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THE TWENTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY

:: CONDITION ::

OF THE
Urban District of Desborough,

FOR

1911,

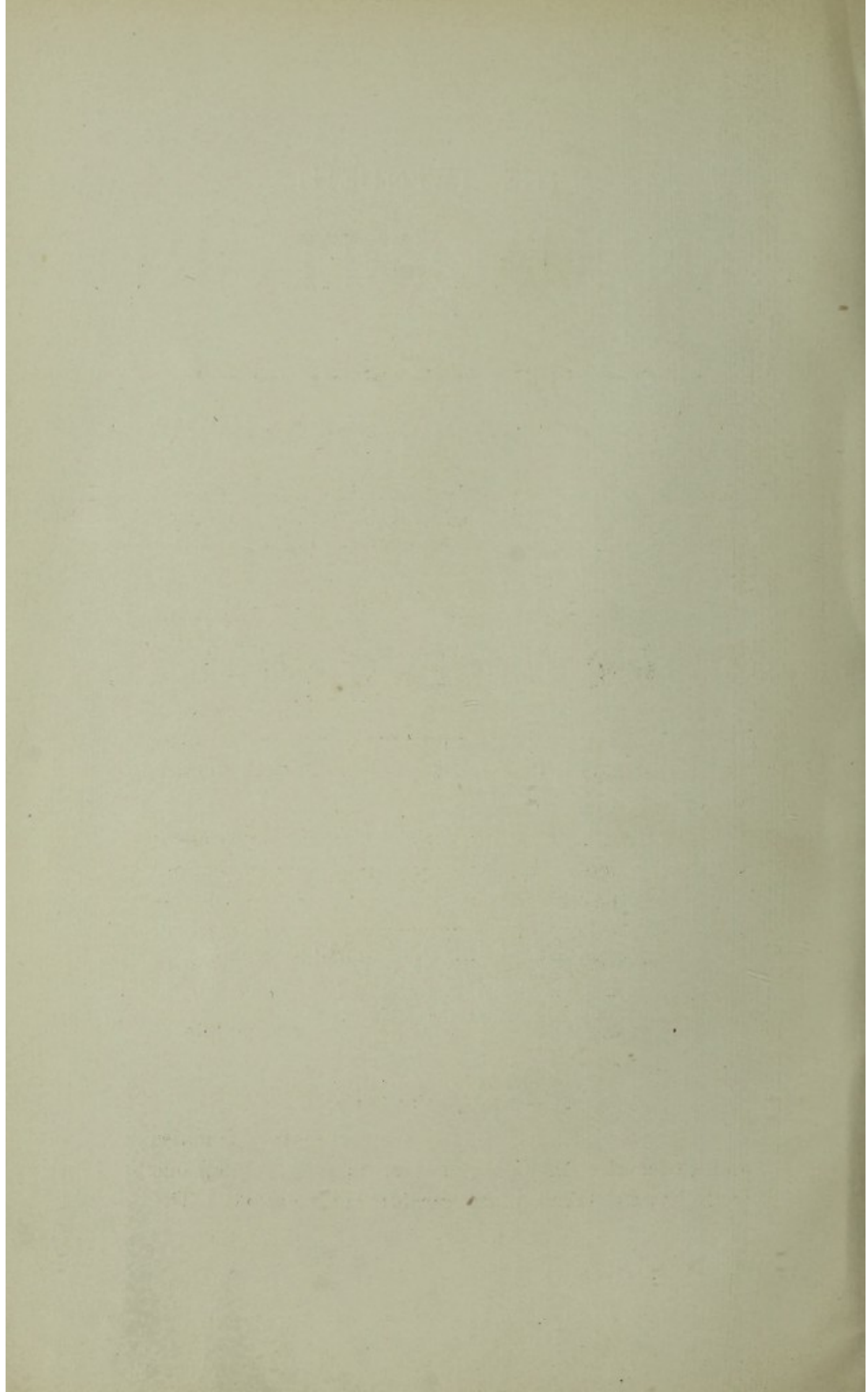
BY

HENRY GIBBONS, M.D., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health; Fellow of the Incorporated Society of
Medical Officers of Health, &c.

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DESBOROUGH,

February 21st, 1912.

