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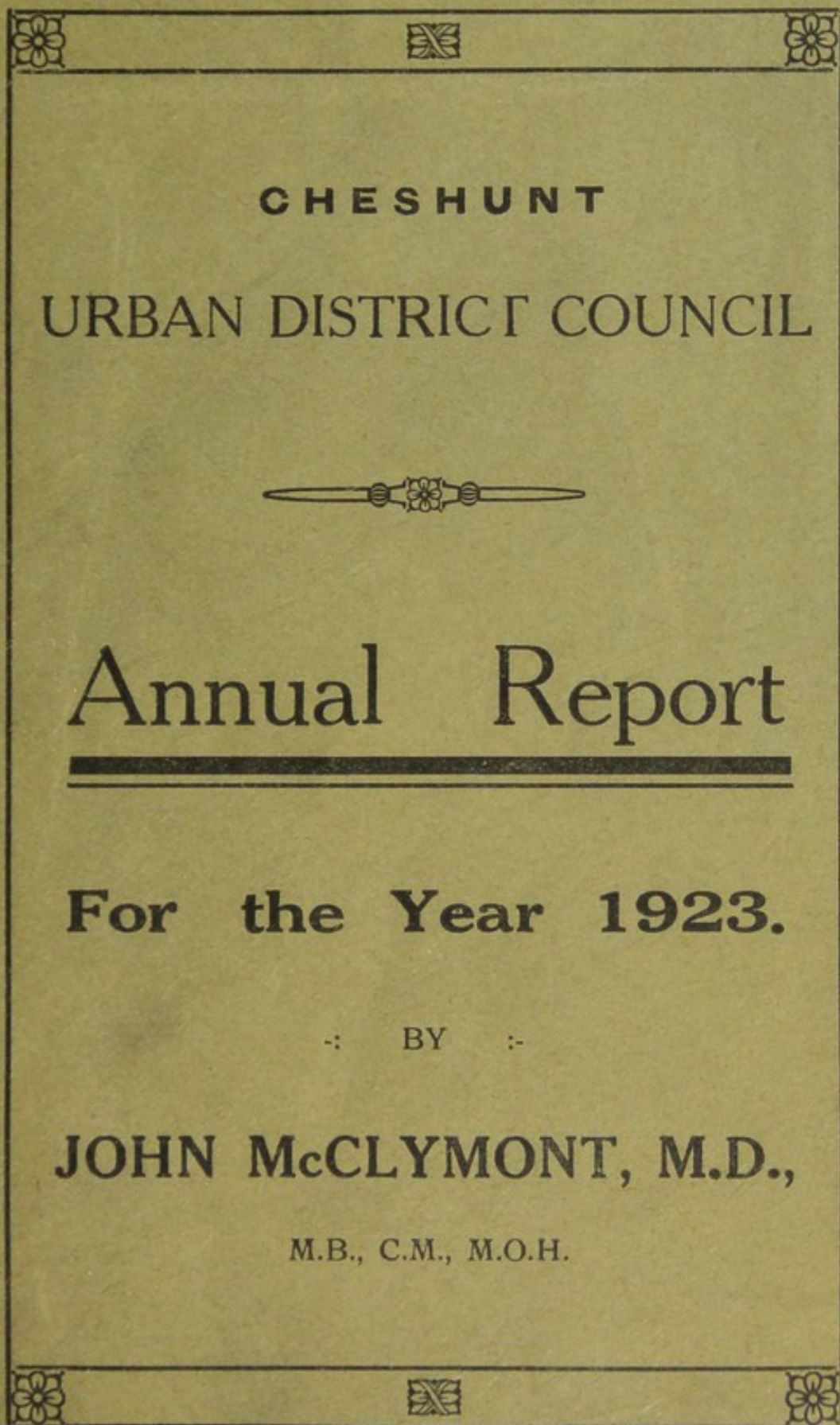
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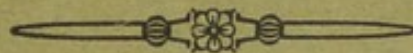
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**C H E S H U N T**

