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ANNUAL REPORT

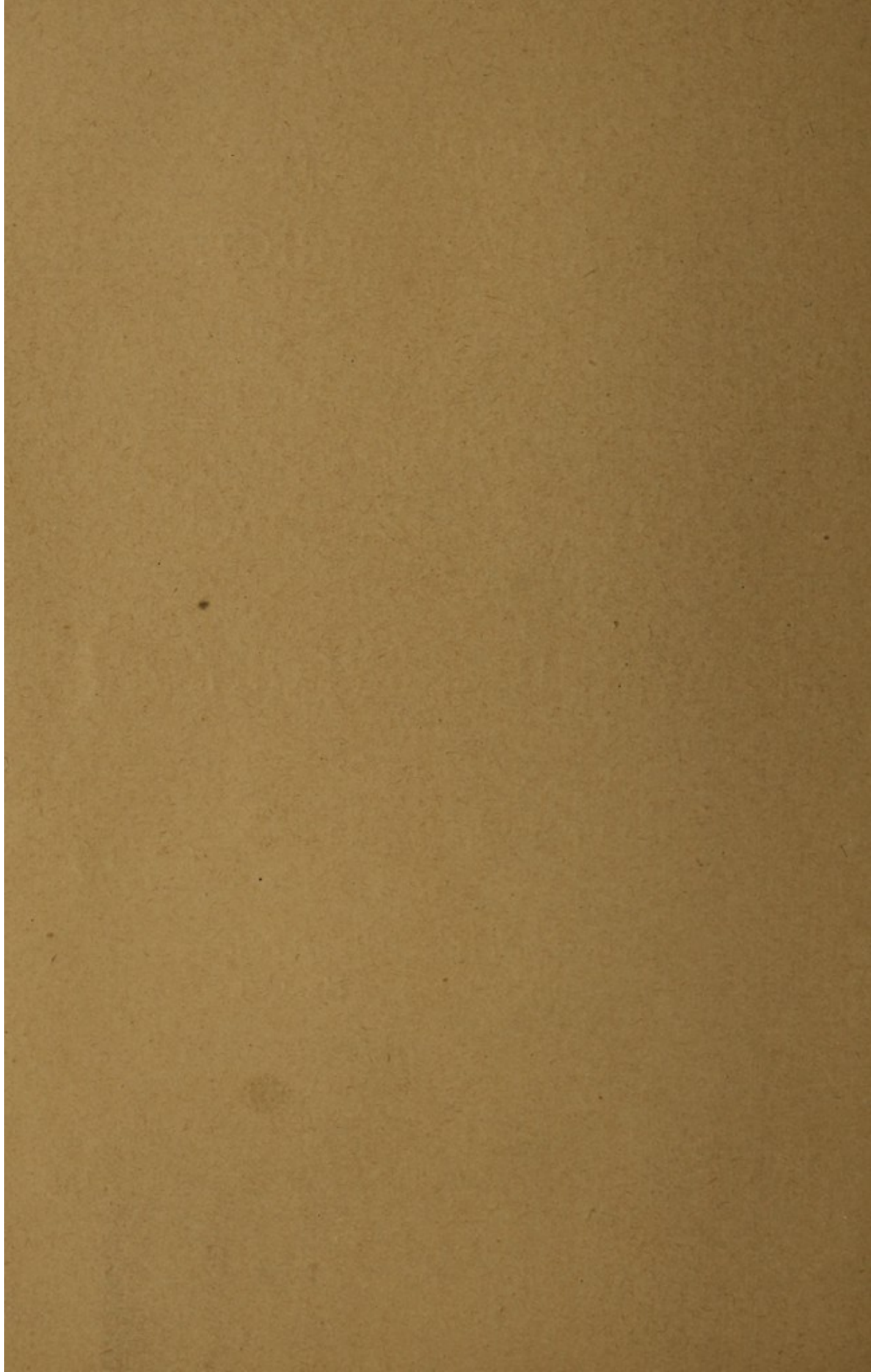
FOR THE YEAR 1938

BY

W. SISAM, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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FARINGDON  
RURAL DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1938

BY

W. SISAM, M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

## To the Faringdon Rural District Council.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit my report for the year 1938 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of your district.

The contents and arrangement of the report are based upon Circular 1728 (England) of the Ministry of Health, which requires such reports for 1938 to be drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular.

So far as can be judged by statistical and other available evidence, the health of the district compared very favourably with that of preceding years and also with the health of England and Wales as a whole.

An important event of the year was the approval and commencement of your comprehensive scheme for the provision of a public, piped water supply for the greater part of the district, and it is regrettable to have to record that the apparently well-founded hope of obtaining an abundant supply from the source originally selected was not fulfilled and that other sources have had to be sought, with consequent delay to the fulfilment of the scheme.

