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**Contributors**

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"St. Audrey's"  
E L Y.



To The Chairman & Members  
of the Ely Urban District Council.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for  
the year ending December 31st., 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres	16,742
Population (1925)	7,621
Census 1911	7,917
" 1921	7,651

The Urban area consists of partly highland and partly fen,  
and includes the Villages of Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow  
and Chettisham.

The City of Ely is situated on an eminence rising to a  
height of 89 feet above sea level. The contour of the  
surrounding country is flat with small eminences rising  
above the general level of the fen lands, noticeably at  
Quanea, Stuntney and Shippea, etc.

The soil is partly drift and lower green sand resting  
on a substratum of kimeridge clay.

The bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture,  
including fruit growing and market gardening. There is  
a Beet Sugar Factory at Adelaide which was completed last  
year. There is also the Brewing industry in Ely, and  
Leather industry.

No. of inhabited houses (1921) 1848 structurally  
separate dwellings.

No. of families  
(or separate occupiers)(1921) 1868

Rateable value £57,011. 8. 8.

Sum represented by ld. Rate £ 131. 9. 5.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Males.	Females.	Total
<u>Births.</u>	61.	60.	121.
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	
	Males.	Females.	Males. Females.
	60.	57.	1. 3.

Birth rate per 1,000 15.37

do. (England & Wales) 18.30

Deaths.

Total number from all causes 113

Death rate 14.90

do. (England & Wales) 12.20

St. Andrew's  
E.L.C.

To the Chairman & Members  
of the City Urban District Council.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for  
the year ending December 31st, 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	15,742
Population (1925)	7,821
Population 1911	7,917
" 1901	7,051

The Urban area consists of partly highland and partly low, and includes the Villages of Stumney, Adelaide, Pritowillow and Chastellans.

The City of Ely is situated on an eminence rising to a height of 92 feet above sea level. The contour of the surrounding country is flat with small eminences rising above the general level of the fen lands, notably at Quenne, Stumney and Shippen, etc.

The soil is partly drift and lower green sand resting on a substratum of kimmeridge clay.

The bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture, including fruit growing and market gardening. There is a Beet Sugar Factory at Adelaide which was completed last year. There is also the Brewing Industry in Ely, and Leather Industry.

No. of inhabited houses (1921) 1848 approximately  
separate dwellings.

No. of families  
(or separate occupiers) (1921) 1868

Rateable value £27,011. 8. 8.  
Sum represented by 1d. Rate £ 131. 2. 5.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.		Deaths.	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
61.	60.	57.	1.
Total 121.		Total 58.	
Birth rate per 1,000		Death rate	
15.87		12.30	
do. (England & Wales)		do. (England & Wales)	
19.30		14.90	
Total number from all causes		113	



Deaths in Workhouse	26		
Of non-residents registered in district		11	
" residents not registered "		11	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-			
From sepsis	1		
Other causes	Nil		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age		10	
Infant mortality	( Legitimate ( Illegitimate	10 Nil	)
Rate per 1,000 Births	82.60		
do. (England & Wales)	75.00		
Deaths from Measles	Nil		
do. Whooping cough	2		
do. Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs)	Nil		
Deaths of elderly persons over 65 years of age	64		
Senile mortality percentage of total deaths	57.1		
Deaths from Cancer and allied malignant disease	16		
	Males 7	Females 9	
Cancer mortality	14.2 %		
Deaths from chief respiratory diseases	10		
do. Tuberculosis	12		
<u>Causes of death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
Enteric fever	...	...	1
Whooping cough	...	...	1
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	...	6
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	2
Cancer and malignant disease	...	...	9
Diabetes	...	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	-
Heart disease	...	...	9
Bronchitis	...	...	4
Pneumonia	...	...	2
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	1
Congenital debility, etc.	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	-
Other deaths from violence	...	...	-
Other defined diseases...	...	...	17
	24		
	58	...	55
Inquests	4.		





## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Since 1920 there have been a certain number of Scarlet fever and Diphtheria cases yearly, the incidence being as follows :-

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet fever	26.	41.	3.	3.	14.	13.
Diphtheria	5.	3.	-	4.	13.	1.

Antitoxin is freely used. Practically in every case of Diphtheria.

There have been a few cases of second attacks and return cases of Scarlet fever.

	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Pneumonia incidence	9.	13.	6.	7.	2.	3.
Chickenpox do.				4.	44.	57.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified and  
" Cerebro spinal meningitis.

Two cases of Enteric fever below Adelaide - from River Water.

### LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements are made by the Council with the Clinical Research Association to carry out Bacteriological examination of specimens sent by Medical Practitioners in the district, and these are fully taken advantage of by the local medical men.

	23 negative	4 positive	Total
Tuberculosis	58	17	75
Diphtheria	5	6	11
Enteric			
			<u>113.</u>

No primary or revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health as such under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, but according to the Returns of Births, etc. there were 69 vaccinations and 65 exemptions.

Measles has been very prevalent during the year, especially in the Villages.

No deaths from Influenza were registered during the year although there was an epidemic in the early months of the year most with gastro intestinal symptoms.

Disinfection of premises, etc. is regularly carried out in all cases of notifiable diseases; clothing, bedding, etc. being removed and disinfected at the Isolation Hospital.

# PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Since 1930 there have been a certain number of scarlet fever and diphtheria cases yearly, the incidence being as follows:-

1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
28.	41.	3.	3.	14.	13.
2.	3.	-	4.	19.	1.

Antitoxin is freely used. Practically in every case of diphtheria.

There have been a few cases of second attacks and return cases of scarlet fever.

1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
9.	18.	6.	7.	2.	8.
4.	44.	57.			

One case of diphtheritic leecherism was notified and Corbic spinal meningitis.

The cause of Enteric fever below Adelaide - from River Water.

## LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements are made by the Council with the Clinical Research Association to carry out bacteriological examination of specimens sent by Medical Practitioners in the district, and these are fully taken advantage of by the local medical men.

27	4 positive	23 negative	Tuberculosis
78	17	58	Diphtheria
11	0	2	Enteric

115.

No primary or revaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health as much under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, but according to the returns of births, etc., there were 99 vaccinations and 62 exemptions.

Measles has been very prevalent during the year, especially in the Village.

No deaths from Influenza were registered during the year although there was an epidemic in the early months of the year most with gastro-intestinal symptoms.

Disinfection of premises, etc., is regularly carried out in all cases of notifiable diseases; clothing, bedding, etc., being removed and disinfected at the Isolation Hospital.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox ...	Nil	-	-
Scarlet fever ...	13.	13.	-
Diphtheria ...	1.	1.	-
Enteric ...	3.	3.	1.
Pneumonia ...	3.	-	-
Erysipelas ...	1.	-	-
Malaria ...	2.	-	-
Cerebro spinal meningitis...	1.	-	-
Encephalitis lethargica ...	1.	-	-
Chickenpox ...	57.	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age periods.	New cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	2	-	-	-	3	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	5	2	2	1	6	1	2

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by Local Authority or County Council.

(a) (i) Tuberculosis - None.

Surgical cases are sent to Addenbrooke's Hospital at Cambridge and paid by County Council.

The County Council have the call on a certain number of beds in Sanatoria outside the District.

(ii) Maternity. Two Maternity wards at Tower House Infirmary.





- (iii) Children. Nil
- (iv) Fever. The Ely Urban and Rural Joint Hospital is available for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric.  
Number of beds - 36. Can be increased to 40.
- (v) Small pox. Nil.
- (b) The only general Hospital for the district is Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. - 16 miles away. There is also the Infirmary at Tower House, Ely, which is not sufficiently large or equipped to cope with the needs of the area.
- (c) Any Institutional provision for unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate children and homeless children in area.  
  
The Diocesan Refuge, The Haven, Ely, supported by voluntary contributions, in connection with which there is a Maternity Home at Cambridge.  
  
