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Ashford Urban District.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR

1914,

BY

A. M. WATTS, M.D., D.P.H.

W. J. THOMPSON,  
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ASHFORD, KENT.

## INDEX.

A.	NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT ...	5
	(i). The physical features and general character of the District ... ..	5
	(ii). The social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants. The amount of Poor Relief and the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous relief are utilised	5
B.	SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT... ..	6
	Water Supply ... ..	6, 7
	Drainage and Sewerage ... ..	8
	Closet Accommodation ... ..	9
	Scavenging ... ..	10
	Sanitary Inspections of the District ... 37, 38, 39, 41, 42	
	Premises and occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations ... ..	10, 41
	Schools ... ..	11
	FOOD :—	
	(a). Milk Supply ... ..	12, 41
	(b). Other Foods ... ..	13
	(c). Sale of Food and Drugs Acts ... ..	14
	HOUSING ... ..	14, 15, 16, 39
	WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, &C. ... ..	17, 40
C.	SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT ...	18
	(i). Staff ... ..	18
	(ii). Hospital Accommodation of the District 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	
	(iii). Administration of General Adoptive Acts ...	23
	(iiii). Chemical and Bacteriological Work during the year	23
D.	PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES ... ..	24, 25, 26
E.	PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS ...	27, 28
F.	INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES ... ..	29
G.	MEANS OF PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY ... ..	30, 31, 32, 33
H.	VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT ... ..	34, 35, 36

"EASTHOLME,"

ASHFORD,

KENT,

*January, 1915.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ashford Urban  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Second Annual Report on  
the Health of the District.

In compiling it I have followed the directions of the  
Local Government Board and with it is incorporated the Second  
Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. M. WATTS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

### (1). *The physical features and general character of the District.*

The Urban District of Ashford which lies somewhere about the middle of East Kent consists chiefly of the Town of Ashford, which stands on the River Stour, and is 52 miles from London. The Northern position of the Town which is pleasantly situated on rising ground contains the business quarter and the houses of the well-to-do, while the Southern portion contains the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Factory and the houses of the artizan class.

The highest part of the district is on the Maidstone Road where the height above sea level is 260 feet ; at Barrow Hill, near the Northern end of the Town, the height above sea level is 202 feet. The lowest part at the Southern end of the Town is about 120 feet above the sea and is on the level of the River.

In this part of the District floods have occurred from the River Stour overflowing its banks.

The subsoil consists of the Lower Greensands in the Northern part of the District, while in the Southern part, in the neighbourhood of the River, it is alluvial.

The area is 2,850 Acres.

Assessable Value, £68,811 12s. 6d.

Rateable Value, £74,973 5s. od.

### (2). *The social conditions including the chief occupations of the inhabitants. The amount of Poor Relief and the extent to which hospital, and other forms of gratuitous relief are utilised.*

The Population at the last census (1911) was 13,668. The estimated Population at the middle of 1914 was 13,960, that is assuming the increase has continued at the same rate as between the years 1901 and 1911.

Ashford is a market town with a large and important Cattle Market and the work of many of the inhabitants is connected with Agriculture, but by far the greater portion are dependent on the work carried on by the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Company, whose Factory was established in the town some sixty seven years ago and which now employs about 2,300 persons. There is a large German Underwear Factory employing about 150 hands, Saw Mills, Flour Mills, Printing Works, Brick Yards, a Steam Laundry, a Tan Yard, and an Iron Foundry afford occupation for about 286 work people.

The amount of actual poverty in the District does not appear to be great, although some of the inhabitants live under very dirty conditions.

The Workhouse of the West Ashford Union, within which the Urban District is situated, is at Hothfield, some 4 miles from Ashford, and contains accommodation for 214 persons, of these 40 are provided for in the Infirmary.

The Hospital accommodation for the District consists of the Ashford Cottage Hospital. It was established in 1877 and contains 21 beds, which are used mainly for accidents and other surgical cases.

From the forty-fourth Annual Report it would appear that in the year 1913 the number of patients admitted was 318, of these by far the largest number was for Adenoids (90) while next in numerical order came Hernia (16) and Appendicitis of which 12 acute cases were treated and 4 chronic cases. 230 operations were performed and 257 patients were discharged cured. The Report contains this remark by the Committee:—"We are now being brought to realise that unless the income of the Hospital can be increased by some means by a further sum of £200 per annum, the necessity of closing some part of the Institution will have to seriously considered."

Among other organisations in the District may be mentioned the following:—

The Sick and Poor Relief Fund.

The Ashford Benevolent Society.

The Ashford District Nursing Association which is managed by a non-sectarian Committee and provides a trained nurse for the poor of the town.

The Railway Works Surgical Aid Society, which among other benefits, supplies its members with the services of a trained nurse.

## B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### *Water Supply.*

There is a plentiful supply of pure water from the wells and adits on Henwood Farm, situated in the eastern part of the town.

There are four wells, about 40 feet deep and adits connecting them of a total length of 1,288 feet. In the adits only 492 feet of brick work was required, the walls, floor, and roof of the remainder being formed by rock. The adits when originally excavated measured 8 feet wide by 7 feet high, but where bricked up they are about 6ft. high by 6ft. 6in. wide. The capacity of the adits is about 400,000 gallons.

The following is a copy of a report received from the County Analyst on a sample of the water, dated August 31st, 1914.

