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Contributors

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1915.

Annual Report

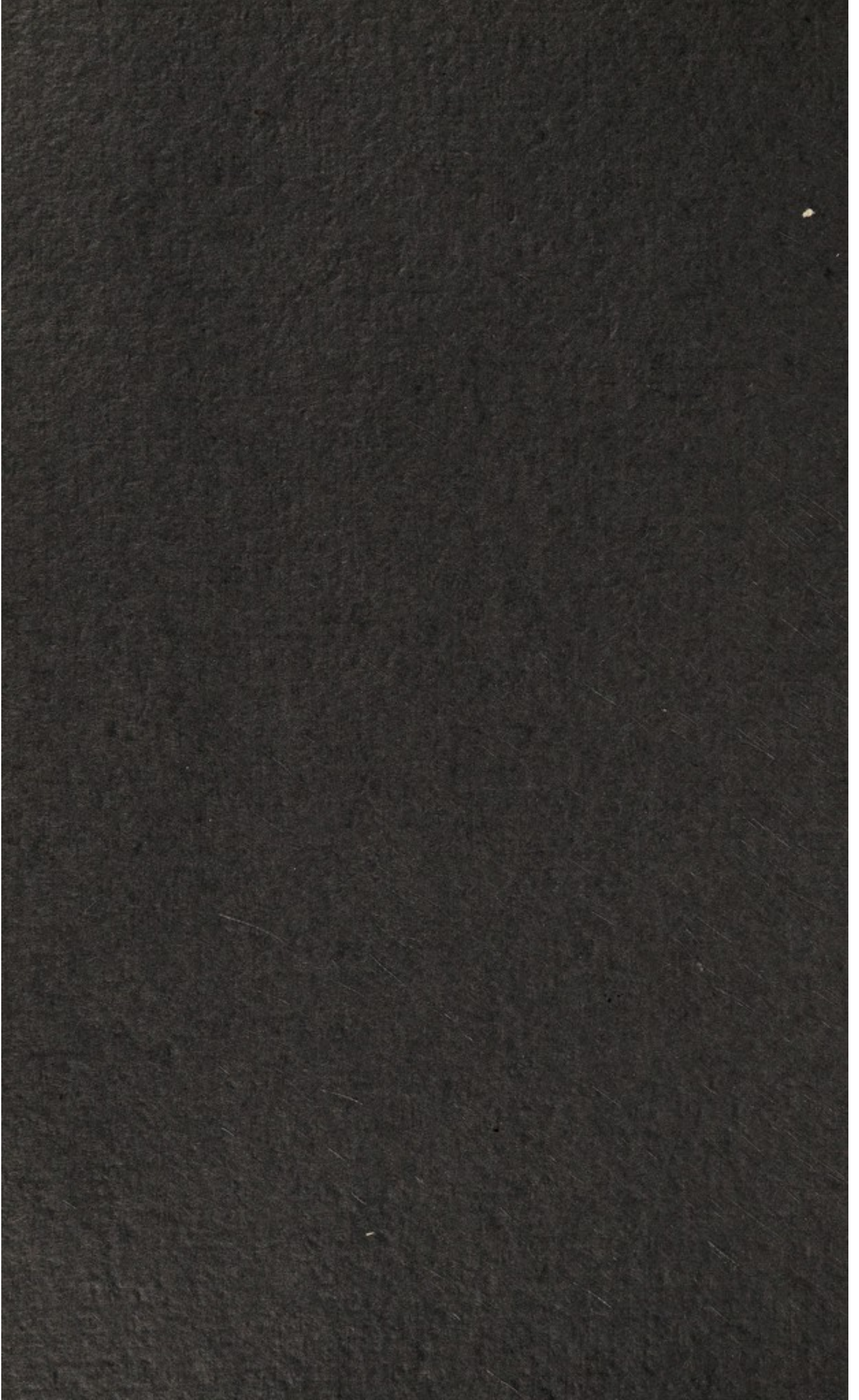
OF THE

Medical Officer

of Health

Cheltenham Rural

District.



**To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Cheltenham Rural District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1915, on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District.

On the whole, the general Health of the District has not been adversely affected by the War.

The Birth Rate 15·4 is certainly lower, but the diminished infantile mortality rate of 47·6 for the year, has tended to balance this and to maintain the average low level of the last 5 years.

Unlike what has occurred in more urban Districts, the death rate 13·0 has not increased, and is still low compared even with Districts rural in character like ours.

The check in the building of new houses still continues.

