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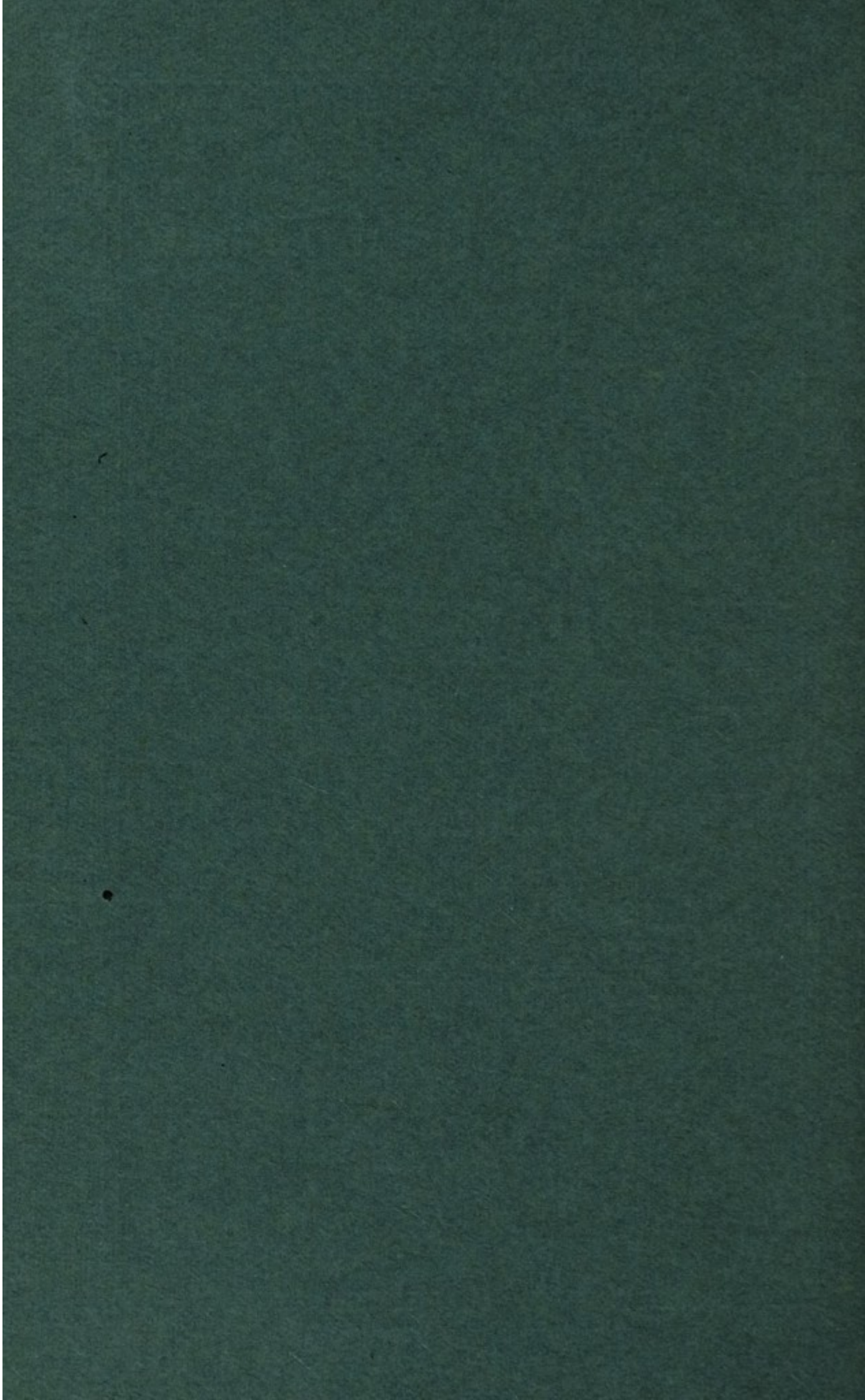
ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health.



1937.