	Parts per 100,000.
Total Solid Residue .. .. .	51.5
Volatile Solid Residue .. .. .	2.5
Chlorine .. .. .	3.0
Salt .. .. .	4.94
Free Ammonia .. .. .	0.002
Albumenoid Ammonia .. .. .	0.002
Nitrogen as Nitrates .. .. .	0.0

	Parts per 100,000.
Oxygen absorbed $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80 deg. F. ..	0.004
" " 4 hours at 80 deg. F. ..	0.015
Total Hardness .. .. .	31.6
Permanent Hardness .. .. .	8.6
Temporary Hardness .. .. .	23.0

REMARKS.—The Water is of excellent organic quality.

(Signed), F. W. F. ARNAUD,

*Public Analyst for the County of Kent.*

The Report of the County Bacteriologist on a sample forwarded on April 20th shows—

Number of Organisms per C.C. capable of growth.	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 4 days.	
	6.	Liquefying 1.	Total 9.

and that B. Coli, the organism associated with sewage pollution, was not present in 150 C.C. of the water.

These results show that the water is a very pure one.

It is interesting to compare the above results with those obtained from a well water in the Town.

Number of Organisms per C.C. capable of growth.	On Agar at 37.5° C.	On Gelatine at Room Temperature in 5 days.	
	200.	Liquefying 40.	more than Total 10,000

The water is "hard" and the question of softening it has been under the consideration of the Council.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Houses in the Urban District ..	3,446
Number using Town Supply .. .. .	3,133
Number using Wells .. .. .	136
Number using East Ashford Rural District Council's Supply .. .. .	175
Number using Mid-Kent Water Company's Supply ..	2

#### *Open-Air Swimming Bath.*

This has an area of nearly one acre of water varying from two to seven feet in depth, it is situated by side of the Great Stour from which it obtains its supply.

The number of bathers during the year was 19,001, including 48 males and 49 females in mixed bathing, free baths allowed to 3,535 children attending the Elementary Schools and 2,657 to soldiers in uniform.

The Council has under consideration the question of providing Public Hot Water Baths.

741,370 gallons of water was used for flushing the main sewers and public conveniences.

### *Rivers and Streams.*

There has been obvious pollution of that portion of the River East Stour, which is within the District, during the past year caused by the effluent from the Sewage Disposal Works of the East Ashford Rural District which are situated on the bank of the river about two-thirds of a mile above the Torrington Road bridge and just on the boundary of the Urban District. The Council has been in communication with the East Ashford Council on the matter. The river is also polluted to a slight extent by oily fluid which discharges from the Railway Company's Works.

### *Drainage and Sewerage.*

The Town is completely sewered and the sewage is dealt with at a farm situated at Bybrook just outside and below the district on the River Stour.

All the houses except 151 are connected with the sewers, most of those which are unconnected are situated in out-lying portions of the District, and are provided with privies, earth closets, or water closets and cesspools. 23 new houses were connected with the sewers and 27 drained to cesspools.

The Sewage amounting to from 250,000 to 300,000 gallons daily, flows from the main portion of the town by gravitation to Bybrook, but that from South Ashford, the lowest part of the town, about a third of the total is pumped up into the sewers in the upper part of the town whence it flows to the Sewage Works.

The Pumping Station at South Ashford has not only to deal with sewage from that District, but also with the rain water which comes from the roofs of the Railway Company's Works. The amount is so great that sometimes in stormy weather the pumping plant is not able to deal with this diluted sewage and a certain amount has to pass directly into the Stour.

At the Sewage Works the sewage is treated after screening with lime and sulphate of alumina in order to cause precipitation. It then passes into four settling tanks each having a capacity of of about 65,000 gallons.

The sludge formed by the precipitation process is pumped into bays, and after drying is sold to farmers who fetch it away and pay about a shilling a load. The effluent from the tanks is pumped on to land adjoining which is divided into eleven filtration areas. The surfaces of these areas are not formed into ridges and furrows nor are crops grown.

The land is under drained and the effluent passes into the Stour.

The total area of the land occupied by the Sewage Disposal Works is 8 acres, 0 roods, 16 poles, and as it is necessary to provide after sewage has been treated chemically or passes through a septic tank not less than one acre per thousand of the population for intermittent downward filtration it will be seen that the land in use (less than 8 acres) for filtration purposes is insufficient. The fact is quite

obvious when one notices the character of the effluent as it passes into and discolours the River. Moreover, the land which is being used seems to be of too heavy a nature for the purpose. On April 29th, Mr. W. M. Cross, M.I.C.E., an Inspector of the Local Government Board, held a Public Inquiry into the application by the Council for permission to borrow the sum of £15,000 for the purposes of sewerage and sewage disposal. The purposes for which the loan was required were four in number. (1). The separation of the rain and surface water from the sewage at New Town and South Ashford, and the diversion of the surface water into the River. (2). The construction of an outfall sewer in the Railway Company's area to take the sewage there. (3). The payment of easements to the Railway Company for sewers and manholes. (4). The purchase of 19½ acres of additional land for Sewage Disposal Works at Bybrook.

It will be seen that this scheme does not deal with the sewerage of the Beaver and Kingsnorth Road Districts where several houses have been recently erected, although, if adopted, it would considerably improve the present state of affairs both at the Pumping Station and at the Sewage Disposal Works.