The Guardians have a Children's Home in the Grounds of Tower House.
- (d) Ambulance Facilities.
  - (a) In Infectious cases. The Ely Urban & Rural Joint Isolation Hospital have a Motor Ambulance.
  - (b) In non-infectious cases. Red Cross Ambulance at Cambridge.  
Private Ambulance at a local Garage.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic.	Downham Road, Ely.	By the Isle of Ely County Council.
School Clinic.	do.	do.
Tuberculosis Clinic.	do.	do.
Venereal Disease Clinic.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.	do.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1 Medical Officer of Health (part time) who is also Medical Officer to Ely Urban & Rural Joint Isolation Hospital, and Tower House Infirmary.

1 Inspector of Nuisances.

1 Inspector of Meat under Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (a) General. There are two trained Nurses provided by the Ely Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions and small payments by Patients.
- (b) In Infectious Diseases (Measles, etc.). No provision.
- (c) Midwives. There is one Nurse Midwife provided by Ely Nursing Association, a small Grant being given by County Council.  
In addition there are two Certified Midwives practising in the area.



(iv) Fever. The City Urban and Rural Joint Hospital is available for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric. Number of beds - 36. Can be increased to 40.

(v) Small pox. Nil.

(b) The only general Hospital for the district is Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. - 10 miles away. There is also the Infirmary at Tower House, Ely, which is not sufficiently large or equipped to cope with the needs of the area.

(c) Any institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children and homeless children in area.

The Mooseson Refuge, The Haven, Ely, supported by voluntary contributions, in connection with which there is a Maternity Home at Cambridge.

The Guardians have a Children's Home in the grounds of Tower House.

(d) Ambulance Facilities.

(a) In infectious cases. The City Urban & Rural Joint Isolation Hospital have a Motor Ambulance.

(b) In non-infectious cases. Red Cross Ambulance at Cambridge. Private Ambulance at a local Garage.

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1 Inspector of Nuisances.

1 Inspector of Meat under Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1934.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General. There are two trained Nurses provided by the Ely Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions and small payments by Patients.

(b) In Infectious Diseases (Measles, etc.). No provision.

(c) Midwives. There is one Nurse Midwife provided by Ely Nursing Association, a small grant being given by County Council. In addition there are two Certified Midwives practising in the area.

## LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Public Health Act, 1875.  
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.  
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**Water.** The supply for Ely proper, Stuntney, Adelaide and Prickwillow is obtained from Waterworks situated at Isleham - 12 miles distant.  
The source of the supply is from the chalk formation.  
Depth of Well - 90 feet.  
The supply is constant and ample.  
No possibility of contamination.  
In Prickwillow, Adelaide and Stuntney Standpipes are provided, and also a certain number of houses have been connected up.

**Rivers & Streams.** Both River Ouse and River Lark are polluted by Sewage and Effluent from Beet Sugar Factories at Ely and Bury St. Edmunds.

**Drainage & Sewerage.** In Town proper Water Closets are universal. In surrounding district and Villages - Pail Closets and Privies.  
All houses in Ely are connected with Sewers and each house is supplied with water for flushing.  
The Sewage is collected in Sewage Tank which is emptied twice a year, the overflow passing into the River.

**Scavenging.** Daily collection of Refuse by the Council's carts. Every House visited three times a week. All moveable Ashbins used. No fixed receptacles in Ely.

**Sanitary Inspection of the area.** The number of Inspections is 77, exclusive of re-visits, relating to nuisances from insanitary premises, defective drainage, piggeries, slaughterhouses, cowsheds, bakehouses and schools.  
Informal notice given in 30 cases, as follows :-

Common Nuisances	3	
Cowsheds	11	
Slaughterhouses	5	
Schools	3	
Bakehouses	6	
Housing defects	1	
Insufficient W. C. accommodation	1	30

These all received attention and defects remedied.  
Formal notice served and action taken by the Council in 1 case.

