in the end fatal case of Typhoid Fever (*B. Typhosus*) occurred. The patient returned from a holiday in Ireland to her home ill and became almost at once too ill to move to the Isolation Hospital. The nursing of a case of severe typhoid fever like this one in a private house must always cause great anxiety to those responsible for the prevention of the spread of disease, and in this case her home was in a private mental institution. The instructions issued with a view to preventing spread were most loyally carried out in the institution and supervised by the practitioner in charge of the case, and it only remains for me to express my deep regret that the expert attention and nursing given the patient were unable to save her life.

The other case was one of Paratyphoid Fever notified from a hospital outside the area, no cause for which could be traced.

Influenza spread through the district in epidemic form in the first three months of the year and the schools were closed on this account in the following villages :—Kington Langley, Sutton Benger, Lacock, Kington St. Michael, Seagry, Yatton Keynell, Christian Malford, Hilmarton, Cherhill, Heddington, Derry Hill, Bremhill, Compton Bassett and Yatesbury. There were many cases also at Box.

Mumps required the closure of East Tytherton school in the same term and was also prevalent in Hilmarton, Lacock, Yatesbury, West Tytherton and Castle Combe later in the year. There was no Measles.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	23	19	0
Diphtheria	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0
Pneumonia	18	7	2
Erysipelas	5	3	0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	2	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS
(NEW CASES AND MORTALITY) DURING 1937.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
7	3	0	0	3	5	1	0

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)
REGULATIONS, 1925.

No Tuberculous persons to my knowledge were employed in the milk trade.

It has not been considered advisable to exercise the powers given under Section 62 Public Health Act, 1925, for the removal to hospital or sanatorium of tuberculous persons.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. LOWE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Report on the Sanitary Conditions, Water Supplies, etc., for the year, 1937.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supplies.

BOX and CORSHAM MAIN SUPPLIES. The springs at Hungerford Wood yielded sufficient water throughout the year to enable the respective districts to enjoy a constant supply and also to afford a supply to the Corsham Water Company on sundry occasions.

The construction of the V-notch gauging chamber at Widdenham has been invaluable. It is now possible to record weekly gaugings regularly and the provision of a similar chamber to the Old Box Spring this year also permitted that spring to be gauged weekly. It is only utilised to augment the Hungerford Wood springs when the necessity arises.

The pumping plant, which has been doing more service owing to an increased demand upon the supply, has functioned satisfactorily, although it is obvious that the Engines require more attention mechanically and renewal of parts will necessarily tend to become more frequent, since the plant has been operating daily for a period of approximately seven years. Having regard to this, alterations have been effected at the Colerne Pumping Station, situated at Widdenham, whereby the 22 H.P. Engine could be employed in emergency to lift water to Rudloe, as water is not pumped to Colerne every day.

A supply was afforded to the Bathford Parish in the Bathavon Rural District for a short period.

BOX (WASHWELLS). This supply has been copious throughout the year and it has not required any special attention. It is connected with the Rudloe-Kingsdown main, so that it can be augmented during periods of drought.

BOX (TOWNSEND). Except for the cleansing of the reservoir and the clearing of undergrowth, etc., at the end of the year, no other supervision has been necessary. It can also be augmented, if the occasion arises, by the Rudloe-Kingsdown main.

BOX (MIDDLEHILL). No difficulty has been experienced with the water supply in this area during the year.

DITTERIDGE. A wind engine is employed for lifting water from a well to an elevated reservoir for affording a supply of water to this small area. The supply is usually sufficient to satisfy the demand of the consumers, but at the end of the year it became so low that it was anticipated consideration may have to be given to augmenting it from the main at Middlehill. Fortunately, however, the well recovered somewhat rapidly and there was no recurrence of the shortage.

COLERNE. The supply to this village, the source of which is at Widdenham, has now been in existence for two years and it continues to give satisfaction. New connections were made direct to Properties during the year. It is a condition that the drainage accommodation is satisfactory at the respective premises before the supply is granted, and the Medical Officer of Health investigates all applications. Apart from these private connections, stand pipes are provided throughout the village.

BIDDESTONE—SLAUGHTERFORD. This supply was maintained during the year without attention. It was augmented in 1935 by utilising surplus water from springs at the Slaughterford Paper Mills.

BREMHILL (FOXHAM). It was necessary to conserve this supply during the months of August and September by shutting off the supply at night. Otherwise, no further attention was necessary.

TYTHERTON. It is regrettable that this supply still gives cause for considerable anxiety.

In the preceding year, the $1\frac{1}{2}$ " distributing main from the reservoir was relaid, 3" Cast Iron Pipes being used, and this enabled the village to enjoy a more satisfactory supply, the quantity as well as the pressure being increased.

Thus it was unfortunate that during the latter months of the year the supply became troublesome again and the water could be afforded only during specified hours. The intermittent supply was still in existence at the end of the year.

It is not uncommon for difficulties to recur on this supply and it is perplexing, as well as inconvenient, for those who have to depend upon the supply. This state of affairs emphasises only too well the expediency of the Regional Water Scheme.