It is very necessary that, in addition to the works above mentioned, the Council should undertake the sewerage of that portion of the Beaver district where building is taking place, for many of the ditches are polluted with sewage owing to overflowing cesspools and drains discharging into them.

There are in the Hampden Farm, the property of the Council, seven acres of land set apart for Sewage Works, and the time has now arrived when the Council should construct some Works on this land in order to abate the nuisances which now exist owing to the absence of sewers.

The great majority of the houses in the District are connected with the sewers but unfortunately a very large number of the w.c.'s provided are of the long hopper type and are flushed by hand. I cannot help feeling that as I have already reported, they constitute a serious menace to the health of Ashford. Whenever it is found necessary to order the provision of a new closet I have advised the Council to take advantage of the bye-laws and the Public Health Acts, and require the owner to provide a pedestal w.c., with a flushing cistern.

The Council on my recommendation has adopted Parts III. and IV. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, and so has obtained more power for dealing with this question.

#### *Closet Accommodation.*

There were at the end of the year 1914 approximately 1,842 wash down, wash out pedestal, etc., water closets, 341 short hopper closets, and 1,662 long hopper closets. Of this number about 2,194 were fitted with flushing apparatus and about 1,651 were hand flushed. There were also about 73 trough closets and 64 earth and pail closets in use.

### *Scavenging.*

The daily collection of house refuse is carried out and the streets have the appearance of being kept in good order. During the year 1913, to obviate complaints made with regard to the smell produced by the burning of refuse at Bybrook, the Council decided to discontinue the system of depositing it on the land near the Sewage Disposal Works, and to cart the refuse collected in the district to Hampden Farm instead.

The tip is in a field 800 feet from inhabited houses. Tinned material is sorted and sold, the residue is burnt and given to farmers free for the fetching, but I have brought before the Council the desirability of providing a refuse destructor for Ashford.

There are very few brick ash-pits in the District, most of the inhabitants use movable ash-bins in the shape of pails, boxes, &c., steps should be taken to enforce the use of covered receptacles by all householders. There are, unfortunately, many stables situated in the town where manure collects; according to the bye-laws this must be removed fortnightly. It cannot be too widely known that this manure is the breeding ground for flies by which so much disease is carried. It is well recognised that typhoid fever and other diarrhoeal diseases are very often produced through human food being infected by the germs conveyed to it by flies. This applies particularly to milk. I may mention that hand-bills on the subject of flies were distributed, and posters posted up during last summer as in the previous one, giving information on this important matter. In spite of the prolonged period of dry weather last year, there were certainly not so many flies as in previous years, and the number of deaths of infantile diarrhoea was only two. I cannot help thinking that this was due in a great measure to the steps which were taken to enforce the frequent emptying of the manure pits.

3,124 loads of house refuse, and 1,378 loads of mud and dust were collected.

### *Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.*

There are three registered common lodging houses in the district which have been frequently inspected, they are kept in a satisfactory state.

The factories, workshops, work places, bakehouses, and out-workers premises were inspected and various defects which were found, remedied.

There are two underground bakehouses in use, the floor of one was relaid during the year.

With regard to offensive Trades the Council on December 3rd adopted a Declaratory Order under Section 51 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, and declared each of the following trades, businesses, or manufactures, *viz*:—those of blood drier, tanner, leather dresser, fat melter or fat extractor, glue-maker, size-maker, gut scraper, rag and bone dealer, fish frier,

within the said District, to be an offensive trade. In this Order the expression "rag and bone dealer" means any person who for the purpose of sale carries on upon any premises the trade of receiving, storing, sorting or manipulating any rags in an offensive condition, or in a condition likely to become offensive, or any bones, rabbit skins, fat or other putrescible animal product of a like nature.

These trades are, in addition to those already recognised as offensive trades in the District under the Public Health Act, 1875, Section 112, *viz* :—blood, bone, soap, and tripe boiler, fellmonger, and tallow melter.

All the licensed houses were inspected during the early part of the year in order to see whether their sanitary conveniences were in satisfactory order. It was found necessary to call upon the owners in some cases to carry out various alterations and improvements which had all been effected by the end of the year.

#### *Schools.*

The Sanitary condition of the Schools is supervised by the Kent Education Committee which communicates with the Managers regarding any defects that may be found. An excellent new School has been recently built at New Town by the S.E. & C.R. Co. at a cost of about £5,000 to accommodate the girls who formerly attended the old New Town School, more accommodation being thus provided in the old building for boys and infants, the lighting of this building is not good. Both the Church of England School and the West Street School are somewhat defective as regards the lighting, and the amount of through ventilation.

In connection with the Schools I may mention that the Medical Inspection of the Children is carried out in the District by me, under the auspices of the Kent Education Committee.

It is essential that the School Medical Inspection which is so intimately connected with Public Health work in general, especially as it concerns outbreaks of infectious disease, should, if it is to be of the greatest benefit to the children, be conducted by the Medical Officer of Health who should keep in close touch with the Attendance Officer in order to be able to deal with absentees.

No. 14, Canterbury Road was taken by the Kent Education Committee at the beginning of the year, and opened on February 7th as a School Clinic having been previously fitted up for the purpose.