**U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L**



**Annual Report**

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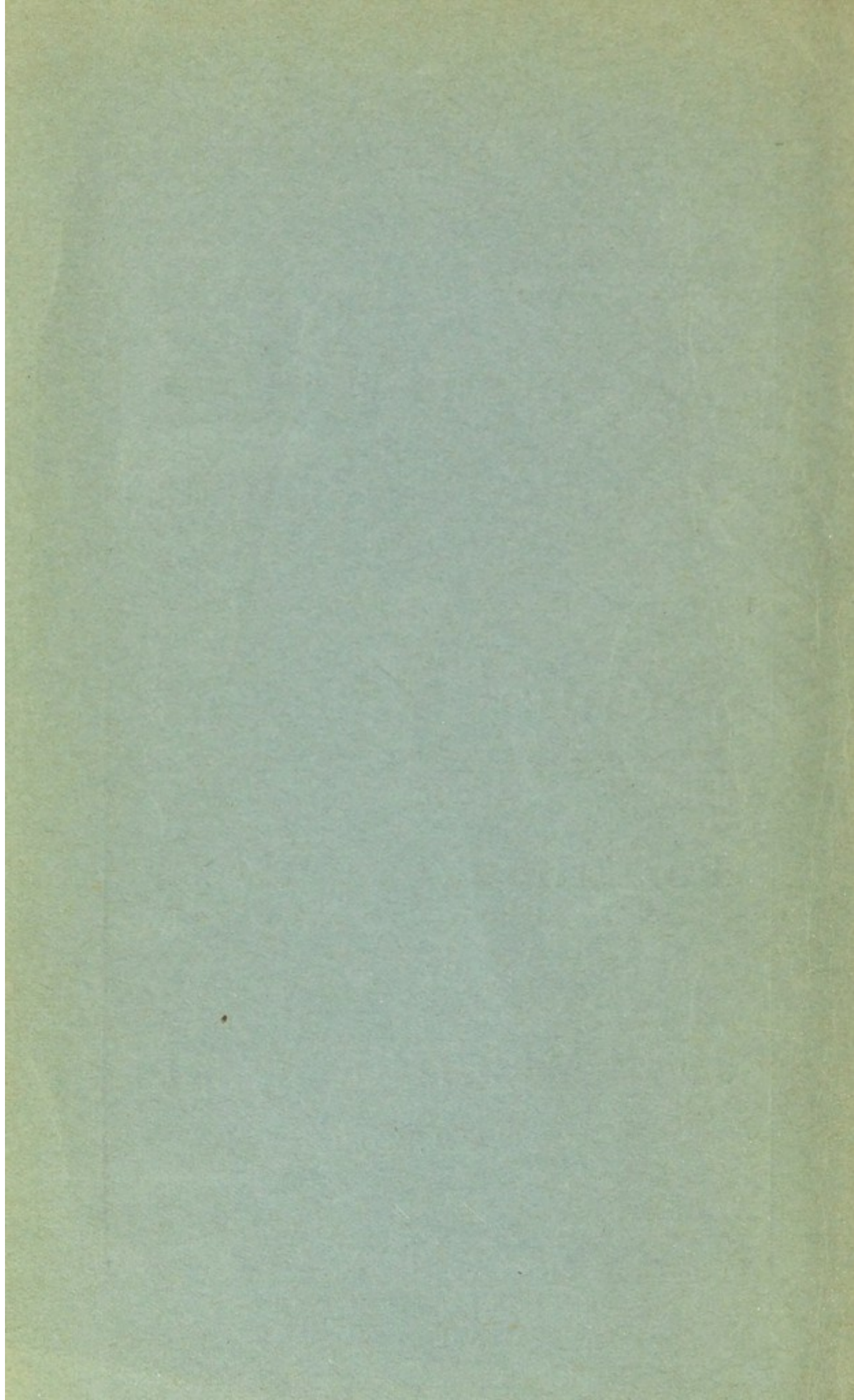
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**For the Year 1923.**

:- BY :-

**JOHN McCLYMONT, M.D.,**

M.B., C.M., M.O.H.



To the Chairman and Members of the Urban  
District Council of Cheshunt.

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Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you my Report for the year, 1923. As in the past few years, the outlines are laid down by the Ministry of Health. The year has made a record in the exceedingly low death rate ; and the sick rate has been much below the average. The paragraph on Population, with the figures I have procured from the 1921 Census, may be of special interest, as showing how the people of Cheshunt are engaged at work.