**Schools.** Ten Schools have been inspected and only minor defects noted.

Adelaide	
Prickwillow	
Shippea Hill	
Chettisham	
Stuntney	
Broad Street	(Infants')
Silver Street	(Boys')
do.	(Girls')
Back Hill	(Boys')
Market Street	(Mixed)



Public Health Act, 1875.  
 Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.  
 Public Health (Ireland) Regulations, 1924.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Water. The supply for this purpose, Bunnage, Abbeville and  
 Pricewell is obtained from the reservoir situated at Laleham -  
 12 miles distant.  
 The source of the supply is from the chalk formation.  
 Depth of Well - 50 feet.  
 The supply is constant and ample.  
 No possibility of contamination.  
 In Pricewell, Abbeville and Bunnage, 2000 gallons are  
 provided, and also a certain number of houses have been  
 connected up.

Rivers & Streams. Both River Ouse and River Lark are  
 polluted by sewage and effluent from Beet Sugar Factories  
 at Ely and Ely St. Edmunds.

Drainage & Sewerage. In Town proper Water Closets are  
 universal. In surrounding district and Villages - Pail  
 Closets and Privies.  
 All houses in Ely are connected with Sewers and each  
 house is supplied with water for drinking.  
 The sewage is collected in Sewage Tank which is emptied  
 twice a year, the overflow passing into the River.

Severing. Daily collection of refuse by the Council's  
 carts. Every house visited three times a week. All  
 movable refuse used. No fixed receptacles in Ely.

Sanitary Inspection of the area. The number of inspections is  
 77, exclusive of re-visits, relating to nuisances from  
 insanitary premises, defective drainage, privies,  
 slaughterhouses, cowsheds, bakeries and schools.  
 Informal notice given in 50 cases, as follows:-

Common Nuisances	5
Cowsheds	11
Slaughterhouses	1
Schools	1
Bakeries	1
Housing defects	1
Insufficient W.C. accommodation	30

These all received attention and defects remedied.  
 Formal notice served and action taken by the Council  
 in 1 case.

Schools. Ten Schools have been inspected and only minor  
 defects noted.

Abbeville	
Pricewell	
Shipman Hill	
Chatterham	
Bunnage	
Broad Street (Infants)	
Silver Street (Boys)	
do. (Girls)	
Back Hill (Boys)	
Market Street (Mixed)	

The chief item of interest in the district is the Beet Sugar Factory, erected in 1925.

The campaign commenced before the buildings were out of the Contractors hands, consequently there were certain irregularities and defects in the sanitation which now have been corrected.

The treatment of the Effluent from Beet Sugar Factories is a serious problem for the contry, where this industry is quite in its infancy. On the Continent, where this industry has been in progress 60 years, they have not, as yet, solved the difficulty.

Locally we are concerned with the Effluent from the Ely Factory, and also the Bury St. Edmunds Factory, as the River Lark passes through a portion of the Urban District of Ely, and many people are dependent on this River for their water supply.

The trouble seems to be that the effluent discharged contains material which is a suitable medium for bacterial action in certain conditions of the water, when putrescent action takes place, releasing certain gases which are fatal to fish life.

We have suggested that improvement might be effected if the filter-press cake was eliminated from the effluent, and the diffusion waters were treated with milk of lime before entering the settling pond.

Also that the settling pond should be made more efficient by baffles and such like means to help precipitate more of the solid matter before emptying into the outfall.

The Clerk and I have visited and made enquiries with regard to other Factories, and also investigated the effects on the Fish, etc. in other Rivers and many analyses have been taken of the polluted waters. This has entailed a great deal of extra work.

Naturally one does not wish to put too many obstacles in the way of a new industry.

#### INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. The samples of milk taken for analysis have been satisfactory.

(i) Action taken as to tuberculous milk and cattle - Nil.

(ii) Number of Licenses granted for sale of Milk under special designations ... .. 1.

(iii) Refusal or revocation of Licenses to sell Milk - Nil.

(b) Meat. One Inspector (part time) under Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, has been appointed.

One carcass was found to be unfit for human food and was accordingly destroyed.