Your obedient servant,

W. SISAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bank Chambers,

Cross Street,

Reading. (Telephone No. 4647.)

June, 1939.

## FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT.

## Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	55,726
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, 1938	...	...	...	9,230
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	2,836
Rateable value (end of 1938)	...	...	...	£40,894
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£170

The district is almost entirely agricultural and residential in character, and contains no industries detrimental to the public health.

During the year, a military establishment consisting of barracks, houses for married quarters and other ancillary buildings, was in course of construction near Shrivenham. An addition of several thousands to the population of the district is anticipated in consequence.

Faringdon, the market town, has a population of about 2,700.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year :—

		Total.	M	F		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	133	61	72	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.1
		Illegitimate	6	5	1	
Stillbirths	...	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 28	
Deaths	...	102	45	57	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.1	

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal sepsis	...	0
Other puerperal causes	...	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	45
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	Nil

Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	11
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	Nil

Average rates for the 10 years, 1928—1937 :—

Birth-rate 15.0      Death-rate 12.6      Infant Mortality 42.

The principal vital statistics of England and Wales for the year 1938 are as follows :—

Birth-rate 15.1      Death-rate 11.6      Infant Mortality 53.

Of the 102 persons belonging to the district whose deaths were registered during the year, 51 were aged 65 years or upwards—7 being between 65 and 70, 14 between 70 and 75, 10 between 75 and 80, 11 between 80 and 85, 7 between 85 and 90, and 2 of 90 or over.

In order to render the death-rates of different districts comparable with one another or with the death-rate of the whole country, corrections for inequalities of the age and sex composition of the populations are necessary. For this purpose the Registrar-General has supplied for each district a comparability factor, arrived at after elaborate calculations based upon the sex-age groups in the 1931 census population and the mortality rates experienced in England and Wales during the three years 1930/32.

For this district the factor is 0.81. When multiplied by this figure the death-rate of 1938 becomes reduced to 9.0, which may fairly be compared with the rate of 11.6 for the whole of England and Wales.

## **General Provision of Health Services for the District.**

No changes were made during the year in any of the following services :—

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Treatment Centres and Clinics, Hospitals.

A scheme for the provision, by voluntary contributions, of a motor ambulance in connection with Faringdon Cottage Hospital has been put in hand and appears likely to meet with success. This ambulance would supply a long felt want, as the only one at present available for non-infectious cases is the motor ambulance attached to Wantage Cottage Hospital, about 5 miles from the nearest boundary of the District, and 15 miles from the farthest boundary. Infectious cases are provided for by the motor ambulances of Abingdon Joint Isolation Hospital, in Abingdon Urban District.

**Public Health Officers** :—The staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health, one sanitary inspector and one clerk.

Mr. C. C. Sampson, the former Sanitary Inspector, resigned during 1938 and was succeeded by Mr. P. Ianson, who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board, also the Meat Inspectors' Certificate of the School of Hygiene of the University of Liverpool.

## **Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

**Water** :—The deficient rainfall of the seven months, October, 1937, to April, 1938, led to apprehension of serious shortage in the following summer and autumn, but, though the two public water supplies for the villages of Ashbury and Bourton respectively became reduced in volume and it was necessary to conserve the water by shutting off the supplies at night and by the issue of notices warning against waste, sufficient water for ordinary domestic needs was at all times available. The remaining public supplies were satisfactorily maintained.

Private wells failed temporarily here and there, but in all cases supplementary supplies from neighbouring wells, which continued to yield, were available through the kindness of the owners of the latter.

No new public supplies were provided, but further progress towards the provision of the comprehensive scheme, which was referred to in the annual report for 1937, was made.



An application to the Ministry of Health for consent to raise the necessary loan for the scheme and for confirmation of an Order to purchase compulsorily certain land required for purposes of the provision of a supply of water was the subject of a Public Local Inquiry, held in January, 1938, by Order of the Minister of Health. Consent to the loan and confirmation of the Order were eventually granted and the necessary preliminary steps for carrying out the scheme were taken.

Boring at the site selected, on geological and other grounds, as promising an abundant supply of underground water was put in hand with the least possible delay, but towards the close of the year it became evident that an adequate yield could not be obtained in this locality and that other sources of supply would have to be sought. Subsequent action belongs to the report for 1939, but it is permissible to state here that up to the time of writing an adequate supply had not been obtained, though success within a comparatively short period could reasonably be expected.

New supplies for the villages of Ashbury and Bourton are included in the comprehensive scheme.

Regular samples from the public supplies were submitted to bacteriological examinations and all showed absence of *B. Coli* from 100 c.c. of water, excepting in the case of the Ashbury supply, which showed excess of these organisms on several occasions. Chlorination of the Ashbury water was considered, but was not regarded as practicable and notices advising boiling of all drinking water were issued instead.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—No important changes were made during the year.

