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Contributors

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

for the Year 1925,

Being the

THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the East Grinstead Urban District.

Area	6,355 Acres.
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate 1924-7894)	7,946
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	1,600
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921)	1,710
Rateable Value	£79,949
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£235

VITAL STATISTICS.

	1924	1925
Birth Rate per 1,000	15.31 ..	13.47
Deaths 29M; 41F; General Death Rate per 1,000	8.87 ..	12.08
Deaths under one year per 1,000 Births	8.26 ..	0
Women dying in consequence of Childbirth-Sepsis	0 ..	0
" " " " " " Other Causes	0 ..	0
Deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough	0 ..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years	0 ..	0
Cancer Deaths per 1,000 Deaths from all causes	200 ..	166.67

	M.	F.		
Births-				
Legitimate	43	59	..	106
Illegitimate	1	3		
Deaths under one year				
Legitimate	0	0	..	0
Illegitimate	0	0		

During the year 87 persons normally domiciled in the district received indoor relief, the periods of residence varying from 3 to 365 days. 24 persons received outdoor relief.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	Notified. 1924.	Notified. 1925.	Died.
Scarlet Fever	15	15	0
Diphtheria	11	9	0
Enteric (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	3	1
Erysipelas	7	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	0	0	0
Tuberculosis-Pulmonary ...	3M	3M aet,29, 44 and 45.	4M aet,22,33 45 and 67.
	2F	5F aet,11, 16,17,20 & 36.	5F aet.16,18 36,42 & 66
" Non-Pulmonary	1F	0	0

East Grinstead is an old country market town which has developed into a residential district. There are no factories or special industries and though we have some mean and inconvenient houses and a few over full ones, there are no real slum areas. These facts are to some extent reflected in our vital statistics, low birth rate, low infantile mortality, usually low death rate and freedom from malignant epidemics. Annual figures dealing with so small a population as ours inevitably show considerable fluctuations and too much stress must not be laid on the rise or fall in any one year. Two points however, do stand out, the fall in the birth rate, the figures for the last five years being 21.59, 16.15, 15.06, 15.31 and 13.47, and the fall in the infantile mortality rate. Our figures here are remarkable, a credit to the district and a testimonial to the work of Health Visitor and District Nurses. The figures for the past five years are 25.8, 74.38, 34.78, 8.26 and 0, the E.G.U.D. average 1910-1919 was 66.99; the rate for England and Wales was 75 in 1925 as in 1924. In February and March there was a widely spread outbreak of influenza; as in the winters of -22 and -24 it was not generally of a severe type. Scarlet fever seems almost endemic, the cases notified during the last five years numbering 11, 32, 57, 15 and 15. As a rule it was impossible to trace the source of original infection or the courses by which it travelled from case to case. Diphtheria cases notified were 2, 3, 10, 11 and 9, here too the original importer was often undetected. During the five years there has been no death from puerperal fever; only one case was notified, in 1922, and that I know was considered a doubtful one. There were two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, one each in 1921 and 1922. Five cases of typhoid and paratyphoid, one each in -21, -24, and -25 and two in -23.

HOSPITALS.

The High Grove Isolation Hospital, shared with the East Grinstead Rural District and administered by a Joint Committee of the two Councils, is used mostly for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. There are four two-ward blocks, each ward having ample air-space for three adults or four children.

The Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital (12 beds and 2 cots, with 1 private bed) continues to do invaluable work. During the year 227 in-patients and 77 casualties were treated.

The sum of £490 : 16 : 6, including private room fees, was received in payment from patients and £441 : 8 : 1 from investments, the rest of the income being derived entirely from voluntary sources. £311 : 4 : 11 was received from the Working Men's Hospital Committee (East Grinstead £291 : 12 : 11), another big increase, and £114:10:10 (East Grinstead £100) from the Hospital Saturday Collections organised by the same Committee.

CLINICS AND OTHER FACILITIES.

The East Grinstead General Dispensary after many years of useful work has closed down from lack of financial support.