There diseases of the eye are treated, spectacles being supplied at a small cost, dental cases are attended by a Dentist, and on Saturday mornings I treat minor ailments and examine children referred to me by the School Teachers and Attendance Officers. As is well known it is the minor ailments, those which are not serious enough to obtain Medical Attendance in the ordinary way, which are the chief cause of the bad attendance at School of the majority of children.

There is no doubt that the Ashford School Clinic fills a distinct need in the town and surrounding District. Between February 7th and December 31st, the number of School children who had attended the Clinic on Saturday mornings was 305. The average number of attendances each Saturday morning was 14.

The importance of following up the cases of children found defective on Medical Inspection and ensuring that they receive adequate treatment, and also at the same time investigating the conditions under which they live is being fully recognised by the public, and parents are beginning to appreciate the value of School inspection and are certainly taking more interest in the welfare of their children while the children in the schools have a more cleanly appearance.

A nurse who works under the Kent Education Committee lives in Ashford and attends at the Clinic, she has, in addition to supervising the Ashford Schools, to visit all those in East Kent, so that at present not much "following up" can be done.

#### *Food.*

##### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been frequently visited during the year. Improvements in the drainage of two of the cowsheds have been carried out. The use of one has been discontinued.

Attention has also been paid to the cleanliness of the buildings but the necessity of cleanliness as regards the cows themselves and of the milkers does not yet appear to be sufficiently appreciated by the cow-keepers. As most of the cowsheds may now be considered as fairly satisfactory structurally efforts must now be made to improve the conditions under which the milk is obtained,

The importance of a clean milk supply in connection with the health of the inhabitants cannot be over estimated, and it rests, to a great extent, with the public at large, whether they have a pure and wholesome supply or not. If they demand that purveyors of milk shall store it under proper conditions as regards cleanliness, and shall keep it cool so as to prevent the growth of microorganisms, and also if they insist on such obvious precautions being taken as the grooming of the cows, the wearing of overalls by the milkers, the washing of the udders, and of the milker's hands each time before the cows are milked, then there is no doubt these matters will be attended to.

The Council very wisely adopted in 1913, on my recommendation, the model Regulations of the Local Government Board with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops. One of these Regulations is as follows:—"He shall not cause or suffer any cow belonging to him or under his care or control to be milked for the purpose of obtaining milk for sale:—

(a). Unless at the time of milking the udder and teats of such cow are thoroughly clean; and

(b). Unless the hands of the person milking such cow also are thoroughly clean and free from all infection and contamination."

In spite of the large Cattle Market held in Ashford, and the number of cows kept in the District, no definite case of tuberculosis among cattle was dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order of 1913. Veterinary Authorities have stated that at least 25 per cent. of all dairy cows kept in cowsheds are the subject of Tubercle, and as it is the custom of dairy men to mix together the milk yielded by different cows, it is not too much to assume that Tubercle Bacilli are widely distributed in the milk supply. As a matter of fact the bacilli have been found by many observers in from 10 to 20 per cent. of the dairy samples examined by them.

When one considers the enormous amount of unboiled cows' milk which is consumed in this country by infants and young children, one can realize the danger to which they are exposed of contracting tubercle from the use of milk from tubercular cows.

It has been proved that cows' milk containing bovine tubercle bacilli is the cause of 90 per cent. of the cases of tuberculous cervical glands residing in Edinburgh and district, and Mr. Harold J. Stiles says "I am able to state most emphatically that in Scotland 75 per cent of the surgical tuberculosis is due to infected milk."

To show what can be effected by the control of the milk supply, I may quote the experience of Manchester. Professor Sheridan Delépine says "In 1896 the number of cows with gross tuberculous lesions of the udder was much greater than at present and the bacilli which could be revealed in the *mixed milk* reaching Manchester were numerous enough to be detected by direct rapid microscopical examination of the sediment of 40 c.c. of the fluid in nearly 20 per cent of the samples capable of producing tuberculosis by inoculation. After three years' work tubercle bacilli could still be detected by direct microscopical examination in 16 per cent of the samples. At the present time, *i.e.*, eighteen years after the beginning, by following exactly the same method the microscopical examination reveals tubercle bacilli in not more than 3 per cent. of the samples of *mixed milk* capable of producing tuberculosis by inoculation."

An act to make better provision with respect to the Sale of Milk and the Regulations of Dairies was passed on August 10th, 1914. Among other things it prohibits the sale of tuberculous milk, it gives power to take samples of milk, and it deals with the appointment of Veterinary Inspectors.

The Act comes into force on October 1st, 1915. It amends the Sale of Food and Drugs Act and repeals the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, in Section Nine, Subsections (3), (5), and (6) so far as they relate to England.

#### (b). OTHER FOODS.

The butchers' shops have been visited, and the slaughter houses of which there are several in the centre of the town, have been frequently inspected. The majority are kept in a clean condition, but it is unfortunate that they are nearly all in close contact with dwelling houses

No cases of diseased animals being slaughtered were detected, but two emaciated carcasses of pigs were voluntarily surrendered by a butcher in September.

#### *Bakehouses.*

Frequent visits have been paid, special attention being directed to cleanliness and adequate ventilation. Some improvements in the sanitary conditions have been effected during the year. One bakehouse is in close proximity to a slaughter house and stable. There are two underground bakehouses.

#### (c). THE SALE OF FOODS AND DRUGS ACT.

This is administered in the District by the County Police Authorities who take frequent samples and institute proceedings where necessary. The number of samples taken by the Police during the past year was 112, all of which were genuine.