**Public Cleansing.**—No radical changes were made in the system of collection and disposal of domestic refuse, but greater attention was paid to control of the refuse tips with the use of more covering material and stricter adherence to approved methods.

**Sanitary Inspection of the District :—**The following summary of work done during the year has been compiled by the Sanitary Inspector :—

No of Different Premises visited	...	...	1182
" Inspections made ..	...	...	4073
" Complaints received	...	...	21
" Defects or Nuisances discovered	...	...	530
Notices served	} Informal	...	495
		Statutory	...
" Prosecutions	...	...	—

No. of Defects or Nuisances abated :—

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink wastes, etc.	...	...	3
" Drains or Cesspools	...	...	6
" Pigs or other animals	...	...	—
" Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughter-houses	...	...	20
" Deficient or impure water ..	...	...	—
" Unclean houses ...	...	...	—
" Polluted ditches, streams, etc. ...	...	...	4
" Insanitary accumulations or deposits	...	...	4
" Other defects or nuisances	...	...	7
No. of Premises disinfected	...	...	25
" Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	46
" Wells closed	...	...	—
" Wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	...	...	8
" New wells sunk	...	...	6
" Houses connected with water mains	...	...	9
" Water certificates granted	...	...	8
" Seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	...	...	150
" Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	—
Canal boats, No. of Inspections	...	...	—
Common Lodging-houses	} No. on Register	...	—
		No. of Inspections...	—
Milkshops,	No. on Register	...	6
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms,	" "	...	211
Slaughter-houses	" "	...	22
Milkshops,	No. of Inspections	...	20
Cowsheds and Dairy Farms,	" "	...	290
Slaughter-houses,	" "	...	366
Piggeries	" "	...	22

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

## I. INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Prosecutions
<b>Factories.</b>			
with mechanical power ...	6	1	0
<b>Factories.</b>			
without mechanical power ...	23	2	0
<b>Other Premises</b> under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ...	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

## II. DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Number of Defects Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Prosecu- tions.
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	2	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—				
Insufficient ...	1	1	0	0
Unsuitable or defective ...	0	0	0	0
Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0
Other Offences ...	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## III. HOMEWORK.

Nil.

## IV. FACTORIES REGISTERED AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

FACTORIES	No.
with mechanical power ... ..	29
FACTORIES without mechanical power ... ..	16
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	0
	—
	45
	—

## V. OTHER MATTERS.

Nil.

**Shops and Offices** :—Regular visits were paid, but no action was found to be necessary. No certificates under those provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, which relate to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences were issued.

**Camp Sites** :—No applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were received, and no instances of infringement of this Section were known.

**Swimming Baths & Pools** :—None in use during the year.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs** :—Bugs are rare in the district and no cases of infestation were discovered during the year.

Up to the present, the inspection of the belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses has shown no need of the application of insecticides.

**Schools**.—The whole of the elementary schools in the district were inspected during the year and no serious defects of sanitation were found.

Water closets connected with the sewers are provided only in the town of Faringdon and the village of Ashbury. Water supplies are obtained from the mains where public supplies exist.

Information as to the occurrence of infectious diseases amongst schoolchildren is regularly interchanged between the County Medical Officer of Health, who is also County School Medical Officer, and myself.

The working arrangement is for the County Medical Officer to deal with non-notifiable infectious diseases and for me to deal with notifiable infectious diseases affecting schools, but this arrangement is subject to modification in exceptional circumstances.

The recommendations of the Memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, issued in 1927 jointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education, are followed in practically all cases.

## Housing.

A total of 12 houses were erected during the year, all working class dwellings provided by private persons.

Four houses were re-conditioned with the aid of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts amounting to a total of £364.

### Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—			
(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	560
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	739
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1935 and 1932 ... ..	251
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	437
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	34
(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 ... ..	120
2. 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 ..	71
3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—			
(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 ...	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a)	By Owners ... ..	12
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	Nil

(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	5
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :			
	(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	...	...	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	4
(3)	Number of houses represented for demolition and afterwards rendered fit for habitation without the making of Demolition Orders	...	...	3
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936			Nil
4.	Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV. Overcrowding :—			
(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	5
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	5
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	36
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year			3
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	4
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	23

The position at the end of 1938 was that 89 per cent. of the total cases of overcrowding found during and after the district survey of 1936 had been relieved.

## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

**Milk Supply.**—No legal action with respect to the milk supply was taken during the year, but as a result of informal measures improvements in both structural conditions of cowsheds and dairies and in methods of handling milk were effected.

At the beginning of 1939 the district contained 7 dairy farms licensed for the production of tuberculin tested milk and 32 farms licensed for the production of accredited milk. The corresponding figures for the year, 1937, were 1 and 34 respectively.