The Babies Welfare Clinic (County help) now managed by one Committee of the East Grinstead District Nursing and Child Welfare Association (Hon. Sec. Miss Beale, Standen), is held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Annual attendances have been 591, 366, 686, 686, 815 and 614. The Health Visitor paid 1466 home visits to mothers and infants during the year.

The Second Committee of the same association (Hon. Sec.Miss Wagg The Hermitage), is in charge of the two district nurses (county grant) who take most efficient charge of the maternity and general nursing of the district.

The Childrens' Home, now under a separate organisation, (Hon.Sec. Miss Bagot, Westfields) has moved to a larger house with a garden, Yarburgh, Highfield Road. It is used chiefly as a Convalescent Home for slum children, but local children, whose parents are in difficult circumstances, are also taken.

The County Tuberculosis Officer attends every Monday at the Dispensary in the Railway Approach; patients may be taken or sent to him for consultation and treatment. He arranges Sanatorium accommodation for those likely to benefit.

When necessary, Bacteriological Examinations are carried out and anti-diphtheritic serum provided at the Council's expense. During the year under review 16 specimens were submitted for investigation, while serum was provided in several cases for prophylactic as well as curative purposes.

There is a Red Cross Ambulance, available for public use, stationed at the Southern Garage, London Road.
Carriage of infectious cases is by Motor Ambulance, run in connection with the Hospital by the Joint Committee of the Urban and Rural Districts.

Medical Inspection of schools and supervision of Midwives is carried out by the County Authority.

LISTS OF ACTS AND PARTS OF ACTS ADOPTED BY THE EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ACT.	DATE ADOPTED.
Infectious Diseases (Notifications) Act 1889	6th. November, 1889.
Private Street Works Act, 1892	4th. March, 1892.
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890	7th. June, 1905.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 (except sect.94) 7, (except sects. 82 and 83) 8 and 9.	7th. July, 1909.
Public Health Act, 1925 Parts 2 (except Sects. 21 and 22) 3 (except sects. 44) 4 and 5 (except sects. 51 to 55 inclusive).	7th. December, 1925.

I append the very clear reports of the Surveyor and Acting Sanitary Inspector which give a full account of the sanitary conditions of the district.

W. E. WALLIS,

M. O. H.

East Grinstead,

June, 1926.

EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ACTING SANITARY INSPECTOR,

For the Year ending December 31st. 1925.

Urban District Council Offices,

London Road,

East Grinstead.

April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members
of the East Grinstead Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information the following Report and Survey on the work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department for the past year.

SUMMARY of SANITARY INSPECTIONS of PREMISES.

Inspections made (including supervision of works in progress	461
Notices served (both formal and informal)	14
Premises at which improvements were carried out	14
New drains connected to sewers	19
Existing drains relaid or renewed	2
Tests of existing drains	6
Houses without dust-bins	3
Inspections of Milkshops and Cowsheds	28
Cases of Infectious Disease removed to Hospital	27
Premises disinfected	35
Reports received re samples of Town Water	12
Inspections of Slaughter-houses	14

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The East Grinstead Urban District being almost completely a residential one, the question of Smoke Nuisance does not present itself to any degree. In 1925 no case presented itself.

PREMISES and OCCUPATIONS which can be CONTROLLED by BYELAWS and REGULATIONS.

No Common Lodging Houses exist in the District.
No Byelaws relating to Houses Let in Lodgings are in force.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary condition of the schools in this District is good and the water supply to the same is sufficient and wholesome.

MILK SUPPLY.

The quality of the milk is considered generally good, and no samples have been taken which would justify prosecution.

No producers in the Urban District are at present licensed to supply Graded Milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. Generally the Cowsheds are kept in a fairly good condition, although some of the buildings are not ideal for milk production or storage.

The various Cowsheds have been inspected half-yearly and in each case lime-washing has been carried out satisfactorily.

Various improvements are in hand and will soon mature.

No bacteriological examination of Graded Milk or other Milk has been carried out.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The various persons in this District who slaughter for human consumption have regular hours of slaughter and a systematic inspection is made at these times when deemed necessary.