#### *Housing.*

The Inspector of Nuisances has during the year been carrying out inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and has kept the necessary records; he has not however been able to deal with as many houses during the past year as in 1913 owing to his time being so much occupied with cases of infectious disease.

Section 17 of the Act provides that it shall be the *duty* of every local authority to cause to be made from time to time, inspection of their District with a view to ascertain whether any dwelling house therein is in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

If, on the representation of the Medical Officer of Health or of any other officer of the authority or other information given any dwelling house appears to *them* to be in such a state, it shall be *their duty* to make an order prohibiting the use of the dwelling house for human habitation (in this Act referred to as a Closing Order), until in the judgment of the local authority the dwelling house is rendered fit for that purpose.

Section 14 provides that in the case of a house situated in Ashford, the rent of which does not exceed £16 a year, there shall be implied in any contract made after the passing of the Act (December 3rd, 1909), for letting such a house, a condition that the house is at the commencement of the holding in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (unless the house is let for a term of not less than three years), and further by Section 15 the landlord is obliged to keep the house *in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation* during the holding.

It should be noticed that the term "landlord" means any person who lets the house.

During the past year the Council, on my recommendation, adopted Parts III and IV. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act which gives local authorities more power than does the Public Health Act, 1875, for dealing with insanitary property.

With powers given by the above mentioned Acts of Parliament, together with the Bye-laws, the Council should have no difficulty in compelling owners of property to keep their houses in a satisfactory condition.

There are a number of houses in the District without sinks, some without water laid on, others without w.c.'s and more than 1,600 w.c.'s without flushing cisterns, all these matters require the serious attention of the Council, for their existence must affect the health of the inhabitants, and one cannot help feeling that the prolonged outbreak of diphtheria commencing in August, 1913, and lasting until the end of December, 1914, must have been due to a certain extent to insanitary conditions.

Much has been done during the past year as will be seen by the Inspector of Nuisances report to improve the housing conditions, but much more remains to be accomplished.

Houses such as those found in Gravel Walk, Norwood Cottages, and Mace Cottages cannot be considered a credit to any town.

The following is a statement of the work done under the Housing and Town Planning Act, during the past year:—

Number of houses inspected .. .. .	160
Number of houses considered to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	Nil.
Number of representations made to the local Authority .. .. .	Nil.
Number of Closing Orders made .. .. .	Nil.
Number of houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders including defects in 15 houses, brought forward from the year, 1913 ..	113
Number of houses which, after the making of Closing Orders, were put in a fit state for human habitation .. .. .	Nil.
Number of houses demolished by the owner after Closing Order made .. .. .	Nil.

General character of defects found to exist:—

- Defective drainage.
- Defective guttering and down pipes.
- Defective ventilation.
- Dampness.
- Defective paving.
- Absence of sinks.
- Insufficient water supply.

Seven houses in Norwood Cottages which I had represented in November, 1913, as unfit for human habitation were still at the end of the year under the consideration of the Sanitary

Committee, however at the February meeting of the Council the following resolution was passed :—

“The Committee having personally inspected Nos. 1-7, Norwood Cottages report that the over-crowding has been abated, and that certain structural repairs recommended by them having been carried out, the houses referred to are not in their opinion in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.”

Owing to the scarcity of cottages the Council naturally hesitates to make Closing Orders in cases where representations are made as to the necessity for action under Section 17 being taken:

It is my duty to report on the sufficiency or otherwise of houses for the Working Classes in the District.

As I went into this matter fully in my Report for the year, 1913, I shall content myself this year with making a few remarks.

During the month of May I visited fifty houses in the District which were over-crowded, and reported the matter to the Sanitary Committee.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, no houses have been built in Ashford during the past four years intended to be let at weekly rentals of 5/- or less.

When a four-roomed cottage is to let at a rent of 4/6 a week it is found, as a rule, that thirty or forty people will apply for it.

Many working men whose work is in the District have to live outside it owing to the scarcity of houses.

The population of the town appears to be steadily increasing.

The Council has power under Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act to borrow money for the purchase of Land, and for the erection of Houses, Sewers, and Street Works.

The periods for re-payment usually allowed by the Local Government Board are :—for Land 80 years, Houses 60 years, Sewers 30 years, Street Works 7 years.

During the past year the matter was considered by a special Sub-Committee. It was decided by the Council to insert an advertisement in the local press, asking those persons who were in need of houses to apply to the Surveyor, only two however sent in their names.

With regard to the building taking place in the District during the year 71 houses have been completed, including 46 by the South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Company for their workmen. Plans have been passed for 40 houses, 28 of which are in hand.

The following points in connection with the housing question may be considered.

(1). Land must be acquired by local authorities in out-lying districts in sufficient quantities, and while it is cheap.

(2). Loans for long periods at a low rate of interest  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. must be granted by the Government.

(3). The dispossessed inhabitants must occupy the new buildings.

(4). It is useless and a waste of money to educate children under proper conditions and teach them the virtue of cleanliness and yet compel them for economic reasons to live amidst insanitary and often disgraceful surroundings.

On the other hand it may be asked whether—

(1). It is sound policy for the community to assume the responsibility of providing cheap and wholesome housing accommodation for a class of people who are employed for the employers particular benefit.

(2). It is not a fact that dirty and insanitary houses do not result largely from the bad habits of the tenants.