THE DESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Twentieth Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Desborough Urban District for the year ended December 31st, 1911.

The area of the District is 2,307 acres. As a result of the Census, taken in 1911, the population of the District was found to be 4,093, an increase of 520 upon the figure (3,573) recorded in 1901. It will therefore be observed, on referring to the Annual Report for 1910, that in estimating the population for that year, an error in excess, viz. 207, was made.

In Table I, furnished by the Local Government Board and hereto appended, the necessary corrections respecting the population, birth-rate and death-rate figures, have been made for the years 1906-1910, in accordance with the information provided by the 1911 Census.

I have estimated the population to the middle of 1911 as 4,106.

Births and Birth-rate.

The corrected number of births was 98,—56 males and 42 females (including that of an illegitimate,) one birth having taken place outside the District. The

birth-rate therefore was 23·86 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which, though higher than that recorded for the previous year, cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

General Mortality.

There were registered in the District 39 deaths, all of persons belonging thereto; in addition, six deaths of residents occurred outside the district, so that the nett total of deaths was 45,—28 males and 17 females—equivalent to a death-rate of 10·9 per 1,000.

Having regard to the fact that two of the deaths were the results of violence—one, of a man who was run over by a truck in the stone pits, and the other, of a child run over by a steam lorry in the street,—and the mortality of the previous year, viz. 11·5, the death-rate for 1911 gives no cause for dissatisfaction.

The chief causes of death were as follows:—

Diphtheria	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	5
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	2
Cancer	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	1
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	5
Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	1
Bright's disease	...	...	2
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	...	...	3
Violent deaths	...	...	2
Other defined diseases	...	...	15

Infantile Mortality.

The rate of Infantile Mortality is 51.5 per 1,000 births, five deaths of children below the age of one year having occurred during 1911, whereas the figures for the previous year were 139 and 13 respectively. Of the causes, Premature Birth and Debility were responsible for three deaths, and Bronchitis and Pneumonia for the remaining two. Three of the infants were below the age of two weeks.

With the exception of that recorded for 1902, when it was 49, this is the lowest rate I have had to present to you during the past 10 years. The marked fall in the rate of mortality among infants is a most gratifying feature of this Report, and affords some ground for presuming that the efforts of the Health Visitor have not been in vain.

I may here be permitted to refer to the loss which the parish has recently sustained by the transference of the services of the Health Visitor to other districts in the county. Three years ago, the County Medical Officer of Health was good enough to extend the work of Miss Robinson to this district. During the whole of that period, her duties have been carried out in a quiet and unobtrusive manner, and the work has secured the high appreciation of the Mothers with whom she has come into contact. As a consequence, I am pleased to be able to report a marked improvement, not only in the care and management of the babies, but also in their hygienic surroundings. Having in view these happy attainments, I am of opinion that in order to maintain and promote them, the appointment of a permanent Health Visitor becomes very necessary, whose services could be utilized

for the benefit, not only of the infants, but also of the sufferers of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Phthisis.

There were five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, or Consumption of the Lungs, all of persons between the ages of 15 and 45 years, and of the male sex save one; a rate of 1·21 per 1,000, as compared with '98 for 1910. Following the usual practice in all cases of death, the bedrooms occupied by the deceased have been disinfected under the supervision of your Inspector, as soon after the funeral as convenient.

By an Order of the L.G.B, which came into operation from the beginning of this year (1912,) Phthisis has been included in the list of Notifiable Infectious diseases; it is anticipated, and not without good reason, that the information thereby obtained will prove of some effective assistance in the crusade against that fell disease. Moreover, the provisions of the National Insurance Act will allow of some of the sufferers obtaining the benefit of Sanatorium treatment.

Three notifications under the Tuberculosis Regulations (1908 and 1911,) were received, and besides, five cases were voluntarily notified. As usual, disinfection of rooms which had been occupied by infected persons was carried out, and printed cards giving advice to consumptives and their friends were issued to those concerned.

Respiratory Diseases' Mortality.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy were responsible for nine deaths—Pneumonia alone was the cause of five of these—giving a mortality from Respiratory diseases of 2·19 per 1,000, which is remarkably high and compares most unfavourably with that of the previous year when it was 0·93.