The traders concerned under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have been circularised and are conforming to these Regulations.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 5 Licensed Slaughter-houses in this District. When considered from the viewpoint of structure and locality they are not ideal, but are well kept by the tenants and owners, and in consequence few complaints have been received.

The meat supply is on the whole very good.

OTHER FOODS.

No difficulty has arisen during the past year in connection with any premises within this District wherein food is stored or prepared or exposed for sale.

No cases of food poisoning have been reported or discovered.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

There are 32 workshops in the Urban District, the workers being chiefly engaged in the dressmaking, tailoring, baking, laundry and building trades.

There is 1 Underground Bakehouse that is licensed by the Council.

14 Outworkers are employed in dressmaking, tailoring and woolwork at their respective homes.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES - PREVENTION.

The cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease removed to Isolation Hospitals during the year were:-

Scarlet Fever	15
Diptheria	9
Typhoid	3

In each case the rooms and materials exposed to infection were disinfected after the removal of the patient.

Many articles, bedding etc., were removed to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection there.

Other premises have been fumigated after Whooping Cough, Measles and Tuberculosis.

Sanitary appliances and drains have been tested in many houses either following Infectious Disease or on Complaint and whenever defects have been found, notice to remedy has had the desired effect.

Liquid disinfectant is supplied free at the discretion of the Sanitary Inspector, when considered advisable. This has had a marked tendency to arrest infection in many houses.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF - OFFICIALS.

One Medical Officer of Health (Part time) and one Sanitary Inspector are engaged, both of whose salaries are contributed to by the MINISTRY of HEALTH.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CAMPBELL GOLDING,

Acting Sanitary Inspector.

EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ENGINEER and SURVEYOR.

For the Year ending December 31st.1925.

Urban District Council Offices,
London Road,
East Grinstead.
April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members
of the East Grinstead Urban District Council,

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your information the following Report and Survey on the work of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department for the past year.

WATER SUPPLY.

The East Grinstead Gas and Water Company continued an ample and constant supply of water from the Forest Row and Hackenden Wells to all parts of the district supplied by them. In a few instances where supplies are from private wells or springs there was no lack of water. The monthly analysis of water supplied by the East Grinstead Gas and Water Company show the standard of water to be of good quality through-out. The Company have high pressure filters at both sources of supply so presumably all water is filtered before being passed into the mains and every reasonable precaution is taken to secure a safe and constant supply.

The local rainfall recorded by Mr. W.S. Franks of Brockhurst Observatory for the year giving the total rainfall and variance with the mean average rainfall for the period (1890-1925) are given below:-

	Inches	Inches	
JANUARY	3.73	0.84	above average.
FEBRUARY	5.51	3.03	" "
MARCH	1.03	1.51	below "
APRIL	3.18	1.10	above "
MAY	3.64	1.71	" "
JUNE	0.15	1.91	below "
JULY	4.43	1.69	above "
AUGUST	2.56	0.17	below "
SEPTEMBER	2.60	0.34	above "
OCTOBER	4.45	0.70	" "
NOVEMBER	3.66	0.18	" "
DECEMBER	4.05	0.19	" "
Total for Year	38.99	6.19	above average.

No case of contamination has been found during the past year in the water supply to dwelling houses.

RIVERS and STREAMS.

No appreciable pollution has been found during the year calling for any action on the part of the Council.

DRAINAGE and SEWERAGE.

The most populous part of the district is drained by gravitation to the Sewage Works at Frith Park Farm. Owing to the low levels of two sectors of the town it is necessary to pump sewage up to the gravitating sewers. Due to the increase of building operations and connections therefrom to the sewers leading to Sunnyside Pumping Station it has been found necessary to improve the plant at this station to bring the pumping capacity up to the required standard.

On the Ashurstwood boundary several houses are drained into the sewers of the East Grinstead Rural District under an agreement with the latter Council and in a like manner the sewers of your Urban District receive the drainage from the houses in the Baldwin's Hill area of the Godstone Rural District Council. There are nearly 21 miles of sewers under the control of the Council and these entail considerable supervision, flushing and maintenance.