CHIPPENHAM WITHOUT. The laying of a 3" cast iron main from the Borough's main at Rowden Hill to the New Inn, Bath Road, was completed during the year. This was laid so as to dispense with the 1" pipe, which was totally inadequate for the Properties served along this road. The inclusive cost of this new main was £379.

REGIONAL SCHEME. This proposal, a Scheme which is projected for affording an adequate water supply to the following Parishes—

Bremhill (part of)
 Castle Combe
 Christian Malford
 Grittleton
 Kington Langley
 Kington St. Michael
 Sutton Benger
 Yatton Keynell

was being actively proceeded with at the close of the year.

The borehole at Nettleton was abandoned in preference for the supply offered by the Chippenham Borough Council. The Scheme provides for the reception of the water by the District Council at Yewstock from whence it will be distributed to the respective Parishes, the estimated cost of the total works being £46,760.

The hope is expressed that the proposals will have the approval of the Ministry of Health early in 1938, so that the Scheme, which has been in abeyance for so long, will be in actual construction and advancement during the ensuing year.

Number of Water Samples Submitted for Analysis and Results.

Parish	Source	Fit	Unfit	Sus- pect	Number of Properties Served
Box	Hungerford Wood Spr'gs Old Box Spring	2 1	— —	— —	Corsham & Box Public Supply Augments Box & Corsham Public Supplies
Bremhill	1 Spring 4 Springs	— 4	1 —	— —	1 2 Tytherton Public Supply 2 Foxham Public Supply
Calne Without Cherhill	1 Well 1 Borehole	1 1	— —	— —	1 Proposed Council Houses
Christian Malford	1 Borehole 1 Well	1 —	— —	— 1	4 Proposed Council Houses
Colerne	1 Spring 2 Wells	1 —	— 1	— 1	Estate Houses 5
Compton Bassett	1 Well	1	—	—	1
Hilmarton	1 Spring 1 Well	1 —	— 1	— —	1 Proposed Council Houses
Lacock	Springs at Lockswell	2	—	—	Corsham Water Company's Supply
Sutton Benger	6 Wells	4	1	1	6
	26	19	4	3	

All samples for Bacteriological Examination and Chemical Analysis are sent to the Pathological Department, Salisbury General Infirmary.

New Water Services.

Total number of premises connected to the Council's mains during the year 1937 :—

Parish.

Box	...	27
Bremhill	...	2
Chippenham Without	...	5
Colerne	...	10
Corsham	...	19
Kington Langley	...	9
Kington St. Michael	...	3
Langley Burrell Without		1
		<hr/> 76

Water Supplies Data.

Reservoirs	Capacity	
	Gallons	
Existing reservoir at Widdenham	...	30,000
Reconstructed reservoir at ditto	...	9,000
New reservoir at ditto	...	40,500
		<hr/> 79,500
Elevated reservoir at Colerne	...	20,000
High level tank at Rudloe	...	28,800
2 low level tanks at Rudloe	...	42,000
Old reservoir at Kingsdown	...	8,500
New reservoir at Kingsdown	...	10,400
		<hr/> 18,900
Break pressure reservoir at Kingsdown	...	2,500
Reservoir at Middlehill		6,000
„ „ Ditteridge		7,350
„ „ Washwells		16,500
„ „ Yewstock		13,400
„ „ Foxham (large)		20,050
„ „ „ (small)		2,625
		<hr/> 22,675
„ „ Tytherton (large)		21,250
„ „ „ (small)	...	2,131
„ „ „ (Fry's)		2,200
		<hr/> 25,581

Widdenham Pumping Station.

Engines			Pumps		
	No.	B. H.P.		Delivery	No.
<i>Box and Corsham Supplies.</i>					
Ruston & Hornsby Horizontal Crude Oil ...	2	28	Harland 8-stage centrifugal pumps ...	6,000 Galls. per hour	2
<i>Colerne Supply.</i>					
Ruston & Hornsby Horizontal Crude Oil ...	1	22	Harland 12-stage centrifugal pump ...	4,020 Galls. per hour	1
Auxiliary engine Lister vertical engine	1	8	Harland 7-stage centrifugal pump ...	4,020 Galls. per hour	1

Details of Water Mains. Lengths in Miles.

	6"	5"	4"	3"	2½"	2"	1½"	1"	¾"	Total all sizes
Box ...		1.06	3.57	1.31	.56	1.24	1.3	1.26	.32	10.62
Bremhill ...		—	—	.25	1.9	—	1.55	—	—	3.7
Chipp. Wt.		—	—	.75	—	—	—	—	—	.75
Colerne ...		—	1.39	.68	—	.67	—	—	—	2.74
Corsham ...		1.51	4.41	2.61	—	—	1.7	—	—	10.23
K. Langley .17		—	.44	.87	—	1.15	—	—	—	2.63
K. St. Mich.		—	.74	—	—	—	—	—	—	.74
Lgly. Bl. Wt. .64		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	.64
Pewsham ...		—	—	.36	—	—	.68	.06	—	1.10
	.81	2.57	10.55	6.83	2.46	3.06	5.23	1.32	.32	33.15

Daily Consumption.

Average Daily Consumption :

	1936	1937
Box (excluding supply from Washwells and Ditteridge)	19,243	22,757 galls.
Colerne ...	2,541	3,830 „
Corsham ...	15,639	19,313 „
Kington Langley ...	8,839	10,340 „
Kington St. Michael ...	2,431	4,225 „
Neston ...	4,770	23,599 „

Sewerage and Drainage.