After twenty happy, active, and I hope useful years in this parish I have retired from general practice. I would like to put on record my appreciation of the happy spirit of comradeship which exists between all the Medical men. The parish benefits by this goodwill and mutual helpfulness. The work of School Medical Officer is a most useful corollary to that of Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN McCLYMONT, M.O.H.

*April, 1924.*

## Population.

After allowing for births, deaths and emigrations the Registrar-General estimates the population as 13,900.

The following figures which I have procured from the Census report of 1921 when the population was 13,628 is of interest and I append them in full.

### CENSUS 1921.

#### Cheshunt Urban District.

Population:	Males 6,741	{	Aged 0-11	1,624
			Aged 12 & upwards	5,117
	Females 6,887	{	Aged 0-11	1,508
			Aged 12 & upwards	5,379
			-----	
	Total		13,628	
			-----	

Occupations.				Males.	Females.
1	Fishermen	..	..	0	0
2	Agricultural Occupations	..	..	1797	208
3	Mining and Quarrying Occupations	..	..	7	0
4	Makers of Coke, Lime, Cement &c.	..	..	1	0
5	Makers of Bricks, Pottery, Glass, &c,	..	..	3	1
6	Workers in Chemicals, Paints, &c.	..	..	89	28
7	Metal Workers (not precious metals)	..	..	367	23
8	Workers in Precious Metals	..	..	3	0
9	Electrical Apparatus Makers, Fitters, &c.	..	..	37	48
10	Makers of Watches, &c.	..	..	4	1
11	Workers in Skins, Leather Goods Makers	..	..	5	1
12	Textile Workers	..	..	6	3
13	Makers of Textile Goods and Articles of Dress	..	..	32	131
14	Makers of Food, Drinks and Tobacco	..	..	40	14
15	Workers in Wood, &c.	..	..	196	4
16	Paper Workers, Printers, &c.	..	..	16	13
17	Builders, Bricklayers, etc.	..	..	141	3
18	Painters and Decorators	..	..	87	0
19	Workers in other Materials	..	..	11	2
20	Workers in Mixed and Undefined Materials	..	..	11	6
21	Persons in Gas, Water, Electricity Supply	..	..	20	0
22	Transport Workers	..	..	376	17
23	Commercial and Financial Operations	..	..	378	167
24	Public Administration and Defence	..	..	118	26
25	Professional Occupations	..	..	75	103
26	Persons Employed in Entertainments, &c.	..	..	15	7
26	Persons Employed in Personal Service	..	..	105	481
28	Clerks, Draughtsmen, Typists, &c.	..	..	192	156
29	Warehousemen, &c.	..	..	45	40
30	Stationery Engine Drivers, &c.	..	..	71	0
31	All other Occupations	..	..	301	11
				---	---
	Total Occupied	..	..	4,548	1,494
	Unoccupied and Retired	..	..	569	3,815
				---	---
	Total Occupied and Unoccupied	..	..	5,117	5,379
				---	---

### **Births.**

The birth of two hundred and seventy seven children was registered during 1923. This gives a birth-rate of practically 20 per thousand as against a general birth-rate of 19'7.

Throughout the country this is the year of lowest birth-rate and death-rate on record. A large birth-rate is not again probable. Nowadays birth regulation is thought of by all grades of society, and a knowledge of contraceptives has of recent years permeated to every class of the community. If thereby, and wisely, *quality* (of physical stamina and mental development) replaces *quantity* there is little to be deplored.

### **Deaths.**

The death of 81 persons was registered as occurring within the parish. In addition 33 inhabitants died outside its boundaries making a total number of 114 deaths. This gives a death-rate of 8.17 per thousand as against 11'6 per thousand for England and Wales. This is the lowest death-rate on record for Cheshunt.

### **Infant Mortality.**

The death of seven children under one year of age was recorded during the year. The infantile mortality was thus 27.5 per thousand as compared with an average of 69 for the whole country.

### **Meteorology.**

A fall of 25.92 inches of rain was recorded for the year, as against 23.99 for 1922.