The total area of the Sewage Disposal Works and Farm is about 50 acres and they have been maintained in a good condition and no nuisance from pollution or smell of the stream exists.

Recent gaugings of the normal dry weather flow of sewage dealt with at the Works was found to be about 120,000 gallons per day which is steadily increasing.

The sewage is purified by passing through screening chambers and open sedimentation tanks, followed by distribution over contact beds by revolving sprinklers and is finally passed through open clinker land channels to the stream. The whole disposal plant is being remodelled to deal with the increased dry weather flow and also to modernise the system of purification.

WATER CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

It is estimated that 1604 houses in the Urban District are connected to the Public Sewers on to the water carriage system and that 156 houses are connected to cess-pools. The latter method is largely in vogue owing to the difficulty of sewering in the undulating parts of the District.

HIGHWAYS.

The Council have under their control:-

3¼ miles of CLASS I Roads.
2½ miles of CLASS 2 Roads.
15¼ miles of UNCLASSIFIED or DISTRICT ROADS.

ROADS.

There is ample scope for improvements on the various roads in the District, although the general surface condition of the carriageways and footpaths is satisfactory.

During the year the following were the chief works undertaken:-

1. Laying 428 yards of Granite kerbing at Lewes Road and 958 sq.yards of Tarmacadam footway.

2. The total resurfacing of the carriageway of Railway Approach with Tarmacadam and adjusting the levels of the kerbing and footways as far as permissible.

3. Resurfacing of carriageway between Railway Approach and Station Road with Tarmacadam and improving the surface water drainage at the sides of the carriageway, (this section of the roadway was previously under the control of the Southern Railway Company who refunded the cost of making up when it was taken over by the Council).

4. Resurfacing a section of the carriageway of Queen's Road from the Queen Victoria Cottage Hospital to London Road with Tarmacadam.

5. Resurfacing approximately 4,500 square yards of the carriageway of the Main Road with Tarmacadam.

6. Making up of Crescent, Garland, Grosvenor, Park and Stockwell Roads under the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

7. Tarwashing approximately 117,000 super yards of carriageway on various roads in the District.

8. Widening of carriageway and building batter stone retaining wall at Shovelstrode Lane.

9. Laying concrete kerbing and constructing footway for 30 lineal yards between Railway Approach and Brooklands Way, and

10. Reorganisation of the labour engaged on the various road services.

The Council have before them various schemes for road improvements including:-

1. Improvement of Turner's Hill Road from junction of Kingscote Road and Turner's Hill Road to Urban Boundary on the Turner's Hill Road.

2. Improvement of the junction of Ship Street and Dunnings Road.

3. Widening of Moat Road from St. John's Road to Cranston Road.

4. Improvemont of the corner at the junction of Brooklands Way and Turner's Hill Road.

5. Reconstruction of a surface water sewer in Portland Road.

6. Various improvements to the carriageway and footways of the Main Road.

SCAVENGING and HOUSE REFUSE.

To efficiently cope with the weekly accumulation of house refuse it is necessary to use a Ford Tonner covered motor van to visit the rural parts of the District and two horses and carts for the town and built up parts of the District.

Many of our streets are scavenged daily and others two or three times weekly as necessity requires and the sweepings and manure sold for garden and allotment purposes realised about £20.

During the year the Council wisely substituted the horse and cart method of picking up road sweepings for the hand barrow system which has considerably cut down the cost of carrying out these works.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

The Refuse Destructor continues to work satisfactorily although the calorific value of the refuse is very low due to the amount of garden and trade refuse received, but complaints from the smoke and dust nuisances are kept down to the mimimum.

The total amount of Trade and House Refuse consumed at the destructor for the year was 2435 loads. The whole of the resultant ashes and clinker are either used for foundations of roads and footways or sold.

The quantity of 102 tons sold shews a revenue of £30 : 12 : 0.

The disposal of tins and other unvaluable materials arising out of the refuse collections which have accumulated in large quantities requires to be dealt with to improve the general site conditions at the Refuse Destructor.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The Council have six Public Conveniences which are situate, and with the accommodation as shewn in the following schedule:-

Existing Conveniences.