# Cirencester Rural District.

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## ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

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DR. H. F. W. ADAMS.

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This report, my seventeenth, is an ordinary report, similar to those for the past few years.

The general health of this district remains good. It is noteworthy that only 20 notifiable diseases occurred in 1937, a very low figure: also only 5 new cases of Tuberculosis.

Housing has gone ahead, also the general sanitary conditions are improved.

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### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	83,437
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	12,205
	and estimated 1937	...	...	...	...	11,790
Number of houses inhabited (Census 1931)...						3,280
	(end of 1937)	...				3,544
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£46,747
Sum represented by a penny rate	...					£187-4-7

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	89	75	164
Illegitimate	...	7	3	10
Birth Rate (R.G.) 14.7				

## STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	...	2	2	4
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 15.				

DEATHS	...	...	71	80	151
Death Rate (R.G.) 12.7					

Number of Women dying in, or in				
consequence of childbirth...from Sepsis				...
				1
from other causes				Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000  
births:—

Legitimate, 24: Illegitimate, Nil; Total, 22.9

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)		1 (male)
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		1 (male)



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1937.

DISEASE.	Males.	Females.
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis ... ..	3	...
G.P.I., Tabes, etc. ... ..	1	...
Cancer ... ..	7	15
Diabetes ... ..	...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... ..	5	7
Heart Disease ... ..	22	23
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	2	7
Bronchitis ... ..	3	1
Pneumonia ... ..	2	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ..	1	...
Appendicitis ... ..	2	...
Other Liver Diseases ... ..	...	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	2	3
Nephritis ... ..	1	...
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	1
Congenital Causes, etc. ... ..	1	1
Senility ... ..	2	8
Other violence ... ..	5	2
Other defined Diseases ... ..	9	4
Ill defined or N. K. ... ..	1	...
All causes ... ..	71	80

As will be seen by the foregoing table and statistics no abnormal or excessive mortality occurred during 1937.

66 of the 151 deaths were caused by diseases of the circulatory system, a very high figure but one that remains more or less constant.

CANCER caused 22 deaths as compared with 23 in 1936. There seems no real diminution in this scourge.

INFLUENZA caused no deaths.

There were no Suicides, and seven deaths from violence.

DEATH RATE :—12.7 is an excellent figure, being only slightly in excess of that for England and Wales, 12.4, and much below the corresponding figure for 1936, viz. 14.5.

BIRTH RATE :—15 is again a good figure. It is in excess of that for England and Wales, 14.9, and also that for 1936, viz. 14.8.

It is caused by the births of 174 living children and 4 stillborn children.

INFANT MORTALITY :—22.9 is an excellent figure in every way.

It was caused by the deaths of 4 children under one year of age (all legitimate).

STILL BIRTHS :—4 occurred in 1937 : 2 males and 2 females, all legitimate.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

These remain the same as in previous years.

The enlarged Cirencester Memorial Hospital with its up-to-date scientific equipment is, as always, proving a great boon to the Rural District.

It is also used as an out-station and for clinics.

Fairford Hospital (10 beds about) also continues to do extremely good work, not only as a hospital but an out-station for School children and for the holding of various clinics.

### FEVER.

Cirencester Joint Hospital 14 beds (about). These are available for the Cirencester Urban District and Rural Districts. A motor ambulance was purchased in 1931.

Cases from Tetbury and Northleach are also admitted.

There are no hospitals in the district for Tuberculosis, Maternity Cases or Smallpox.

A hospital at Elmstone, near Hardwick, is provided for Smallpox cases.

A motor ambulance is provided for non-infectious and accident cases, also a motor ambulance for infectious cases.

The nursing is carried out by Nurses of the District Nursing Association, under the supervision of a full-time County Nurse. Very valuable work is done, in various ways, by the nurses.



Pathological and Bacteriological Examinations are carried out in the laboratories of Gloucester Infirmary and Cheltenham. Outfits for the taking of specimens can be supplied to practitioners by the Medical Officer of Health.

The out-station for the treatment of school children is being largely used.