Box.

MAIN SEWER OUTFALL. Periodical attention has been given to this Outfall. The works remain unaltered and having regard to the fact that their construction is not in conformity with accepted modern principles, it is worthy of observation that effluvia nuisances therefrom are uncommon. The year passed without one complaint being received.

This site is claimed to be very suitable for the growth of bat willows. Willows were planted there some years ago, but these are of little value now, owing to the lack of proper cultivation. Methods of culture are being studied and the planting of further bat willows will receive consideration during the ensuing year.

MIDDLEHILL WORKS. These works deal with a diluted sewage, as compared with the other works, owing to the addition of a large volume of storm water. The filter was reconstructed in 1933 and consists of a double-acting tipper distributing the effluent over serrated iron channels, while the filtering media is composed of blast furnace slag. A storm overflow is provided to prevent undue wear to the tipper. The filtered effluent is absorbed before it reaches the brook. Except for the usual maintenance, these works did not require any further attention.

COUNCIL HOUSES, THE LEY. These works have always functioned satisfactorily, the effluent being consistently a fair one. In consequence, the water course into which the effluent is directed, has never given cause for complaint.

Corsham.

LOW AND HIGH LEVEL WORKS. These works remain unchanged. They are obsolete, the irrigation areas must be "sewage sick," and in short the works are in such a state that only complete demolition and construction of modern works can be contemplated. The Council have been apprised of this and active steps have been taken to project a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for this Parish.

The following is a report prepared by the Medical Officer of Health upon the existing conditions and his recommendations for improvement:—

Sewage Scheme for the Parish of Corsham.

In putting forward my report upon the above, I have the advantage of having before me the Plan of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the whole Parish of Corsham which has been prepared by the Council's Engineers. This was prepared with the intention, I believe, of bringing in as much of the Parish as was reasonably possible having regard to the conformation of the land.

Following a careful study of this Map I have during the past fortnight made visits and enquiries at 44 separate points in the Parish of Corsham in order to bring my information up-to-date.

In forming an opinion of the method of disposal in any particular area, I have had in mind the idea that whether a sewer is or is not required really turns on three factors:—

- (1). If drinking water is in danger of pollution. This is very important but it usually operates only when surface wells are the source of supply. Most of Corsham is served by a pipe supply.

(2). If a nuisance or considerable inconvenience is caused by defective disposal.

(3). If there is river pollution.

For the sake of simplicity I will now refer to each section of Item 528 of the Minutes of the Water Supplies and Sanitary Committee which gives the Engineer's estimate of the Scheme.

SECTION 1.

I have no evidence of defective sewage disposal existing at the present time in this section (ABCD). If however, the building scheme in Hudswell Lane for 80 Bungalows goes through I think that such evidence would soon be forthcoming and advise, therefore, the drainage of these Bungalows by means of a sewer connecting with Paul Street. The Engineer's estimate (item 152 p. 132) of this sewer is £1,460.

SECTION 2.

In the Moorgreen area the disposal of sewage is to some extent defective at three points—(1). At Westwells slop drainage discharges into a sump at Sawyer's Field. (2). At the Drunge, Greenhill slop drainage from 3 or 4 Cottages discharges into the ditch beside the road. (3). Opposite Moor Barton Farm the drainage from a considerable portion of the Moorgreen area discharges into a swallow hole. The Moor-Green area is rather lowlying and the houses are decidedly more numerous and closer together than elsewhere in the rural part of the Parish, and while the case for laying sewers at Moorgreen is not a very strong one, I think on the whole it would be advantageous over the section lettered on the Map EFGHJKLMNOQ.

When I come to Neston West the case for sewerage over the section lettered UVWX is less strong. There is a drain into which most of the houses on both sides of the Plough Inn are connected. The discharge from this drain takes place in a wide open field opposite the Church. An unpleasant smell is noticed during the summer months. The owners have been called upon to improve matters and there is plenty of room (and a good fall) to pipe it further from the Church if they have not improved matters.

At Bakers Corner (lettered Y on the Map) a slop water drain is discharged into an old quarry. Enquiries at the cottages opposite elicited no complaints of smell at any time.

There used to be a nuisance from a ditch at Elley Green into which several houses discharged a slop water drain. This ditch was piped in by the Highway Authority towards the cost of which this Council made a contribution and now no nuisance exists. I, therefore, have no evidence of defective disposal in this part of the scheme which is lettered RST on the Map.

SECTION 3.

I have no evidence to put forward of defective sewage disposal over this portion of the Scheme lettered HH, JJ, KK, LL, MM, NN, on the Map. There used to be a nuisance from the Neston Glove Factory effluent. This has been dealt with by laying a drain from a cesspool and disposing of the effluent in a trial quarry hole.

SECTION 4.