(3). Building houses with Government money and let rent free to poorly paid labourers would not tend to increase competition, reduce wages and give subsidy to those who employed sweated labour.

In connection with the re-housing of the submerged masses, it is estimated that 75 per cent. could be uplifted, the remainder whatever dwellings they were placed in would soon turn them into pig styes.

Personally, I can see no conclusion of the matter except houses for the Working Classes being provided by the State just as Elementary Schools are. This, however, must be remembered that the Council has to look at the question from the point of view of the health of the inhabitants of the District.

The following figures are of interest:—During the year ending 31st March, 1914, 52,562 houses were represented by Medical Officers of Health in England and Wales as uninhabitable, and of these 17,462 were either demolished voluntarily by the owners or were put into a proper state of repair. Of the remaining 35,100, Closing Orders were made with respect to only 11,044, or rather less than one-third. Since the passing of the Act of 1909, housing loans have been sanctioned throughout the whole country for the erection of less than 11,000 houses, an average of about 2,000 yearly.

#### *Workshops, Workplaces, &c.*

The information required under this heading is set out in the special tables of the Home Office which appear at the end of this Report.

The Council is the authority responsible for the general sanitary condition of the workshops and workplaces while the Factory Inspector is responsible for the sanitary condition of the factories.

The number of factories in the District is 44 workshops and workplaces 105.

### C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

#### *Staff.*

This consists of myself, Mr. Arthur Hollis, A.R.S.I., the Inspector of Nuisances, and Miss Rhoda Thomas, C.M.B., the Health Visitor.

I am a part time Medical Officer of Health being also a part time School Medical Inspector under the Kent Education Committee.

Miss Thomas also only devotes part of her time to her duties as Health visitor.

Mr. Hollis, having obtained the permission of the Council, has just decided to enter the Sanitary Corps of the R.A.M.C., and the Council has appointed Mr. **D.** Glenday, A.R.S.I., as temporary Inspector of Nuisances.

#### *Hospital Accommodation.*

The Isolation Hospital is conveniently situated about a mile to the North West of the Town. The patients are housed in three corrugated iron buildings standing in about six acres of land. One block is used for scarlet fever, one for diphtheria, and one for enteric fever.

There are two wards in each block. Adjoining one corrugated iron block, called the Old Hospital, and reserved for enteric cases, is a brick cottage which is used as the administrative block and nurses' home.

Each ward has a bath-room attached. There is a laundry, mortuary, coal and wood store, &c.

Water and gas are laid on from the town.

Owing to the large number of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria which occurred in the District during the year, the Council realised the necessity of providing more accommodation and at the present time the diphtheria block is being enlarged by the addition of a ward at each end with two new sanitary blocks containing bath-rooms, w.c.'s, &c., separated from the wards by air corridors, a new scullery and pantry are also being added, all these additional buildings being of brick.

The Council also decided to enlarge the nurses' cottage; and a nurses' dining-room, bed-room, bath-room, and store-room are shortly to be erected.

The administrative block is connected with the Post Office Telephone System, and has been connected during the year with each of the other two blocks by means of private wires.

Fire hydrants are provided in the buildings.

When the above alterations are finished, it will be only necessary to erect a Porter's Lodge and a Discharge Block to complete the Institution. It is very necessary that the porter and his wife, who acts as laundress, should reside on the premises so that a man should be on the spot particularly at night in case of an emergency.

The recognised number of cubic feet per patient in Fever Hospitals is 2,000; when the additional wards are completed the total number of beds which the hospital will provide according to this allowance will be 22—diphtheria 10, scarlet fever 7, enteric 5. There will be in addition one observation room in the diphtheria block, and one in the scarlet fever block, and one nurse's bed-room in each block. Accommodation will be provided in the nurses' cottage for six nurses and servants.

Allowing 1,000 cubic feet per patient, we shall be able to take in 44, as a matter of fact during the past year the wards were so crowded that the patients had less than 1,000 cubic feet of space each. This small amount of air space naturally has a bad effect on the patients, and delays their recovery. In judging the number of beds it is necessary to provide to meet the requirements of any particular District one has to consider the character of the District, whether a high-class District in which most of the cases of infectious disease can be isolated at home, or whether a Working Class District in which it is not as a rule possible to efficiently isolate in the homes of the patients; Ashford belongs to the latter category. I think when the alterations and additions to the Isolation Hospital are completed, reasonable provision, as far as the number of beds is concerned, will have been made for the needs of the District.

It should be noted that the Council has power to remove to the hospital any person suffering from any dangerous infectious disease who is in a house where he or she "cannot be effectually isolated."

The system of drainage is as follows:—The sewage from the diphtheria and scarlet fever blocks passes to a septic tank from which it is discharged by means of a syphon, 50 gallons at a time, into drains which carry it to the borders of the grounds where the drains end in brick "soakaways" from which the fluid portion of the sewage, which only leaves the septic tank, percolates into the surrounding porous soil. There is also a septic tank in connection with the enteric block.

Part of the hospital ground is cultivated, but not sufficient has been used to provide all the vegetables required for the inmates during the past year and a half.

The Staff consists of a charge nurse and two nurses, all three have had fever training and the charge nurse also general training.

This permanent staff is augmented by engaging, when necessary, trained nurses from nursing Institutes in the neighbourhood. This is for several reasons an expensive and unsatisfactory system.