No samples of milk were submitted on behalf of the Local Authority to chemical or bacteriological examination.

**Meat and other Foods.**—During the year a total of 366 visits were paid to the 22 slaughter houses, of which 18 are registered and 4 licensed. Only a small proportion of the registered slaughter-houses are in other than very occasional use.

Slaughtering on Sundays continues to be carried out by a few butchers, which prevents the Sanitary Inspector from enjoying the day's leisure to which he is entitled in normal circumstances.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during the year with the results of inspection :—

### Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	not	known			
Number inspected ...	3,152	509	130	2,296	726
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	11	13	4	5	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	10	1	—	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	.98	4.52	4.55	.22	.69
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	31	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	80	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	.02	21.61	—	—	.14

No attempt to dispose of any of the diseased meat had been made and voluntary surrender was accepted in all cases. The condemned articles were sent to a local knacker's yard, excepting in the case of small portions which were buried by the butchers concerned. Disposal was supervised in all cases.

Regular visits were paid to shops and other premises in which food is sold, stored, or prepared for sale, and, apart from butchers' meat, no article unfit for human consumption was discovered.

The 14 bakehouses in the district received 23 visits of inspection, and, excepting for delay in renewal of limewash in two instances, no faults of any consequence were found.

## Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

Notifiable Diseases, other than Tuberculosis,  
during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox ... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	4	4	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	12	9	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	1 (all forms)
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases.			Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	1	0	1	0	0	0



Two of the notified cases of Diphtheria arose in the same village, but were separated by an interval of three months and had no apparent connection with each other. The remaining two arose singly in different parts of the district. All were of mild type. In no instance could any clue to the source of infection be found.

The notified cases of Scarlet Fever were spread over five different parishes, in only one of which were more than one household affected. The exception was Coleshill, where six cases arose between the middle of August and the first week of December and where some indication of infection having been spread in the village school was associated with the later cases.

One case fell within the definition of a return case.

Both cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ended in apparently complete recovery.

## Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—45	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—	1 <sup>2</sup>	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	2	2	3	1	0	0

The four fatal cases of tuberculosis had been duly notified.

**Other Causes of Sickness.**—Excepting for Measles, which was fairly widespread during the first half of the year, but caused no deaths, no noteworthy causes of sickness, other than notifiable disease, were evident.

No school was closed for infectious disease, but at the following schools the attendance was reduced to below 60 per cent. of the average by the diseases and during the periods given :—

Longcot and Fernham C.E.	Mumps	4 weeks	in	January
" " " "	Measles	3 "	" "	April & May.
Kingston Lisle C.E.	"	6 "	" "	Jan—March.
Bourton C.E.	"	3 "	" "	March & April
Ashbury Parochial	"	4 "	" "	April & May
Little Coxwell C.E.	"	3 "	" "	June
Coleshill C.E.	Scarlet Fever	1 week	in	November.
Buscot C.E.	Mumps	4 weeks	in	December.

### Laboratory Work, Etc.

The Local Authority bear the cost of antitoxin used for the treatment of Diphtheria. This is supplied from my office; and 1 ampoule (8,000 units) was issued during the year.

Bacteriological examinations made at the cost of the Local Authority consisted of 14 swabs examined for Diphtheria bacilli, with 1 positive and 13 negative results. These examinations were conducted at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading.

Chemical analyses of water were made by the County Analyst, and bacteriological examinations of water by the Pathologist of the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

## Causes of Death in Faringdon Rural District, 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH—	Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	45	57
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2. Measles	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—
6. Influenza	—	—
7. Encephalitis lethargica	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1
10. Other tuberculous diseases	—	—
11. Syphilis	1	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—
13. Cancer, malignant disease	7	4
14. Diabetes	—	—
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage	—	9
16. Heart Disease	20	19
17. Aneurysm	1	—
18. Other circulatory diseases	1	3
19. Bronchitis	3	5
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	—	1
21. Other respiratory diseases	—	—
22. Peptic ulcer	—	—
23. Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	—	—
24. Appendicitis	—	—
25. Cirrhosis of liver	—	—
26. Other diseases of liver, &c.	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	—	1
28. Acute and chronic nephritis	—	1
29. Puerperal sepsis	—	—
30. Other puerperal causes	—	—
31. Congenital debility, premature birth, malformation, &c.	1	4
32. Senility	1	2
33. Suicide	1	—
34. Other violence	2	—
35. Other defined diseases	3	7
36. Causes ill defined or unknown	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)		
Small-pox	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year	{ Total	2
	Legitimate	2
	Illegitimate	—
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Total	66
	Legitimate	61
	Illegitimate	5
STILLBIRTHS	{ Total	2
	Legitimate	2
	Illegitimate	—
Population	...	9,230