Name of Convenience.	No.	Accommodation.		
		Water-closets.		Urinal-stalls.
		Men	Women	Men
Cantelupe Road	1	1	4	5
Ship Street	2	-	-	3
Sussex Arms	3	-	-	3
Railway Approach	4	-	-	4
White Lion Hotel	5	-	-	4

Proposed Conveniences.

Name of Convenience.	No.	Accommodation.		
		Water-closets.		Urinal-stalls.
		Men	Women	Men
Mount Noddy Recreation Ground.	6	1	1	3
De la Warr Recreation Ground	7	1	1	3

During the past year several alterations and renovations were carried out to these conveniences which have been kept in good order, regularly flushed, cleaned and disinfected.

The Council have before them the question of providing Public Conveniences in Mount Noddy and De la Warr Recreation Grounds which have the above accommodation.

RECREATION GROUNDS, CEMETERIES and ALLOTMENTS.

The Council own over 18 acres of recreation grounds, portions of which are used for Cricket, Football and other games.

The question of providing swings, see-saws, giant-strides and sand-pits at Mount Noddy and De la Warr Recreation Grounds for children has been approved by the Council and are to be erected at an early date.

The new and old Cemeteries were again kept in excellent order during the year.

The provision of a 10 foot ring carriageway at the new Cemetery constructed with a clinker bottom and binding gravel surface has greatly assissted in the convenience of marshalling vehicles during the times of funerals.

Nearly the whole of the allotments, comprising about 12 acres, are occupied but not all cultivated. It is intended to survey the whole of these allotments at an early date and tabulate the plans in the Council Offices for future information.

SWIMMING BATH.

At the commencement of the Swimming season the Council undertook to lay on a main supply of water from the East Grinstead Gas & Water Company's main in Brooklands Way at the cost of £124. The bath had previously been partly filled from a spring which was inadequate and to a great extent encouraged the growth of fungus in the Bath.

The method of supply from the East Grinstead Gas & Water Company's main is an inestimable improvement. The Bath was filled on 7 occasions during the swimming season when 406,000 gallons of water was used from the East Grinstead Gas & Water Co's main, giving an average change of water every 21 days and approximately 58,000 gallons per change of water.

The Council have before them suggestions for improving the general conditions at the Bath and the following matters are under consideration:-

1. Provision of a Ladies Water Closet at the West end of the Bath.
2. Cutting back and terracing the bank on the North side of the Bath.
3. Increasing the seating accommodation at the Bath.

ATTENDANCE.

During the period of ordinary admission at a charge of one penny 5,372 persons visited the Bath.

During the period of Family Bathing 154 adults at a charge of 3d. each and 23 children at a charge of 2d. each visited the Bath.

During the period the Bath was opened to schools, which included Baldwin's Hill, Felbridge and Miss Holt's Schools, 309 Boys and Girls visited the Bath.

The Girl Guides used the bath on 12 occasions and it is estimated that 100 girls visited the Bath.

The Bath was used by seven different Private Parties, giving a total of visits to the Bath by parties of 23 occasions and an estimate of 115 persons.

The East Grinstead Swimming Club used the Bath on 17 occasions and it is estimated that 325 persons visited the Bath.

This would give an estimated attendance to the Bath for the season of 1925 of 6,398 persons, which when compared with the attendance in 1924 of 2,589 persons gives a marked increase.

HOUSING.

There was again an improvement in the building trade during the year as the undermentioned figures show. This is due in some measure to the subsidy given under the Housing Acts and 48 houses and bungalows were approved during the year under this scheme.

Although the Council built 101 houses at the Brooklands Housing Scheme during the years 1920-1922 yet it is proposed by them to carry out a further scheme at an early date.

Plans have been approved for 61 new houses and bungalows during the year this being an increase of 15 over last year. Also the following buildings have been approved and are constructed or under construction:-

Plans for additions to shops	2
Plans for additions or alterations to dwelling houses	11
Plans for Motor Garages	3
Plans for additions to Motor Garages	1
Plans for additions to Workshops and extensions	2
Plans for new Sheds	1
Plans for Petrol Stores	5

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