A Tuberculosis clinic is held once a week at the Cirencester Hospital.

It is to be noted that neither of the Hospitals is actually in the Rural District, but they are included as serving alike both Urban and Rural Districts.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

This is under the Administration of the County Council.

### LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Building Bye-Laws.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

The Public Health Officers for the district consist of a full-time Medical Officer of Health and a full-time fully qualified Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. A. T. Selvey, S.I., left in February, 1937, and was succeeded by Mr. R. N. Hughes.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Council's water supplies continue to be adequate and pure.

COATES. This supply comprises a well eighty feet deep into the Great Oolite and water is raised to an elevated 16,000 gallon concrete reservoir by means of a double-throw pump (in duplicate), driven by a time switch controlled 5 H.P. electric motor. The water is distributed by cast iron mains to stand-pipes and premises in the village, and the daily consumption is approximately 5,000 gallons.

LECHLADE. This supply comprises a well in the Thames gravel, and water is raised to an elevated cast iron tank, 30,000 gallon capacity, by means of a vertical three-throw pump, driven by 6 H.P. horizontal paraffin engine, with a stand-by 2 H.P. Lister vertical petrol engine and horizontal double-barrel ram pump. There is also a 10,000 gallons capacity elevated cast iron tank connected to this supply, but which cannot be used owing to its height being below that of the 30,000 gall. capacity tank. The water is distributed by cast iron mains to stand-pipes and premises in the village, and the daily consumption is approximately 9,000 gallons.

The work of repairing and overhauling valves on this supply was commenced by a Contractor towards the end of this year.

POULTON. This supply comprises a deep well and borehole through Forest Marble and Great Oolite to Fuller's Earth, at Ready Token, and the water is raised by a 3-throw vertical pump driven by a 10 horse power



vertical Diesel engine to two partly above and partly below ground reservoirs, having capacities of 30,000 and 15,000 gallons respectively. The water is distributed by cast iron, asbestos and galvanised iron mains to premises over a scattered area. The average daily consumption of water is approximately 15,000 gallons. Towards the end of the year the Diesel engine broke down giving rise to some anxiety. Fortunately it was possible to repair and overhaul the engine before the supply of water in the reservoirs was exhausted.

**SOUTH CERNEY.** During the year the Council took over the 4 inch water main laid in the Council's district by the Cirencester Urban District Council to serve the Air Ministry's Aerodrome at South Cerney.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

**FAIRFORD.** Part of this town is served by a stoneware sewer and the sewage is subjected to tank treatment and disposed of by broad irrigation. The sewers and sewage works are maintained by a local firm of builders under the supervision of your Officer.

**LECHLADE.** There are filter tanks on three sewage outfalls in this village and the effluents discharge into ditches. During the year a contract was entered into with a local builder to cleanse the filter tanks three times per annum. Stone built village drains were exposed at various points by a private firm carrying out excavation work for the laying of gas mains.

**NORTH CERNEY.** The stone built soakaway pit, into which the village sewer discharged was demolished and new sewage tanks with a coke filter were constructed. One half of the cost of the Scheme was contributed by the Highways Authority.



POULTON. There are two sewage outfalls in this village, one discharging into an open ditch leading to a coke filter, and the other discharging into a septic tank and soakaway pit.

The outfall comprising the ditch and coke filter was cleansed during the year by direct labour.

PRESTON. This village is served by a stoneware sewer and the sewage is subjected to tank treatment and disposed of by broad irrigation. The irrigation channels are maintained by the farmer who occupies the field, under the supervision of your Officer.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious case of pollution was found during the year and especial care was exercised at the various sewage outfalls. The Thames Conservancy Board drew the Council's attention to a bad effluent from one sewage outfall and steps were taken forthwith to improve the effluent.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Domestic refuse collection systems were commenced in the Parishes of Coates and Duntisbourne Abbots and at the end of the year refuse collection arrangements were operating in the Parishes of Fairford, Lechlade, Quenington, Coates and Duntisbourne Abbots. Each of these parishes has a separate tip and contractor. Attempts were made to control the various tips and destroy the vermin, but great difficulty was experienced owing to their scattered situation.