August alone came to average up the hours of sunshine which was 4.05 hours per day in comparison with the average of 4.66 per day for the sunny year of 1921.

## Infectious Diseases.

Again, with the exception of measles, we have had a pleasurable freedom from Zymotic diseases. Our "splendid isolation" and the generally rainy weather of 1923 largely account for this.

SCARLET FEVER.—Nineteen cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year and all were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. Three of the cases came from one house and two of them were desquamating before they came into the hands of the doctor who notified them. There was never a second case of the disease in a house in which the patient was seen early and removed to Hospital. Eight of the other patients appeared with the malady after visits to the itinerant "fairs."

DIPHTHERIA.—Diphtheria has been noteworthy by its absence this year. Only four cases were notified and of these three only were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case of paratyphoid and one of typhoid fever were notified during the year. The latter was probably contracted during a visit to the Midlands. This patient was removed to the Isolation Hospital.



MEASLES.—Two outbreakes of this disease appeared during the year. The first cases were reported in connection with the College Road School in the last days of January and on January 30th I closed the school for two weeks. This seemed more definitely than usual to have the effect of preventing the spread of the disease throughout the school and the parish. The other schools escaped until June 28th when measles appeared in Trinity School which I closed for 17 days. Just before the holidays King's Road School became affected. Altogether 109 first cases were notified. None were fatal.

CHICKENPOX.—While smallpox was prevalent in London, this was made a notifiable disease from December 11th, 1922 until March 31st, 1923.

During this year two cases only were reported. In the summer a pretty considerable outbreak was notified by the Headmistress of Turnford School. I ascertained either from the Medical man in attendance or by a personal visit to the patient that the diagnosis was correct. The illness is usually so slight that there is great difficulty in impressing upon the parents the need for isolation.

INFLUENZA.—Not for many years has there been so little influenza as during 1923. The complications were most commonly of the abdominal type. Three cases of influenza pneumonia were reported and six cases of acute primacy pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Twenty-five cases of tuberculosis were reported as against an average of 34 for the previous four years. But the most pleasant consideration is that only eleven of these cases were suffering from tuberculosis of the lung.

As stated in last year's report Medical men do not notify tuberculosis until the diagnosis is well verified either by bacterial examination or the progress of the illness. I have every reason to believe that notification regulations are fully complied with.

Seven of the 25 patients were school children and only one a nursery hand.

There has not been a case in an overcrowded house this year requiring special attention.

It is exceedingly rare in this district to have a case of tuberculosis in the middle classes.

### **Schools.**

Except during the measles epidemics the health of the school children has been of good standard. The low war birth-rate is still reflected in the number of new entrants.

A Goff's Oak School only is there insufficient room for the children. The poor cloak room accommodation at that school has not yet been remedied.

644 children were examined in the routine work during the year and 121 defects were found. Of these seventy-seven are already reported by the School Nurse as remedied. Tonsils and adenoids accounted for 22 defects, eyesight for 23 and bad teeth for 44 cases. The school dentist is getting through a greatly increased number of defective teeth and children are becoming attentive to the cleanliness of their teeth.

During my six years of this work a great improvement has taken place in the standard of boots and clothes. It is now rare to see a child with holed and worn out boots or ragged clothing.

## Vaccination Statistics.

	Year	Year
	1922	1923
Births registered, Jan. to Dec. ...	243	254
<i>Number of these Children on 31st Jan., 1924, registered as :—</i>		
Vaccinated ... ..	114	95
Insusceptible ... ..	—	—
Had Small Pox ... ..	—	—
Exempted by Statutory Declaration	109	102
Dead ... ..	6	5
Unvaccinated (including Removals and postponements ... ..	14	52
	—————	—————
	243	254
	—————	—————

**TOTAL** number of Certificates of Successful Primary Vaccinations at all ages received during the years, 1922 and 1923 ... .. 177 178

**TOTAL** number of Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objectors actually received by the Vaccination Officer during the years 1922 and 1923. ... .. 125 109

## APPENDIX.

### 1. General Statistics.

Area .. .. .	8,479 acres
Population 1923 (June 30th) .. ..	13,900
Number of Inhabited houses .. .. .	3,103
Number of families or separate occupiers	3,180 estimated
Ratable value .. .. .	£94,902
Sum represented by a penny rate .. ..	£252