Scarlet Fever.

During the period from the month of January to that of September, cases of Scarlet Fever continued to crop up at varying intervals and reached a total of 19 for the year. There is little doubt that unrecognised cases were accountable for the majority of those actually notified. Happily, all the cases, that came under observation, with the exception of one, were of an exceedingly mild type, and no death was attributed to the disease.

Diphtheria.

In January, there was notified one case of Diphtheria, which, unfortunately, came under treatment at too late a stage, for in spite of several injections of antitoxin at the expense of the Council, it proved fatal. On a careful inspection of the premises where the case in question occurred, the w.c. pans were found to be in a dirty condition and the drains blocked. Steps were at once taken to have these Sanitary defects remedied.

Enteric Fever.

The only case of Enteric Fever that occurred during the year was reported in October and made a good recovery. No local insanitary conditions were detected to account for the occurrence of this case in question, and the water supply was above all suspicion.

In view of the existence of Typhoid Carriers, it is of interest to note that several members of the same family, including the parents of the patient referred to, have, in past years, suffered from the attacks of Enteric Fever.

German Measles.

Cases of German Measles have come under observation, more or less, throughout the whole year. In

many instances, much difficulty has been experienced in arriving at a correct diagnosis, in view of the prevalence at the same time, of mild cases of Scarlet Fever.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was prevalent during the later months of the year, but happily the attacks were unattended with any serious complications, so that no death was registered as due to this disease.

Mumps.

A few cases of Mumps, of a mild type, came under notice, though there was reason to suspect the existence of a larger number.

Diarrhœa.

The extraordinarily dry and hot summer was no doubt responsible for the large number of cases of Diarrhœa which occurred during that period and the autumn. It was remarkable that the incidence of the disease was mainly amongst adults; in fact the malady, as compared with former years, was conspicuous by its absence among children below the age of one year.

As these cases came to be known, your Inspector was instructed to make the necessary investigations into the food, drink and sanitary conditions of the dwellings of those attacked, and to tender such advice as the circumstances demanded.

Diarrhœa was certified as having been the cause of only one death, and that of a person above the age of 65 years.

Schools.

The Public Elementary Schools received due attention from your Officers, but with the exception of a blocked drain in connection with one of the playgrounds

and the need of lime-washing for the urinals and w.c.'s, there was nothing of a very serious character to report.

One case of Impetigo was notified to me by the School Medical Officer.

Isolation Hospital and Disinfection.

Apart from that for Small Pox, there is no Hospital accommodation for the isolation of infectious diseases in the District.

An Isolation Hospital and Steam Disinfector are means absolutely necessary in dealing effectively with Infectious diseases, and without them no Sanitary Authority can reasonably expect to safeguard the health of the Community entrusted to its care.

Water Supply.

The Water-supply of the town has again been the occasion of great anxiety to the Authority.

The requirements of the town were fully met (in spite of the tropical summer conditions which prevailed) up to the end of July, when evidence was forthcoming of the failure of the Waterworks well, and as a precautionary measure, it was decided to turn off the water from 9 p.m. to 5.30 a.m. Further curtailments of the town supply became necessary in September, October, and November. By the early days of December the rest level of the well had sunk to the very low point of 5 feet 4 inches, and the yield was 17,000 gallons per day after pumping six hours. It was thereupon decided further to reduce the period of water supply for drinking and sanitary purposes to four hours out of the 24—a very serious state of affairs for a town of 4,000 inhabitants.

Thanks, however, to the beneficial effects on the well of the heavy rainfall in December, it was found possible by Christmas day to permit of a continuous supply daily from 6.30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

It having been again practically demonstrated that the present source of water supply alone could not be depended upon to meet the full needs of the District without greatly risking the promotion of conditions likely to endanger the public health, the Council determined upon using every possible means of hastening the conclusion of the negotiations which had been in progress for some considerable time past, and had in view the obtaining of a supplementary source of water. The happy result of this was that they were in a position to apply to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £4,430.