Routine work under the Housing Act has been curtailed owing to the impossibility of getting repairs carried out, otherwise the work of your officers has continued as before.

No special works have been commenced or completed nor has any bye-law been adopted with regard to ash and refuse collection and disposal.

Epidemic disease though slightly more prevalent has not been severe in character or amount.

Water supplies have been sufficient and the Sewage disposal works have been efficiently maintained.

The work of the Inspector of Nuisances though somewhat restricted has lost nothing in the thoroughness of its performance. His report is appended.

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. F. JOHNS, M.D., D.P.H.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

1 YEAR.	2 Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		3 Unrecor- Number	4 Number	5 Rate.	6 Number	7 Rate.	8 of Non-Residents registered in District	9 not registered in the District	10 Under 1 year of age	11 Rate per 1,000 net Births.	12 At all Ages. Number	13 Rate
1910	4685	97		20.5	58	12.3		5	11	138.3	63	13.4
1911	5254	89		17.3	50	9.5		11	3	32.9	61	11.6
1912	5300	99	100	18.8	51	9.6		13	7	70.0	64	12.0
1913	5350	90	91	17	62	11.5		15	6	66.0	77	14.3
1914	5440	94	94	17.2	59	10.8		11	9	95.0	70	12.7
1915	5150	81	84	15.4	55	10.6	—	12	4	47.6	67	13.0

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 18,401

Total population at all ages ...	5,254	}	At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses ...	1,239		
Average number of person per house ...	4.24		
Total families or separate occupiers ...	1,239		

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	18,401
Population at 1911 census	...	...	...	5,254
Inhabited dwellings at 1911 census	...	...	...	1,239
Average number of persons per house at 1911 census				4.4
Average number of persons per acre at 1911 census	1 to 3	$\frac{1}{2}$ acres		
Estimated average population to middle of 1915	...			5,490
Corrected estimated civil population to middle of 1915				5,150
Death rate for 1915 per 1000 living	...	...	...	13.0
Birth rate for 1915 per 1000 living	...	...	...	15.4
Infantile mortality per 1000 births registered in 1915				47.6

Population.

Owing to circumstances connected with the War, the civil population instead of a normal estimation of 5,490 is reduced to 5,150, and it is on this estimate that the death-rates are calculated.

The actual increase for the year in the excess of births over deaths is only 17.

Births.

The births registered in the District were 81, and 3 others were registered outside. The total for the District being 84, of which 51 were males and 33 females. Thirty males and 21 females were registered in the first half of the year, 21 males and 12 females in the latter half.

Of those registered 5 were illegitimate, 4 males and 1 female.

The percentage of illegitimates was roughly 6% of the total births.

Birth-rate. The birth-rate is calculated on the estimated population for 1914, and is 15·4 per 1,000.

Year by year the birth-rate in the District is falling, and this year's rate is the lowest yet recorded.

Infantile Mortality. Only 4 infants died in the first year of life, and one of these was a prematurely-born child. The mortality rate for the year is 47·6 per 1,000 nett births.

None of the deaths were of illegitimate children. Excluding the prematurely born, the infantile mortality from preventible causes is as low as 35·7.

Deaths. The deaths of 67 residents in the District were registered. Of these, 12 died outside the registration area and 55 within it.

Of those dying, 33 were males, 34 were females, and of the total 15 were over 80 years of age, 12 were over 70, and 14 over 60.

Excluding the 4 infants under 1 year, there were only 8 deaths under 20 years of age.

The average age at death of males was 63, and of females 75.

Death-rate. The death-rate at all ages and at all causes was 13·0 per 1,000 living.

The true death-rate of 12·4 from preventible causes excludes the deaths by accident and those of children prematurely born.

Infant Mortality.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes { Certified		1		1	2				2	4
{ Uncertified										
Small-Pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet fever										
Whooping-Cough								1		1
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
{ Tuberculous Meningitis										
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)										
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)										
Convulsions										
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms)		1			1					1
{ Diarrhœa										
{ Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at birth										
Atelectasis										
{ Congenital Malformations (c)										
{ Premature birth				1	1					1
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus										
Other Causes								1		1
TOTALS		1		1	2				2	4