The central portion of this Section (lettered FF, BB, CC to disposal works) is the proposed sewer down Velley Hill and the shorter portion from Coppershell. This is necessary to abate the nuisance on Mr. Jackson's Farm and I do not know of any other solution. This has been passed by the Council already, but I have not much evidence to support any of the rest of this portion of the scheme. Disposal at Gastard (AA) along the road to Lacock is the same as in the country

generally. At Linleys (EE) there used to be a nuisance from a dirty ditch. This has been piped in by the Highway Authority and completely abated. At Seven Stars there is an unsatisfactory slop drain but the owner could be made to deal with this and Mr. Stevens has the matter in hand. Halfway up Monks Lane three cottages drain their slops into surface water drains and a nuisance used to occur. In conjunction with the Highway Authority the ditch has been piped in for some way and no complaints were made to me by dwellers in the Lane. At the top of Monks Lane there used to be a nuisance from the drainage from the three cottages opposite the Pond. This has now been dealt with.

RECONSTRUCTION OF EXISTING SEWERS.

I have already reported upon the defective sewers now existing in the Urban portion of the Parish and this work seems to be the essential portion of the scheme. Coupled with reorganisation of the disposal works it is long overdue and a serious nuisance and danger to health has only been averted by close attention every week.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

For some time the existing works have been unsatisfactory. This opinion is supported by the recent letter from the County Medical Officer which refers to the sewage works at—

1. Upper Outfall.
2. Lower Outfall on Pound Pill.
3. The Works at Potley Lane (Council Houses).
4. The Works at the Gastard Council Houses at the foot of Velley Hill.

But if the whole of this scheme is not adopted some modification of the sewage works extensions should be possible and the whole of the estimate given should not be required.

CONCLUSIONS.

1. That the existing sewers be reconstructed.

2. That the sewage disposal works be modernised in conformity with the extent of the scheme which is passed by the Council in 1937.
3. That a new sewer be laid at Velley Hill and Coppershell to abate the nuisance there as passed by the Council.
4. That if a large building scheme is undertaken in Hudswell Lane this should be drained by the suggested new sewer to Paul Street.
5. That the Moor Green section omitting Pool Green and Elley Green be sewered.

Personally I should be satisfied at the present time if the work did not proceed further than this, but if the Council is anxious to sewer more of the Parish there is some evidence of unsatisfactory disposal in Neston West.

Over the rest of the area covered by the Scheme I have not been able to find evidence of unsatisfactory disposal existing.

(Signed)

J. B. LOWE,

17th February, 1937.

COUNCIL HOUSES, POTLEY LANE. These have received the usual supervision to ensure that they were kept in as good a condition as practicable. The effluent is always below the standard of purity required for discharge into streams.

With the advent of the new Sewerage Scheme, the drainage from these houses will be connected to the new sewer. Any alteration at the moment would therefore not justify the expenditure involved.

COUNCIL HOUSES, GASTARD. The small installation has functioned satisfactorily. The filtered effluent therefrom drains into an old sewer. These works will be dismantled when the new scheme is in existence.

Lacock.

MAIN WORKS. The County Medical Officer of Health reports upon the works as following:—"These works were well kept but a little humus was escaping into the effluent. The Analysts, however, report it to be of good quality."

Regarding the escape of humus, a secondary "baffle" has been provided, which has been effective.

BEWLEY LANE SCHEME. The irrigation over the land can be regarded as being satisfactory and there is no evidence of the effluent reaching the river.

Christian Malford.

COUNCIL HOUSES. Complaints have been received from time to time, respecting the emission of effluvium from the drainage disposal works. As an attempt, therefore, to mitigate the nuisance, concrete slabs have been fixed to the filter bed.

Heddington Wick.

COUNCIL HOUSES. Since the reconstruction of the drainage works serving these houses, no complaints have been received.

Yatesbury.

COUNCIL HOUSES. These works, also reconstructed during last year, have functioned satisfactorily. The ditch, into which the effluent is discharged, being near the highway, necessitates periodic cleansing, to ensure that foul conditions do not arise.

Rivers and Streams.

There was no specific case in which it was considered necessary to take any action to check the pollution of any river or stream.

Closet Accommodation.

Conversion of privy vaults to earth closets	...	15
" " " " " " water closets	...	11
" " earth closets to water closets	...	14
New earth closets	... ..	2
New water closets	... ..	58

Public Cleansing.

Until the end of March, the collection of refuse was carried out by individual Contractors. On the termination of these Contracts, the Council considered Tenders for the collection of refuse, the Contractors tendering for part of the district as before or for the whole of the district, the latter tenders to make provision for using a proper Scavenging Vehicle of an approved design.

The Council ultimately decided to employ one Contractor for this work and a specially designed Vehicle is now employed throughout the district. Complaints of nuisances therefore, which arose from the uncovered refuse on the old vehicles are thus obviated.

The only Parishes from which refuse is not collected by the Council are Castle Combe, Grittleton, Nettleton, Stanton St. Quintin and Sutton Benger.

The refuse is deposited in old quarries, disused sand pits and the like and so far as it is practicable, the refuse is covered. All the tips are attended to periodically and bait is laid for rat destruction. Occasionally the tips were treated with sulphur dioxide, the smoke testing apparatus being employed for that purpose.

Consideration was given at the end of the year to the adoption of new methods to further control the disposal of refuse, and it is anticipated that an attempt will be made during 1938 to experiment with these methods. Meanwhile, a system in operation in another Rural District is being inspected.