Number of earth closets, pail closets, or improved privies constructed	...	...	...	4
Number of replacements of earth closets, etc., by W.Cs.	...	...	...	16



## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is one fellmonger's premises at Fairford which was conducted satisfactorily.

## RAG &amp; FLOCK ACTS, 1911 &amp; 1923.

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

## RATS &amp; MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

This Act is administered by the County Council and all complaints are referred to the County Rat Officer.

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 FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.
 

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Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	8	—	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	39	1	—
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' Premises) ...	9	—	—
Total ...	56	1	—

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## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year one house was found to be infested with bed bugs. The occupier was advised by your officer of the measures to take to deal with the infestation, and a quantity of insecticide was given.

Evidence of the presence of the bed bugs was not found in any of the Council's houses.

## SWIMMING BATHS & POOLS.

There are no such baths in the area of the Council.

NUMBERS INSPECTED OF EACH OF THE  
FOLLOWING:

	No on Register.	No. Inspected.	Total No. of Inspections.
(a) Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—
(b) Slaughter Houses	... 9	9	209
(c) Bakehouses	... 13	6	12
(d) Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk-shops	... 203	55	64
(e) Canal Boats	... —	—	—
(f) Workshops	... 75	36	56
(g) Outworkers' Residences	—	—	—

GENERAL.

(a) Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	102
(b) Number of nuisances reported to District Council—					
(1) Total	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Swine	...	...	...	...	Nil
(c) Total number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	67	
(d) Total number of preliminary notices served	...	...	49		
(e) Total number of Statutory notices served	...	...	Nil		
(f) Total number of summonses taken out	...	...	Nil		
(g) Total number of convictions	...	...	...	Nil	
(h) Number of houses disinfected	...	...	...	14	
(i) Methods of disinfection used	Formalin vapour lamps and spraying				

17 nuisances outstanding at the end of 1937  
have since been abated.



## Summary of works carried out and visits made during the year 1937.

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	102
Nuisances found	...	...	...	84
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	67
Nuisances reported to the Council	...	...	...	Nil
Preliminary notices served	...	...	...	49
Conversion of earth closets to water closets	...	...	...	16
Conversion of privy vaults to earth closets	...	...	...	4
Samples of water submitted for analysis	...	...	...	19
New connections to Council's water mains	...	...	...	8
Infectious diseases notifications	...	...	...	25
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	14
Houses repaired	...	...	...	37
Inspection of water supplies, mains, etc.	...	...	...	59
,,   ,, refuse disposal, tips, etc.	...	...	...	38
,,   ,, sewage disposal works, sewers, etc.	...	...	...	48
,,   ,, factories, workshops and workplaces	...	...	...	56
,,   ,, bakehouses	...	...	...	12
,,   ,, cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	64
,,   ,, slaughter houses	...	...	...	209
,,   ,, shops	...	...	...	26
Re-visits	...	...	...	70
Repair work in progress	...	...	...	151
New buildings	...	...	...	217
Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	249
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	198

## SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the district remains satisfactory, although in some cases the buildings and offices are somewhat primitive.

## HOUSING.

### 2. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

- |     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects [under Public Health or Housing Acts] | 198 |
|     | (b) Number of inspections made  | 249 |

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
(b)	Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(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	...	...	...	...	...	...	42

#### 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...	...	...	...	...	37
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#### ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

##### (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	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—				
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owner...	...	...	...	Nil

##### (b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—					
(a)	By Owners	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	Nil

##### (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	...	...	...	Nil
-----	---	-----	-----	-----	-----



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

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

OVERCROWDING.

- (1) (a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... 6
- Number of families dwelling therein ... 6
- Number of persons dwelling therein ... 43½
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil
- Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil
- (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 ... Nil

Rural Housing conditions throughout the County received much public attention during the year and there are good prospects that in 1938 legislation will be passed giving the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts wider application and enabling substantial grants to be given towards the provision of new houses for agricultural workers.