A man and wife are employed as porter and laundress. The former works the steam disinfecter, accompanies the ambulance and helps in the removal of patients, he disinfects the houses of infectious cases, he also, in addition to his duties as porter, attends to the drains and cultivates the garden. A general servant is employed as cook, other help is obtained from the town when necessary.

The local doctors attend the patients. It is my duty to supervise the hospital, and I am not responsible for the admission, treatment, or discharge of cases.

On the discharge of patients who are School children, arrangements are made for them to be seen by me at the School Clinic, and receive Certificates before returning to School.

During the year the number of patients admitted to the Isolation Hospital was:—

Diphtheria 99.  
Scarlet Fever 79.  
Enteric Fever 3

The average number of days patients were under treatment was:—

1914.	1913.
Diphtheria 38.	Diphtheria 44
Scarlet Fever 48.	Scarlet Fever 53.
Enteric Fever 18.	Enteric Fever 64.

The number of deaths which took place in the Hospital were:—

From Diphtheria 4.  
" Enteric fever 2.  
" Tubercular Disease of Lung 1.  
" " " Pleura 1.  
" Bronchitis 1.

The number of patients under treatment at the beginning of 1914, were 2 of scarlet fever and 22 of diphtheria; admitted during the year, 99 of diphtheria, 79 of scarlet fever, and 3 of enteric fever; remaining under treatment at the end of the year, 10 cases of diphtheria and 7 of scarlet fever.

Total number of deaths 9.

Total number of cases under treatment 205.

This, one must consider a very satisfactory result, especially as two of the chest cases were in an incurable condition from tuberculosis when admitted.

The percentage mortality from diphtheria in the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals in the five years preceding the introduction of the antitoxin treatment was on an average 30.6.

For the year 1895, the first of the antitoxin treatment years, the percentage mortality was 22.5. and it gradually dropped until in the year 1910 it reached 7.83.

The mortality per cent. varied in the year 1896. after the introduction of antitoxin, from about 4.7, when the patient came under treatment on the first day of illness, to 24.6, when the treatment was begun on the 5th day or later.

While for the Brook Fever Hospital cases alone for the twelve years 1897—1909, the percentage mortality varied from nil on the first day to 17.77, when treatment started on the fifth day or later. The above figures show the importance of the early recognition and prompt treatment of cases.

As there is an idea among certain people that the diphtheria bacillus can be found frequently in the throats of healthy persons, I should like to quote the following extract from a paper read at the Berlin Congress of the Royal Institute of Public Health, by Professor Dr. v. Drigalski, a recognised authority, he says:—  
“Ubiquity of the diphtheria germs certainly does not exist, and our researches on this head agree with those of many other inquirers. In the year of a widespread diphtheria epidemic among the population, and especially among the School children, my colleague, Dr. Peters examined several school classes consisting of several hundred children *who had remained free from diphtheria*, in none were bacilli found.”

On the other hand, to show how necessary it is to examine those who have been in contact with cases of diphtheria, I may mention that Arkwright stated at the London Meeting of the British Medical Association in July, 1910, that in one *infected* school he found 118 carriers out of 551 contacts examined or 21 per cent. In another school he detected ten carriers out of 145 pupils. *All the strains were virulent.*

It would appear that about one in every five contacts may harbour the bacillus in a *virulent form*, and that of every 100 such carriers six may remain infectious for as long as eight weeks and for an indefinite period afterwards.

#### Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March, 1914.

	Receipts.	Expenses.	Balance.
Hospitals	{ £13 1s. od. £38 7s. 6d.	£991 3s. 9d.	£939 15s. 3d.
31st March, 1913.			
Hospitals	{ £ 8 12s. 7d. £100 5s. od.	£688 10s. 11d.	£579 13s. 4d.
31st March, 1912.			
Hospitals	£4 2s. 9d.	£445 5s. 2d.	£441 2s. 5d.

The Council possesses a satisfactory horse ambulance.

Disinfection is carried out in infected houses and elsewhere by means of Formic Aldehyde. A spraying machine (Mackenzie's) is employed as well as vapourising lamps.

A supply of disinfecting fluid is provided for the use of householders when required and printed instructions regarding disinfection are given to the occupiers of infected houses.

A Velox steam disinfector was purchased by the Council during the year. This is a high pressure disinfector, heat being produced by the combustion of oil, it is thus clean, easily and inexpensively worked, and appears so far to be very satisfactory. A large number of articles have been disinfected since it was erected, not only infected clothing and bedding but also blankets, &c., belonging to the troops quartered in the district.

The new steam disinfector was erected in the building which was formerly occupied by the hot air disinfector which it replaced at the Depôt, Barrow Hill.

#### *Small Pox Hospital.*

On August 28th, the Secretary of the Local Government Board issued a circular letter drawing the attention of local authorities to the importance of their having in immediate readiness, adequate arrangements for dealing with any cases of small pox which might appear.

On September 29th, the Local Government Board addressed a letter to the Kent County Council from which the following is an extract:—"It occurs to the Board that as regards certain parts of the County, it may be desirable to empower the County Council to provide for the treatment of cases of small pox, and on learning that the County Council are willing to frame and execute a scheme, the Board would be prepared to make Regulations under Section 130 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as extended by Section 2 of the Public Health (Prevention and Treatment of Disease) Act, 1913, requiring arrangements to be made, and declaring the County Council should be the authority to execute them."