SUTTON BENDER. Roadside waste at Sutton Lane is still utilised for disposal of refuse by the local inhabitants. The refuse, however, is not collected, the local people depositing the refuse there themselves. As the refuse becomes level with the waste, so it is covered and the excavation made by the covering soil is ready for the deposition of the refuse.

The site will not be available much longer, as it is almost full. The method cannot be regarded as being satisfactory, but despite many efforts, a tip has not been found. Serious attention will have to be given to the collection and disposal of refuse from this Parish at an early date, owing to the filling of the existing tip.

Offensive Trades.

The only premises in this district which come under this category, are three fish frying premises, situate at Box Corsham and Colerne. Complaints were not received during the year of any nuisance arising therefrom and they appear to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Rag and Flock Acts, 1911 and 1923.

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

Rat and Mice (Destruction) Acts.

Investigations are made, when complaints are addressed to the Sanitary Department of this Authority regarding rat infestation and suggestions are offered as to the most suitable bait to use and the methods to adopt. The obligation, however, is upon the occupier, to rid his premises of rats and due notice can be served upon him under the Acts for this purpose.

During the year under review, the refuse tips in this district have been baited with a proprietary rat poison, while the National Rat Week is supported by more extensive baiting and also by employing the sulphur dioxide method for rat extermination.

Factories, Workshop and Workplaces.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	6	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	3	3	—
Workplaces (other than) Outworkers' Premises ...	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	9	4	—

Except for stone quarrying at Box and Corsham and glove making at Corsham, the chief occupation of the inhabitants of this district is agriculture, hence the premises which are controlled by the Factory and Workshops Act are few and the number of inspections correspondingly low.

Housing.

The information regarding Housing Statistics is set out to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, Circular 1650:—

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :</i>	1936	1937
(1)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	57	178
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	141	807
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	46	149
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	106	753
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3	7
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation	43	171
2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices—</i>		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	8	42
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—</i>		
	(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2	31
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—		
	(a) By Owners	1	7
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—	—

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :— 1936 1937

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 11 29

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... 1 —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... — —

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 1 8

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... — —

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... — —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... — —

Informal action taken under Public Health Acts.

Number of houses inspected under the Public Health Acts ... 11 29

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 6 29

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of informal notices ... 10 24

Number in hand at end of year ... — 5

4. **Housing Act, 1936-Part-IV-Overcrowding.**

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	1936	1937
					83	77
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	...		86	78
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...		570	470
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	—	2
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	2	8
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	16	63
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	—	—
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	—	—

Housing Resumé.

It was possible to concentrate more upon the systematic inspection of houses during the year under review, than in the preceding year.

On referring to the Statistics, it will be observed that not one of the houses surveyed was found "to be in all respects reasonable fit for human habitation." While some required only a nominal amount of repairs, many others were recorded as having a formidable list of defects, the cost of which in seven cases made the houses incapable of being repaired at a reasonable cost. This caused them to be represented as unfit and subsequently to be demolished, unless the respective Owners gave an undertaking to render the houses fit in strict conformity with the Council's specification, regardless of the exorbitant cost.

It may not be amiss to mention at this juncture, that the expenditure thus involved and also the risk of having the houses demolished could be avoided if Owners diligently maintained their houses annually. The failure on their part to do so often results in the service of Statutory Notices and this procedure is so fatal to speedy and harmonious progress.

An appreciable number of Owners have availed themselves of the opportunity to apply for grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, which are administered by the County Council. In every instance the latter Authority has asked the local Authority to supply a Schedule of repairs required under the Housing Act, 1936, so that these can be incorporated in any Scheme for reconditioning a house under the former acts. In addition to this, the Chairman of the Housing Committee, as well as the Official concerned, are always invited to attend the Sub-Committee of the County Council, when they inspect the Properties for reconditioning. This, assuredly, is a most satisfactory procedure and the close co-operation of the County Council Housing Sub-Committee is welcomed and greatly appreciated.

The total number of houses which have been reconditioned in this district under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts to the 31st December, 1937 is 40.

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN DURING 1937 RESPECTING HOUSES INSPECTED IN PRECEDING YEARS.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by Owner	...	...	52
Number of houses completed by Council	...	...	—
Number of houses demolished	...	...	2

Council Houses.

The Council has built 174 houses, situated in the following Parishes:—

Parish	No.
Box	22
Bremhill	4
Calne Without	20
Cherhill	12
Christian Malford	10
Compton Bassett	4
Corsham	52
Heddington	6
Hilmarton	6
Kington Langley	12
Lacock	18
Sutton Benger	8
	<hr/>
	174

The execution of repairs to Council Houses has fallen during the year. This is accounted for by the absence of works of any magnitude and a decrease in the sundry repairs required. Furthermore, the amount of expenditure on drainage disposal systems has fortunately been reduced, as it was not necessary to reconstruct any of these, and only periodic attention was required.

During this year, external painting was carried out to the following Council House schemes:—

Box			
Barn Piece	...	...	12 houses
Bremhill			
Charlcutt	...	...	4 „
Cherhill			
Nolands	...	...	4 „
Cherhill Village	...	...	4 „
Christian Malford	...	...	6 „
Compton Bassett	...	...	4 „
Corsham			
Gastard	...	...	6 „
Sutton Benger			
Seagry	...	...	8 „
			<hr/>
			48 houses

All the painting was carried out by contract, tenders being invited for this purpose.

Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act, 1923.

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

New Buildings, etc.

Forty new dwellings were erected by private enterprise during the year, in addition to other miscellaneous buildings and additions, which were distributed amongst the various parishes as follows:—

Parish	New Dwelling houses	Alterations and additions to existing houses	Garages	Miscel- laneous
Biddestone ...	—	—	—	—
Box ...	3	2	4	6
Bremhill ...	—	1	—	2
Calne Without ...	2	1	—	—
Castle Combe ...	—	—	—	—
Cherhill ...	1	1	—	4
Chippenham Without	—	—	—	2
Christian Malford	4	—	—	—
Colerne ...	1	2	—	—
Compton Bassett ...	2	—	2	2
Corsham ...	22	1	3	12
Grittleton ...	—	—	—	—
Heddington ...	—	—	—	—
Hilmarton ...	—	3	—	—
Kington Langley ...	1	—	1	2
Kington St. Michael	—	1	—	—
Lacock ...	1	1	1	5
Langley Burrell With't	2	1	1	—
Nettleton ...	—	—	—	—
North Wraxall ..	—	—	1	—
Pewsham ...	—	1	—	2
Stanton St Quintin	—	—	—	—
Sutton Benger ...	1	3	2	1
Yatton Keynell ...	—	—	—	—
	<u>40</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>38</u>

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

	1936	1937
Number of farms on register ...	512	516

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT.

Total number of farms inspected during the year ...	120	88
Farms requiring structural alterations, cleansing, etc. ...	59	78
Farms having structural alterations and cleansing completed ...	27	73
Farms found to be in a satisfactory condition ...	13	10
Total number of inspections ...	182	357

The number of Farms inspected and the amount of improvements effected compare favourable with that of the preceding year, when an attempt was made to speed up the routine of these inspections. Speaking generally, it can be inferred that Occupiers of Farms have been more responsive than formerly. The hope is expressed that this is indicative of a tendency for producers and Purveyors to manifest a more ardent desire to market a supply of milk having a high standard of cleanliness.

The increased number of applicants to be registered as Accredited Milk Producers is encouraging and ensures a more extensive distribution of clean milk. It is not unreasonable to conjecture that ultimately such producers will predominate, and those who are not producers of Designated Milk will experience great difficulty in soliciting customers.

It will not be amiss to reiterate that methods are as important, if not more so, than model premises. Thus, Producers cannot shield themselves from the imputation of producing a dirty milk by censuring their premises which may be much below the standard of model premises.

The provision of the Milk and Dairies Order, whereby milk has to be reduced to a lower temperature tends to be frustrated by the practice, which is not uncommon, of depositing the churns for collection in a position where they are directly exposed to the heat of the sun. This is plainly inconsistent and the discontinuance of this practice is urged. Another practice too frequently encountered, is the disposal of the manure from the cowsheds by throwing it through windows or openings of the wall. In addition to fouling the walls, the manure is deposited near the approaches, where it is often allowed to accumulate for a considerable time.

In conclusion, reference should be made again to the diversity of opinion, which continues to exist among various Authorities respecting the interpretation of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926. The hope is cherished that future legislation will be such as to remove these conflicting expositions and so promote uniformity of action.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The following are now the Special Designations for Milk :

Tuberculin Tested

Accredited

Pasteurised

Samples of Designated Milk were previously taken by this Authority, but since the 1st January of this year, the samples have been taken by Members of the Agricultural Organisers' Staff, Wilts County Council, on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

I am indebted to Supt. A. E. Ravenhall for the following information regarding the number of bovine animals which were slaughtered for tuberculosis in this district during the year under review :—

Parish	No. Slaughtered.
Biddestone	—
Box	4
Bremhill	5
Calne Without	11
Castle Combe	—
Cherhill	6
Chippenham Without	9
Christian Malford	4
Colerne	3
Compton Bassett	1
Corsham	10
Grittleton	5
Heddington	3
Hilmarton	2
Kington Langley	2
Kington St. Michael	3
Lacock	6
Langley Burrell Without	4
Nettleton	1
North Wraxall	—
Pewsham	5
Stanton St. Quintin	1
Sutton Benger	4
Yatton Keynell	1
	<hr/> 90 <hr/>

Slaughter-houses.

The number of such premises remains as heretofore i.e. 6 Registered and 4 Licensed, totalling 10.

Parish	Registered	Licensed
Box ...	1	—
Calne Without ...	—	1
Colerne ...	—	1
Corsham ...	3	—
Grittleton ...	1	1
Heddington (Knacker's Yard) ...	—	1
Lacock ...	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	6	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The structural conditions of the premises are generally satisfactory, all the premises being provided with a sufficient supply of water and drainage facilities have been adequate.

A few of the slaughterhouses were obviously not originally intended for this purpose and the position of some in relation to streets and other buildings leaves much to be desired but they are on the whole kept in a reasonable condition, and are therefore not productive of any nuisance.

During the year, 338 visits were made for the purpose of examining carcasses.

Meat and other Foods.