Nett Births registered during the calendar year	{	legitimate 79	{	illegitimate 5		Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year of	{	legitimate infants 4	{	illegitimate infants 0
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CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.										TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON-RESIDENTS" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All Causes { Certified	67	4	1	3	4	1	4	9	4	1	
{ Uncertified											
Enteric Fever											
Small Pox											
Measles	1				1						
Scarlet Fever											
Whooping Cough	1	1									
Diphtheria and Croup	2				1	1					
Influenza											
Erysipelas	1							1			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5						3	1	1		
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Other Tuberculous Diseases											
Cancer—Malignant Disease	2									2	
Rheumatic Fever	1				1						
Meningitis											
Organic Heart Disease	8							1	7		
Bronchitis	10							1	9		
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	1	1					3	1		
Other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs											
Diarrhoea and Enteritis											
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2			1	1						
Cirrhosis of Liver											
Alcoholism											
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1							1			
Puerperal Fever											
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition											
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	1	1									
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2						1		1		
Suicides											
Other Defined Diseases'	16	1						1	14		
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	8			2					6		
	67	4	1	3	4	1	4	9	4	1	

Military
Deaths

The deaths of four soldiers occurred in the various hospitals in the District and are not included in the statistics. The deaths of 2 others, residents of the District, occurred and were registered in areas outside the District.

The deaths and ages of soldiers non-residents which were registered in the District were from Cancer, aged 51; Fracture of Skull and Septic Meningitis aged 31; Nephritis aged 34; Pneumonia aged 30. Those deaths of soldiers, residents of the District that occurred outside the District, were from Influenza aged 23, and Cerebro Spinal Meningitis aged 22.

Cancer.

Cancer of various forms caused the deaths of 2 residents only. Both were females, one aged 82 and the other 73. Both deaths occurred in one of the low-lying parishes.

The death-rate from Cancer was .3 per 1,000 at all ages living, and the percentage of deaths from this cause of the total number of deaths over one year of age was 3.1.

Phthisis.

Five deaths resulted from Pulmonary Phthisis. One was of a male aged 25, and the others were of females aged 51, 40, 25, 69 respectively.

Three of the deaths occurred in the hill parishes and two in the low-lying parishes.

The percentage of deaths from Phthisis of the total number of deaths over 1 year of age was 7.9, with a mortality rate of .9 per 1,000 of all ages living.

No deaths were registered of any Tuberculous disease other than Phthisis.

Diseases of
Respiratory
Organs.

Ten deaths were attributed to Bronchitis and 6 to Pneumonia. Of the persons dying from Bronchitis 9 were over 65 years of age. Six were males and 4 females.

Of those dying of Pneumonia, 2 were of young infants.

The death-rate from Pulmonary affections was 1·9 per 1,000 at all ages living, with a percentage of 14·9 of the total number of deaths registered for the District.

Diseases of
the Vascular
Organs.

From organic Heart Disease 8 persons died, 7 of whom were old people, while 9 others died from Cerebral Hemorrhage or other maladies the result of vascular degenerations. These 9 deaths form a large proportion of the 16 tabulated under the heading of "other defined diseases."

The total of 17 gives a death-rate of 3·2 per 1,000 living at all ages, and a percentage of 25·3 of the total number of deaths.

Zymotic
Diseases.

One death resulted from Measles, 1 from Whooping Cough and 2 from Diphtheria.

One elderly person died from Erysipelas.

The mortality rate from Zymotic diseases was ·77 per 1,000 living.

Infectious
Diseases.

A mild outbreak of Scarlet Fever beginning at the end of 1914 continued on into the beginning of 1915. Twenty-four cases occurred affecting 13 houses. Of these 22 were removed to hospital for isolation and treatment.

Twelve cases of Diphtheria were notified and of these 7 were removed to hospital.

In all cases the various houses were disinfected by smoke and spray, and where possible bedding, &c., was baked at the Council's expense.

At present the Council has not any means under direct control for effective baking and disinfection of bulky articles. It is undertaken on request and at ordinary rates by the Urban Council.

It is to be hoped that in the near future the Council will have means provided whereby such disinfection may be carried out under your own control for this purpose, as house disinfection cannot be considered complete without such means.

Of the infectious cases, 4 died as recorded.

Tuberculosis.

Five notifications in first instance of Tuberculosis were received, and during the year 5 fatal cases were registered.

Vaccination.

From returns furnished by the Vaccination Officer it appears that 77 births were registered. 28 infants were successfully vaccinated, 2 died unvaccinated and 50 escaped vaccination on the grounds of the parents' conscientious objection.

The percentage of unvaccinated children continues to increase. For the present year the percentages stand at 36.3% for the vaccin-

ated and 64·8% for the unvaccinated of the total registration for the year.