On October 6th, an inquiry into the subject matter of the application in question was held by A. W. Brightmore, Esq., D.Sc., M.I.C.E., an Inspector of the L.G.B., when I attended and gave evidence. In due course, the necessary sanction for the whole scheme was obtained by the Council, who lost no time in procuring tenders for carrying it out; the accepted tender for the works alone being £3,161. It is anticipated that the whole will be completed and the scheme in operation by the early part of the coming summer.

During the year, water has been laid on to 12 houses. It is also proposed to extend the water main in Pioneer Avenue and to supply the cottages in the neighbourhood of Lower King Street, Co-operative Estate, (where at present the water utilised for drinking purposes is derived from shallow wells,) with the town water.

Analyses by the Clinical Research Association of samples of water taken from the Waterworks well in January and August afforded very satisfactory results.

Dwelling Houses and Over-crowding.

At the last Census the number of inhabited houses was found to be 917, with an average of 4.4 persons per house. During the year plans for the erection of 14 dwelling houses were passed, but only 12 were actually completed.

With the view of fulfilling the requirements of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, the special attention of the Sanitary Inspector was directed to certain parts of the district, which in my opinion, were most in need of improvement.

The particulars of information pertaining to this work, and to that in connection with the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, are included in the following Table:—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	...	64
Number of dwelling-houses reported as being unfit for human habitation	...	48
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making closing orders	... ..	1
Number of closing orders made	...	1
Number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	... ..	37

Of the 48 houses mentioned above, five were closed by the owner voluntarily and before any action became necessary by the Council.

The six houses for which the closing order was made are being repaired and rendered habitable.

The general character of the defects found to exist had reference to the dirtiness of the walls, floors and pans of the w.c.'s, surface drainage, structural conditions of the houses and insanitary refuse receptacles.

Five cases of over-crowding came under observation and were remedied upon action being taken by your Inspector.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.

As was to be expected, the scarcity of the town water did not fail to affect the water-closets of the district which were frequently found in a very insanitary condition, though in some localities with wells on the premises the opportunity was taken of utilising the water for flushing purposes.

The work of the Scavenging department has been carried out in a satisfactory manner. I am glad to record that your Inspector has succeeded, without much trouble, in getting house-holders, in many instances, to provide properly covered galvanised bins, as recommended in my Report of last year, in place of the dilapidated and insanitary boxes, hitherto in use for the reception of ashes, &c.

My suggestion of having the dust-carts furnished with some suitable covering with the view of preventing their contents being blown about the streets, although favourably considered by the Sanitary Committee, has not yet been acted upon. There can be no doubt that the small expense which would be involved in affecting this improvement would be more than compensated for

by the benefits, sanitary and otherwise, that would accrue.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The conditions of the Union Street Sewer, which has on several occasions been unfavourably reported upon by me, has again been so unsatisfactory as to necessitate it being scraped—an operation, however productive of only a temporary improvement. It is therefore evident that the matter of laying down a new Sewer is urgent; to wait until the residents in this locality come to suffer from the defects of the present Sewer would, indeed, be bad policy.

The Surveyor has had to report upon the out-fall Sewer which has frequently been found blocked by reason of the insufficient fall in a certain stretch of 40 yards. He recommends the construction of a man-hole to facilitate the cleansing of the Sewer in the event of it again becoming blocked.

The portion of the Braybrook Road Sewer, opposite the Water-works, has always been a source of great anxiety to your Officers, but more so since the outbreak of Enteric Fever in 1907, so the Council is to be congratulated on the wise and precautionary course it has taken in having had the earthenware sewer, with the house connections, replaced by cast-iron pipes provided with an additional man-hole to permit of testing and inspection, thereby minimising the danger of the pollution of the town water with Sewage from this direction.

In spite of the drought the Sewers of the district were not neglected, supplementary supplies of water for flushing purposes having been brought from the brook by means of the water cart.

The works on the Sewage Farm have on all occasions received careful management, with the result that the effluent has maintained its usual degree of purity. A portion of the land is in need of deeper draining so that the sewage passed over it may receive more effective treatment than is possible in present circumstances.

The construction of an additional Filter is a matter which demands your serious consideration, as it is becoming evident the capacity of the present one is insufficient for the increasing work it is called upon to perform.

Slaughter-houses.

The three Slaughter-houses in the district have been kept well under supervision both by your Inspector and myself. Nuisances pertaining to the necessity of lime-washing and the accumulation of manure were reported and in due course abated.