The extent of disease in animals slaughtered locally is shown in the table below, together with details of carcasses examined :

Carcasses	No. inspected
Bovines ...	148
Pigs ...	420
Sheep ...	166
Calves ...	9
	<hr/>
	743
	<hr/>

The following carcasses, organs etc. were condemned as being unfit for the food of man and in every case the meat was voluntarily surrendered, and, with the exception of Bovine carcasses, was burnt by the Council's employees.

Bovines.	Tuberculosis	18 heads
		7 livers
		28 sets of Lungs
		4 mesenteries
		1 forequarter
		1 hindquarter
		1 diaphragm
		1 set of intestines
	Generalised Tuberculosis	2 carcasses
	Tubercular Abscesses	1 set of Lungs
Pigs	Cirrhosis	1 liver
	Necrosis	1 liver
	Distomatosis	7 livers
	Cavernous Angioma	2 livers
	Tuberculosis	20 heads
		8 mesenteries
	Miliary Tuberculosis	1 carcass
	Generalised Tuberculosis	1 carcass
	Erysipelas	1 carcass
	Pleurisy, Peritonitis and Oedema	1 carcass
	Cerebral Gangrene	1 carcass
	Pneumonia	6 sets of lungs
	Pericarditis	5 hearts
	Echinococcus Veterinorum	1 liver
	Necrosis	2 livers
Sheep	Urticaria	1 skin
	Emphysema	2 sets of lungs
	Hydro-Nephrosis	1 kidney
	Insufficiently Bled	3 carcasses
	Strongylus Rufescens	5 sets of lungs
	Cystic	2 livers
	Cysticercus Tenuicollis	2 livers

Carcasses condemned are permitted to be sold to suitable firms for the manufacture of by-products, etc. In each case a certificate is required showing that the carcass has been received by an approved Firm. This practice, however, is not considered as being entirely satisfactory.

Consideration of this matter is receiving attention in the New Year.

Summary of Work carried out during the year 1937.

Visits to Houses in connection with Systematic		
Housing Inspections	... ..	753
Houses Repaired	... ..	101
Council House Inspections	... ..	463
New Building Inspections	... ..	491
Houses connected with water mains of Council		76
Water Samples secured for analyses	... ..	26
Waterworks, Main Extension etc., Inspections	... ..	200
Privy Vaults converted to Pail Closets	... ..	15
Privy Vaults converted to Water Closets	.. ..	11
Earth Closets to Water Closets	... ..	14
New Pail Closets	... ..	2
New Water Closets	... ..	58
New Drainage systems provided to old premises		103
Inspection of sewage works, sewer extensions		
and drainage systems	... ..	274
Inspection of Refuse Tips	... ..	85
Inspection of Farms and Dairies	... ..	357
Slaughter-house Inspections	... ..	338
Overcrowding complaints dealt with	... ..	28
Factory and Workshops Inspections	... ..	9
Notices, Letters, etc., sent out	... ..	2380
Preliminary Notices served	... ..	216
Statutory Notices served	... ..	37
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Diseases	... ..	19
Nuisances Inspections	... ..	307
Inspections under the Petroleum Act, 1926	... ..	5

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST Wm. STEVENS,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Building & Sanitary Surveyor.

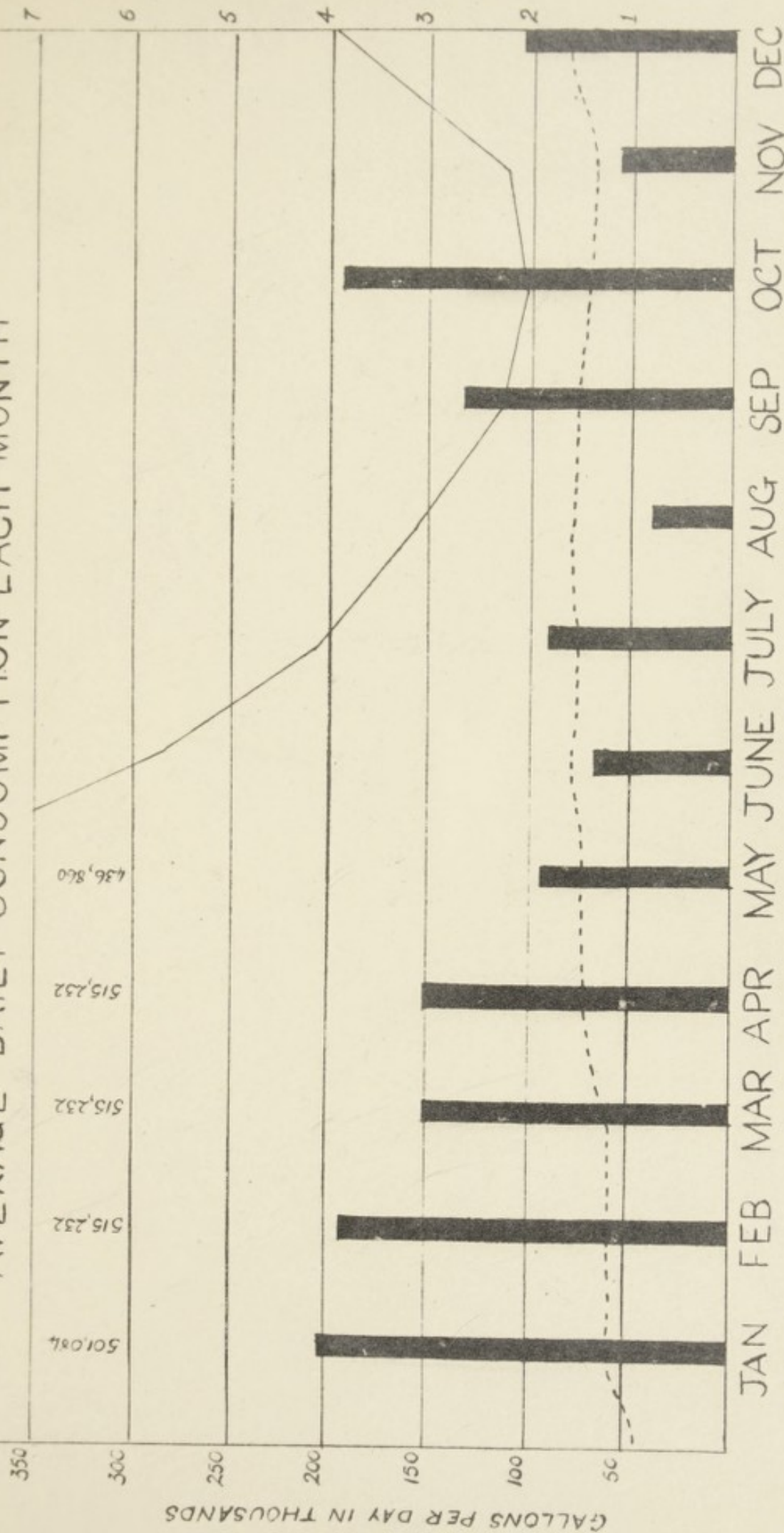
Waterworks Manager.