Private Slaughter-houses are as follows :-

		In 1920.		In January, 1925.		In December, 1925.
Registered	...	3	...	3	...	3
Licensed	...	2	...	2	...	2
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	TOTAL	5	...	5	...	5
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>



The chief lines of interest in the district in the past year  
 Factory, started in 1927.  
 The complaint concerned before the buildings were out of the  
 Contaminated water, consequently there were certain insanitary  
 and defects in the sanitation which now have been corrected.  
 The treatment of the Effluent from the Sugar Factory  
 is a serious problem for the country, where this industry  
 exists in the intensity. On the Continent, where this industry  
 has been in progress 60 years, they have not, as yet, solved  
 the difficulty.

Locally we are concerned with the Effluent from the Dye  
 Factory, and also the Dye St. Edmunds Factory, on the River  
 Lark passes through a portion of the Urban District of Dye,  
 and many people are dependent on this River for their water  
 supply.

The trouble seems to be that the effluent discharged  
 contains material which is a suitable medium for bacterial  
 action in certain conditions of the water, when putrescent  
 action takes place, releasing certain gases which are  
 fatal to fish life.

We have suggested that improvement might be effected if  
 the filter-press cake was eliminated from the effluent,  
 and the effluent water were treated with milk of lime  
 before entering the settling pond.  
 Also that the settling pond should be made more efficient  
 by baffles and such like means to help precipitate some  
 of the solid matter before emptying into the outlet.  
 The Clerk and I have visited and made enquiries with  
 regard to other factories, and also investigated the effects  
 on the fish, etc. in other Rivers and many analyses have been  
 taken of the polluted waters. This has entailed a great  
 deal of extra work.

Naturally one does not wish to put too many obstacles  
 in the way of a new industry.

#### INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. The analysis of milk taken for analysis  
 have been satisfactory.

(1) Action taken as to tuberculosis milk and cattle - Nil.

(11) Number of Licences granted for sale of Milk  
 under special designation ... .. 1.

(111) Refusal or revocation of Licences to sell Milk - Nil.

(b) Meat. One Inspector (part time) under Public Health  
 (last) Regulations, 1924, has been appointed.

One carcass was found to be unfit for human food  
 and was accordingly destroyed.

Private Slaughter-houses are as follows:-

	In 1920.	In January, 1922.	In December, 1922.
Registered Slaughterhouses	3	3	3
TOTAL	3	3	3

## HOUSING.

Extent of shortage. Probably a further 40 or 50 Houses of the Parlour type.

39 new Dwellinghouses have been erected during the year, including 7 in connection with the new Sugar Factory, 13 built by private enterprise and ranking for financial assistance, and the remainder by the Local Authority as part of their Scheme.

General Standard of Housing in the area. Fairly good. There is very little House property which could be termed "dilapidated."

Defects found to exist. These are chiefly minor in character. Examples are as follows :-

"Windows should be made to open"  
"Cross Ventilation required"  
"Additional W. Cs. to be provided"  
"Paving in Yards"  
etc.

Housing statistics:-

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

(a) Total	...	...	...	39
(b) With State assistance				
(i) By Local Authority				19
(ii) By other bodies or persons				13

Inspection - Nil.

Proceedings - Nil.

I beg to remain,

Yours faithfully,

F. H. BECKETT, B. A., M. B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Report of the Board of Health, 1910, p. 10. The Board of Health has been organized during the year 1910. It is in connection with the new sugar factory, 12 miles by private enterprise and working for financial assistance, and the remainder by the local authority and part of their income. The Board of Health in the area, partly good, there is very little House property which could be termed "dilapidated".

Defects found to exist. These are chiefly as follows in character. Examples are as follows:-

- "Windows should be made to open"
- "Cross Ventilation required"
- "Additional W.C. to be provided"
- "Paving in yards"
- etc.

Household statistics:-

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) Total	30
(b) With State assistance	
(1) By Local Authority	10
(2) By other bodies or persons	15

Inspection - Nil.  
Proceedings - Nil.

I beg to remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
T. H. BURNETT, S. A., M. B.,  
Medical Officer of Health.