### 2. Extract from Vital Statistics of the year.

Causes of Death	Males	Fe- males	Causes of Death	Males	Fe- males
Enteric fever .. <del>88</del>	<del>88</del>	<del>51</del>	Appendicitis and typhlitis ..	1	..
Small-pox ..	..	..	Cirrhosis of liver ..	..	..
Measles ..	..	..	Acute and chronic nephritis ..	..	1
Scarlet fever ..	..	..	Puerperal sepsis ..	..	..
Whooping cough ..	..	..	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ..	..	3
Diphtheria ..	..	..	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ..	3	2
Influenza ..	1	..	Suicide ..	1	1
Encephalitis lethargica	..	..	Other deaths from violence ..	3	3
Meningococcal meningitis	..	..	Other defined diseases ..	5	7
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	5	1	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..
Other tuberculous diseases ..	2	1	Special Causes (included above)	..	..
Cancer, malignant diseases ..	7	17	Poliomyelitis ..	..	..
Rheumatic fever ..	..	..	Polioencephalitis ..	..	..
Diabetes ..	..	..	Deaths of Infants under 1 year—	..	..
Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ..	7	..	Total ..	5	3
Heart disease ..	9	6	Illegitimate ..	1	..
Arterio-sclerosis ..	4	2	TOTAL BIRTHS ..	134	143
Bronchitis ..	7	3	Legitimate ..	127	139
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	5	2	Illegitimate ..	7	4
Other respiratory diseases ..	2	1	Population ..	13,900	..
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	..	..			
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ..	1	1			

### (3) Notifiable Diseases during the year.

Diseases	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	4	3	0
Scarlet Fever ...	19	19	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyroid) ...	2	1	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	9	0 (all forms)	7 *
Erysipilas ...	4	0	0
Measles ...	109	0	0 *
Chicken-pox ...	2	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Tuberculosis ...	25	—	9

### Tuberculosis.

Age Years	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Nonpulmonary		Pulmonary		Nonpulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
5	—	—	2	4	—	—	1	—
10	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
20	2	1	0	2	—	—	—	—
25	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
35	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 & up.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	4	5	9	5	1	3	0

Three of the deaths had not been notified in this parish as suffering from tuberculosis.

This gives a tuberculosis death rate of '64.

#### (4) Causes of Sickness.

Two outbreaks of measles were the chief causes of epidemic sickness during the year. With changing times and the advances of medical thought and diagnosis, one notes an altered nomenclature in death certificates—in particular the recognition of a considerable number of cases of heart disease which are not valvular in origin.

#### (5) Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, Etc.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING (a).—The nurses of the County Nursing Association are the professional nurses of the district.

At Greenfield House there are now two Nurse Midwives and one general nurse. They attended 120 cases of ordinary sickness and as midwives alone 80 cases. In addition they acted as nurse midwives in 36 cases with a doctor in responsible attendance.

One of these nurses acts as school nurse and they supply the help at the Tuberculosis and School-dental and Eye Clinics.

This local Nursing Association is supported by the County Nursing Association, by voluntary subscriptions and by weekly payments from families attended.

(b) The only infectious disease these nurses attend is measles.

MIDWIVES.—Four nurse midwives from the County Nursing Association supply the needs of the various districts of the Parish. There are no other resident midwives.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—The work of Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, the Tuberculosis, School Eye and Dental Clinics are carried on at Greenfield House, which has been suitably adopted for this various work.

Dr. Helen Swatman has very kindly sent me the following report:—

Number of attendances of these children	...	2,595
Number of deaths of these children	...	0
Number who had dental treatment	...	5
Number of expectant mothers on register	...	22

The number of expectant mothers on the register is double that of last year.

As evidence of the results and value of teaching at the centre, it is interesting to note that the percentage of children (up to 6 months old) who were entirely bottle fed was only 13 against 25 in 1922.