I referred, in my Report of last year, to the very unsatisfactory condition of an outhouse—located on the same premises of one of the Slaughter-houses—wherein sausages were usually made. I am pleased to say that as the result of representations made to the person responsible, the structure in question has been replaced by one more suited to the purpose.

In this connection, I may again be permitted to point out to you the necessity of having visits paid by the Inspector ~~of~~ Slaughter-houses at the time of slaughtering, with a view to the detection of tuberculous and other diseased meat. In order to have this

carried out, I suggest that he be instructed to arrange for such visits and to record them when made.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

From time to time the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the district, five, seven and one in number respectively, have been inspected. The only serious complaint reported had reference to a Cowshed and Dairy on the same premises. Here, the drainage and pavement were defective, the ventilation insufficient and the cow-manure (in the absence of a proper receptacle) is deposited in a backyard in the immediate vicinity of the Dairy and of dwelling houses, thereby tending to the promotion of a very objectionable and insanitary state of affairs, likely to affect, adversely, not only the health of those living in the neighbourhood, but also the wholesomeness of the milk supply. It is hoped that the matter which has been unsatisfactory for a considerable time will receive very early and sufficient attention without the necessity of the Council adopting rigorous measures.

Factories and Workshops, (Bakehouses.)

In company with the Sanitary Inspector, I have periodically inspected the factories, workshops and workplaces in the district in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act of 1901.

Particulars of the nuisances discovered will be found in the Statement appended to this Report. It will be seen that they have reference mainly to want of cleanliness, necessity of lime-washing, dirty pans and floors of w.c.'s, and lack of sufficient ventilation: all of which were immediately abated upon their being pointed out to the manufacturers, or others concerned, except the last mentioned class of cases. As I have on previous occasions reported, it seems evident in the

course of my inspections of the factories, that until the factories are provided with an independent system of ventilation incapable of interference by the operatives, so long will it be necessary to complain of the air in the factories not being of that high standard of purity so essential to the well-being of the workers.

During the year, the buildings of two factories have been extended, and both included the construction of additional w.c.'s and urinals. I am glad to report that the latter show a decided improvement in position and other respects on those formerly installed, being disconnected from the main building, thereby preventing their being a source of danger to the health of those working in the factories.

The Bakehouses in the town were duly visited and found, on the whole, in good condition.

Food Inspection.

Although a careful watch was kept on all food exposed for sale and intended for human consumption in no instance was anything of an objectionable character discovered—a matter for congratulation, considering that the unusually hot summer experienced was so liable to affect food of a perishable nature.

Inspections.

A Statement containing certain particulars of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. G. E. Marlow) during the year and furnished by him is hereto appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY GIBBONS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Desborough Urban District Council.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report, 1911

The district has been periodically and systematically inspected during the year, and separate records kept of nuisances found in the general inspection of the district and inspection made under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. One hundred and eighty four nuisances were reported in the general record, of these, 158 were promptly abated, and 26 remain to be dealt with. Seven statutory notices and 234 informal notices were issued during the year.

The nuisances found and dealt with were as follows :—

Defective and insufficient ventilation to drains	...	...	3
Defective pavings	...	...	6
Insufficient w.c. accomodation	...	...	2
Orders to limewash	...	...	39
Offensive accumulation	...	...	8
Defective and choked drains	...	...	32
Absence of rain-water spouting	...	...	4
Defective w.c. tanks and fittings	...	...	12
Structural defects	...	...	8
Over-crowding	...	...	5
Pig-stye nuisances	...	...	22
Dust nuisances	...	...	3
Insanitary refuse receptacles	...	...	26
Ash-pits abolished	...	...	4
Miscellaneous	...	...	10
			184

GEO. E. MARLOW, *Inspector of Nuisances.*

TABLE I.—URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Net Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number	Net		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
Number	Rate		Number	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.					Number	Rate		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	3837		99	25.80	38	9.9			9	90	38	9.9
1907	3890		90	23.13	48	12.3			9	100	48	12.3
1908	3943		122	30.94	61	15.4	1		12	98.3	62	15.7
1909	3997		121	30.20	48	12.0	2		16	132	50	12.5
1910	4052		93	22.90	46	11.3	1		13	139	47	11.5
1911	4106	97	98	23.86	39	9.4		6	5	51.02	45	10.9

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area covered by water. } 2307

Total population at all ages... } 4093
Number of Inhabited houses ... } 917
Average number of persons per house } 4.4 } At Census of 1911.