It would appear that a large number of the owners of old and defective cottages do not avail themselves of the assistance which can be obtained under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts unless action is taken by the Local Authority, as a result of housing inspections carried out.

If any real advantage is to be taken of the financial assistance which will be forthcoming towards the improvement of rural housing conditions I would strongly advise the Council to consider the question of giving aid to its S.I. who is already completely occupied.

### COUNCIL HOUSES.

Eight new houses were erected during the year, making a total of 190 houses owned by the Council situated as follows:—

Ampney Crucis	...	6
Coates	... ..	12
Down Ampney	...	2
Fairford	... ..	44
Kemble	... ..	14
Kempsford	... ..	14
Lechlade	... ..	22
North Cerney	...	12
Poulton	... ..	4
Quenington	... ..	14
Rodmarton	... ..	4
Siddington	... ..	6
Somerford Keynes	...	4
South Cerney	...	32

In the month of May the Council appointed F. J. Garlick to carry out work of maintenance and repairs to the houses.

It is also necessary to engage a small amount of casual labour and let out certain work to Contractors by tender.



## NEW BUILDINGS.

Forty-six new dwellings were completed by private enterprise during the year and a number of miscellaneous buildings and additions were erected.

Number of Plans approved	...	...	83
Number of inspections in connection with new buildings	...	...	217

## NEW BYE-LAWS.

During the year Bye-laws with respect to New Streets and New Building Bye-laws were made by the Council and confirmed by the Minister of Health.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Farms on the Register	...	203
Number of Farms inspected	...	55
Total number of inspections	...	64

Improvements to cowsheds and the methods of production were effected as a result of informal action taken by your officer. It was found impossible, owing to pressure of other work, to give the desired attention to milk production in the Council's area.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

Number of Slaughter-houses on the Register	9
Total number of Inspections	... 209

## CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected ...	78	21	26	286	144
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	4	0	3	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	5.12	23.8	—	1.04	3.47
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	3	—	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	14.28	—	—	2.08

## MEAT DESTROYED.

	Lbs.
1 Bovine carcase and offal ...	980
Portions of beef...	35
1 Bovine head ...	30
3 „ livers ...	37
4 „ lungs ...	35
1 „ udders ...	21
1 „ stomach and intestines ...	92
1 Pig's carcase and offal ...	64
3 „ heads ...	52
2 „ livers ...	11
3 „ lungs ...	12
3 Sheep's lungs ...	9
1 „ liver ...	4

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## CLASSIFICATION OF CONDITIONS FOUND.

		Lbs.
Abscesses ...	...	28
Bruising ...	...	25
Decomposition	...	10
Distomatosis	...	9
Necrosis ...	...	10
Oedema ...	...	64
Pneumonia	...	44
Septicaemia	...	980
Tenuicollis cysts	...	4
Tuberculosis	...	208
		<hr/>
		1382
		<hr/>

The unsound food was in every case voluntarily surrendered and destroyed under the supervision of your officer.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As has been already noted, only 20 cases occurred during 1937. Of these, seven were scarlet fever : six were admitted to Hospital : there were no deaths.

The age incidences were as follows :

Males.	Females.
5	2
7	7
12½	10
	14

There were also 9 cases of Pneumonia (5 deaths) : one case of Puerperal Pyrexia : and 3 cases of Erysipelas ; which call for no special comment.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	7	6	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—
Pneumonia ...	9	2	5
Other diseases generally noti- fiable—Erysipelas ...	3	2	—
Other diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases notified.	Treated at home.	Treated in hospital.	
Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total blindness.	Deaths.
—	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	2	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
35	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	3	1	1	0	3	0	0	0



The notification of Tuberculosis throughout the district is good.

No cases occurred where there was any overcrowding.

Each case, when notified, is visited by the Sanitary Inspector and a Nurse, also if deemed necessary, by the Medical Officer of Health.