The Medical Officers in attendance at all these Clinics are provided by the Herts County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council:—

- |   |                            |   |      |
|---|----------------------------|---|------|
| 1 | Tuberculosis               | ...   | None |
| 2 | Maternity                  | ...   | „    |
| 3 | Children                   | ...   | „    |
| 4 | <b>F e v e r</b> (34 beds) | provided by District Council.   |      |
| 5 | Small-pox (10 beds)        | provided jointly by Cheshunt, Barnet, East Barnet and Barnet Valley Districts.                                      |      |
| 6 | Cheshunt Cottage Hospital  | provides accommodation for a large number of Surgical and Medical cases. It is supported by voluntary contribution. |      |

The Edmonton Board of Guardians at the North Middlesex Hospital provides treatment for unmarried mothers, illegitimate or homeless children.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

(a) For Infectious cases the Councils' Ambulance is used and

(b) A motor ambulance is available for accidents and non-infectious cases. For this a charge is made. It was used 59 times during the year.

### **(6) Laboratory Work.**

The arrangement of previous years holds good.

### **Sanitary Administration.**

#### **ADOPTED ACTS AND BYELAWS.**

In connection with sanitary administration, the following Acts have been adopted:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, adopted April 7th, 1891.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part 2, April 1st, 1908; Part 3, November 26th, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, Part 2, Sections 15 to 25 and 27 to 33; Part 3 Sections 34 to 47 and 49 to 51; Part 4, Sections 52 to 58, 60, 62 to 65 and 67; Part 6, the whole; Part 10, Sections 93 and 95, in force May 18th, 1911; Part 7, Section 81; Part 8, the whole, in force April 28th, 1910.

Notification of Births Act, 1901, adopted by County Council, in force June 1st, 1911.

Maternity and Child Welfare Act.



**Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector during the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1922.**

	Number for year	Results of Inspec- tions, etc.
Complaints received ...	23	Notices served when required.
Nuisances detected without complaints ...	74	The necessary notices sent.
Nuisances abated ...	92	
Notices served ...	295	
Summonses taken out ...	Nil	
Cottages inspected ...	323	
Slaughter-Houses inspected	83	Bye-laws generally complied with.
Bakehouses inspected ...	36	
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops inspected ...	23	New Registers made.
Workshops inspected ...	23	
Houses disinfected ...	27	With Formalin.
Overcrowding abated ...	6	
Houses placed in habitable repair ...	38	
Houses closed ...	1	Closing order determined.
Privies, W.C.'s repaired ; W.C.'s supplied with water	27	
Animals improperly kept, removed ...	1	
Samples of water taken for analysis ...	1	
Seizure of unsound meat, etc.	nil	One box of Salmon and one box of dog-fish surrendered and condemned as unfit for human food.
New Dust bins provided	553	

FRANCIS SYKES,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

### (8) Public Health Staff.

The Public Health staff of the Council consists of a part time Medical Officer and a whole time Sanitary Inspector. The latter is an associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and holds a certificate for meat inspection.

The salary of both these officers is partly paid by exchequer grants.

### (9) HOUSING.

Forty seven new houses were erected during the year—36 by the Council under the Housing Act and 11 by private individuals. There are still some 80 families occupying part of a house only and no new houses are available for newly married couples.

The advent of a superabundant bus service and the opening of the Arterial road through an exceedingly pleasant country will probably lead to a necessary development of this real "outer lung" of London.

Number of new houses erected during the year—		
(a)	Total .. .. .	47
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923—	
(i)	By the Local Authority .. .. .	36
(ii)	By other bodies or persons .. .. .	
<b>1. Unfit Dwelling-Houses.</b>		
Inspection—(1) Total Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts)		323
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) regulations, 1910 .. .. .	33
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	16
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	20
<b>2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.</b>		
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in con- sequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officer .. .. .		26
<b>3. Action under Statutory Powers:</b>		
<i>A—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act., 1919</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-housing in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a)	by owners .. .. .	—
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Clos- ing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close .. .. .	—
<i>B—Proceedings under Public Health Act.</i>		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .	10
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a)	by owners .. .. .	10
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners .. .. .	—
<i>C—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &amp;c., 1909.</i>		
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .. .. .	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .	1
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit .. .. .	1
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demol- ition Orders were made .. .. .	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	Nil