TABLE II.—URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 yrs.	25 to 45 yrs.	65 and upw'ds
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1				1		
Scarlet Fever ...	19		6	13			
Enteric Fever ...	1				1		
Phthisis {	Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	1			1		
	Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911.	2				2	
	Others ...	5			3	2	
Totals ...	29		6	13	6	4	

TABLE III.—URBAN DISTRICT OF DESBOROUGH.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without 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
All causes { Certified Uncertified	45	5	1	3	1	7	8	8	12
Diphtheria & Croup	1					1			
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	5					3	2		
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2			1			1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5							3	2
Bronchitis ...	1	1							
Broncho-Pneumonia	2	1	1						
Pneumonia (all other forms) ...	5				1		2	2	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1			1					
Diarrhoea & Enteritis	1								1
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	2					1	1		
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth ...	3	3							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ..	2			1				1	
Other defined diseases ...	15					2	2	2	9

TABLE IV.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1911.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 Months.	3—6 Months.	6—9 Months.	9—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
ALL CAUSES { Certified Uncertified	2	1			3		1		1	5
Premature Birth ...	1	1								2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	1									1
Rickets ...										
Convulsions ...										
Bronchitis ...							1			1
Pneumonia, all forms									1	1
Other causes ...										

Births in the year, legitimate, 96 ; illegitimate, 1.

Deaths in the year, of legitimate infants, 5 ; illegitimate infants, nil.

RAINFALL TABLE.

1911.	Total Fall Inches	Days on which .01 or more fell.	Average Rate of fall on Wet Days.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours	Date of Greatest Fall.
January ...	.83	9	.092	.30	6th
February ...	1.20	14	.085	.25	27th
March ...	2.00	17	.117	.45	12th
April ...	1.01	10	.101	.33	26th
May ...	2.25	8	.281	.96	25th
June ...	1.57	11	.142	.52	23rd
July ...	.10	2	.050	.08	27th
August ...	2.27	12	.183	1.03	21st
September ...	1.18	9	.131	.25	23rd
October ...	1.56	16	.097	.26	26th
November ...	1.91	20	.095	.33	19th
December ...	4.39	24	.182	.61	20th
Totals	20.27				

Taken at Desborough Water-works, situate at 453 feet above ordnance.

PHTHISIS : Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation.

Do the Sanitary Authority use—	}	No.
(1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis ?		
Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium : If so, say how many, and in what Sanatorium ?	}	No.
Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable open-air Shelters or Tents ?	}	No.
Have the Council, or any Private Body, provi- ded a Dispensary. If so, give particulars.	}	No.

Under Table II.

Isolation Hospital : None, except for Small-pox.
Number of diseases that can }
be concurrently treated } One.
Number of available beds : Four.

FORM 572.—Administration of the Factories Act, 1947

3.—HOMES

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107						
	Lists received from Employers				Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils	Notices served on Occupiers to keep or send in lists
	Twice in the year		Once in the year				
	Lists	Outworkers	Lists	Outworkers			
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c	10	290	4	26	2	—	—

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

WORK

			Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises	Outwork in unwholesome premises, Section 108			Outwork in Infected Premises Sections 109, 110		
Prosecutions		Instances		Notices served	Prosecutions	Instances	Orders made (S. 110)	Prosecutions. S. 109, 110	
Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists	Failing to send lists								
—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	Nil	

Administration of Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	16	12	Nil
WORKSHOPS	28	16	Nil
	44	28	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	17	17	Nil	Nil
Ventilation not maintained	9	—	"	"
Other nuisances	4	4	"	"
* Sanitary accommodation				
Defective	10	10	"	"
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	"	"
	41	32		

* Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted—One W.C. to 25 persons

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	7
Slaughterhouses	3
Other workshops	15
Total number of workshops on Register	25

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory & Workshop Act (s. 133)	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector.	2

No underground Bakehouses.