Hitherto beds set apart in a separate block of buildings at the Delancey Hospital for Small Pox have satisfied all needs of the District. Under new regulations a separate hospital for Small Pox cases must be provided. In the event of a severe outbreak of Small Pox, considerable expense would be incurred. Should such a deplorable event occur, it would be fitting that the increased burden of taxation should directly fall on the conscientious objector.

Sanitary
Administra-
tion of the
District.

The routine work has continued without interruption. Fewer inspections have been made under the Housing Act, and only such repairs have been ordered as were absolutely necessary to public health. It is found impossible to secure labour for the more structural repairs.

Such bakehouses and other premises and occupations controlled by bye-laws and regulations have been visited and minor defects pointed out and remedied without recourse to legal orders.

Cowsheds have received regular attention. Owing to the thoroughness with which structural alterations have conformed to Regulations, there has been little left to do beyond the routine inspection.

There is now no Veterinary Inspection of herds, a retrograde step, which in my opinion is to be regretted, as much good was demonstrably done during such time as the Council sanctioned such Inspections.

There has been no alteration of Sewerage or Water Systems. Occasional water supplies have been analysed, and the supplies under the control of the Council have been satisfactory.

Epidemic disease led to more disinfection of houses. The need of a disinfector under the control of the Council for big beddings, &c., makes itself more felt.

No further bye-laws have been made. After a Public Meeting at Prestbury it was determined to continue the ash and refuse collection in that parish by private contract not under the control of the Council. It remains to be seen whether the result will for long prove to be satisfactory.

Schools have been in every case inspected and some necessary improvements pointed out to the managers and undertaken.

There have been and still are in the District 3 buildings adapted and used for Military Hospitals. The Racecourse Hospital at Prestbury, with accommodation for 120 and upwards, needed further extension of the sewage disposal system. This has been undertaken by the Military Authorities. Leckhampton Court, with accommodation for 70

beds: details of ventilation, drainage, and sewage and water storage were satisfactorily carried out. Staverton Vicarage, with accommodation for 20 beds. In all cases there are satisfactory sanitary arrangements, and no nuisances have been reported.

No new houses have been erected; some additions to existing dwellings only have been made.

The combining of the offices of Building Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances continues to work smoothly.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances and Building Surveyor.

Housing.

- (a) Number of plans for new houses approved, 4. additions to 2 houses
 (b) „ „ houses built, 0.
 (c) „ „ houses for which Water
 Certificates were granted under Section
 6, Public Health (Water) Act, 1875.
- (2) What forms of records have been adopted
 (a) For use in inspecting Cards
 (b) For permanent records Register.
 (c) For presentation to Council „
- (3) What areas were inspected during 1915.
- (4) (1) Number of houses inspected 12.
 (2) „ „ with defects for
 which notices were necessary. 12.
 (3) Number of houses for which notices
 were served. 12.
 (a) Under Sec. 15, Housing, Town
 Planning, etc. Act 1909. 12.
 Number remedied 12.
- (4) (a) Number of houses unfit for habitation 1.
 (b) „ made habitable without
 closing orders. 12.
- (5) Number of representations made to
 District Council. 12.
 Number of cases of overcrowding
 reported. 2. Number abated 2.
 Number of houses cleansed on notice 6.

Water Supply.

- Number of new connections with public
 supply. 1.
 Number of Samples taken for examination. 1.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Number of houses in each parish newly connected with sewers.	0.
„ of W.C.'s newly supplied with flushing cisterns.	2.
„ of earth closets, pail closets or improved privies constructed.	5.
„ of notices served to empty "Privy Vaults."	2.
„ of privy vaults abolished.	2.

Numbers Inspected of each of the following :

	No. on Register.	Inspected.	Total of Inspections.
(a) Common Lodging houses.			
(b) Slaughter houses.	1	1	4
(c) Bakehouses	4	4	8
(d) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops.	31	31	52
(e) Canal Boats.			
(f) Workshops.			
(g) Residences of out-workers.	0		

General.

(a) Number of complaints received.	39
(b) Number of nuisances reported to District Council.	(1) Total 37
	(2) Swine 2
(c) Total number of nuisances abated	34
(d) „ „ „ preliminary notices served.	16
(e) „ „ „ Statutory Notices served	1
(f) „ „ „ Summonses taken out	0
(g) „ „ „ Convictions	0

Infectious Diseases.

(a) Number of cases visited and reported on	
(b) „ „ „ houses in which cases occurred	26
(c) „ „ „ disinfected	26
(d) Methods of disinfection used	Lamp and Syringe