Summary of Work carried out during

the year 1937.

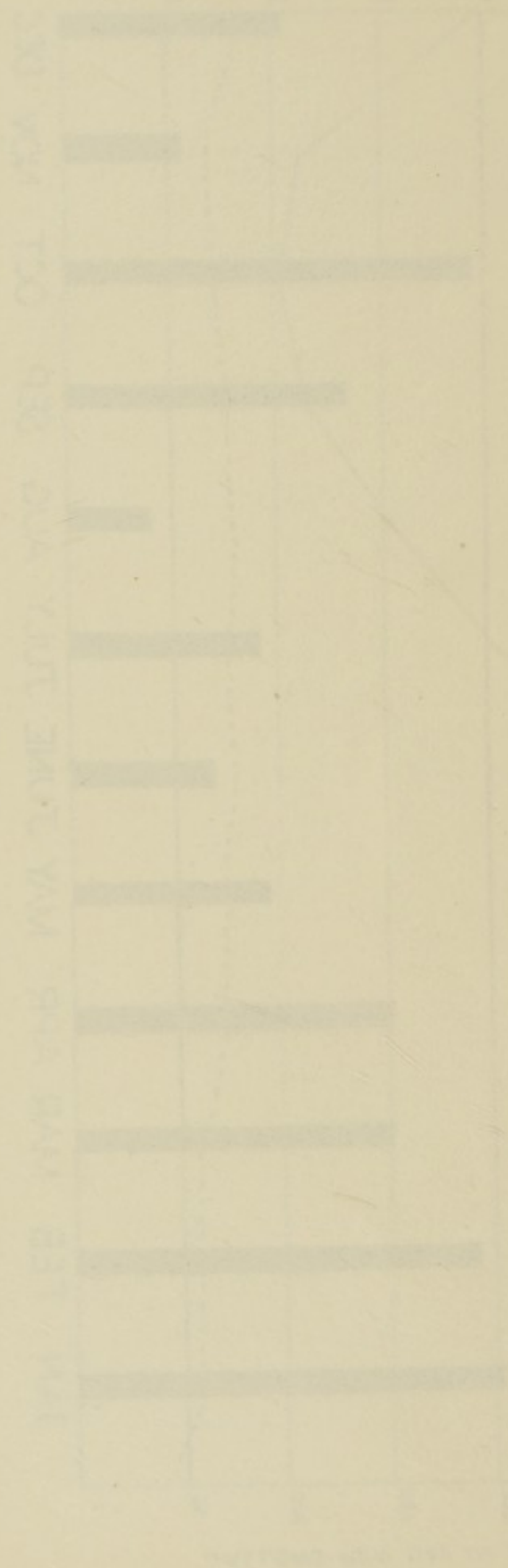
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GRAPH SHOWING YIELD OF SPRINGS AT WIDDENHAM, TOTAL MONTHLY RAINFALL IN THE DISTRICT AND DOTTED CURVE SHOWING AVERAGE DAILY CONSUMPTION EACH MONTH



1937

RAINFALL GAUGINGS WERE KINDLY
SUPPLIED BY COL. M. EARLE.



THE HISTORY OF THE
 BRITISH NAVY
 FROM THE YEAR 1603 TO 1800
 BY JAMES OUSELEY
 ESQ.
 OF THE BARRISTERS AT LAW
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