The County Council then prepared a scheme for providing a Small Pox Hospital for eleven Districts in East Kent, including Ashford, with a population of about 73,000. The suggested hospital was to be situated near Ashford, and a motor ambulance was to be provided for the removal of patients.

This scheme and an alternative one were considered by delegates of the various local authorities concerned at a Conference held at Maidstone on November 6th. There was considerable opposition on the part of the representatives of the various districts to the scheme and it was decided to ask the County Council to postpone the matter until the end of January, 1915, in order that the districts concerned might have an opportunity of making their own arrangements.

The Ashford Urban Council and the West Ashford Rural Council then considered whether an arrangement could not be made whereby the two Councils could use the Small Pox Hospital belonging to the latter body, if it were moved from the neighbourhood of the Workhouse, at Hothfield, to an isolated spot and so

altered as to meet the requirements of the County Medical Officer, and as a result at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Urban Council held on December 14th, 1914, it was unanimously resolved that the following report of the Small Pox Hospital Committee be adopted:—

“Resolved that the Council be recommended to adopt the arrangement suggested at the joint meetings of representatives of the West Ashford Rural District Council and the Ashford Urban District Council respecting the proposed Small Pox Hospital to be erected by the former at Bethersden, *viz*:—The Ashford Urban District Council to have the call upon six beds in such Hospital at an annual retaining fee of £30, to bear the actual cost of the patients including establishment charges, during the period in which such patients are inmates of the Hospital, and to be allowed to erect a tent in the Hospital grounds for the reception of patients if additional accommodation is necessary.”

“A formal agreement to be entered into, between the two Councils, to continue this agreement for a period of 14 years.”

“It is understood between the Clerks to the respective Councils that the engagement of nurses and the general working of the Hospital, including medical attendance, is to be left in the hands of the West Ashford Rural District Council.”

*The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the District:—*

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907.

Part II. (Sections 30 and 33).  
and Parts III. and IV.

The Notification of Births' Act, 1907.

#### *Chemical and Bacteriological Work.*

Chemical analyses of well waters have been carried out by the County Analyst.

Bacteriological analyses of well waters have been made at the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

The examination of specimens for tubercle, diphtheria, and enteric fever, has been carried out also at the County Laboratory.

Owing to the many cases of infectious disease which occurred in the District during the past year, an exceptionally large number of swabs were examined for diphtheria.

If the work carried out, free of charge, by the County Bacteriologist had been done by some Association the expense to the District would have been very great and unless the medical practitioners and I had had the power to send as many swabs as were necessary, regardless of cost, I am sure I should never have got the upper hand of the outbreak, for it is only by discovering the mild cases of diphtheria, and isolating and treating them that the disease can be arrested. Moreover, in the County Bacteriologist one has an expert upon whose opinion one can implicitly rely, whereas, when

swabs are sent to Laboratories which are conducted for the purpose of making a profit, one never knows the qualifications or experience of the man who examines the swabs and carries out the other Bacteriological work.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my indebtedness to the County Bacteriologist for his ready help.

Two consecutive negative swabs are as a rule required before a patient, convalescent from Diphtheria, is discharged from the hospital.

Total number of specimens sent from the district, including the Isolation Hospital, for examination at Maidstone:—

For Diphtheria 690 (about).  
 „ Enteric Fever 10.  
 „ Tubercle 27.  
 „ Ringworm 4.

In order to obtain two consecutive negative swabs before a patient is discharged from the hospital it may be necessary to take six or more swabs.

#### D.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The year, 1914, was quite an exceptional one for the district as far as the prevalence of infectious disease was concerned.

Diphtheria had been in existence in the town during the Autumn of 1913; between November 4th and the end of the year, twenty-nine cases having been notified.

At the commencement of 1914, there were in the Isolation Hospital, twenty-two cases of diphtheria, and two of scarlet fever; on January 31st, there were nine cases of scarlet fever, and eleven of diphtheria under treatment; by March 28th the numbers had dropped to diphtheria four and scarlet fever two, and I reported that the district appeared fairly free from infectious disease. During the week ending, April 18th, seven cases of diphtheria were notified from the Ashford Cottage Hospital, they consisted of a nurse and six patients in the children's ward, all were removed to the Isolation Hospital, disinfection was carried out and no further extension of the disease occurred in the hospital until May 14th, when another case was notified, this patient had a negative swab a month previously. About this time infectious disease became more prevalent, and on May 29th there were under treatment in the Isolation Hospital sixteen cases of diphtheria, eleven of scarlet fever, and one of enteric fever. One of the cases of diphtheria occurred at Norwood Cottages, and another at a cottage at Beaver where the water supply was very unsatisfactory.

During June, there were six cases of scarlet fever, two of diphtheria, and one of enteric fever notified.

During the five weeks ending July 31st, sixteen cases of scarlet fever, ten cases of diphtheria, and one of enteric fever, were notified. The outbreak of scarlet fever was chiefly associated with the Infant Department of the Church of England School and with the Roman Catholic School, in connection with the former a child was found in the peeling stage from scarlet fever at home while her sister was attending the school, both schools were closed and disinfected. The diphtheria cases were at that time nearly all connected with the Infant Department of the Council School.

On August 22nd, I presented a special report on the amount of infectious disease in the district, and in it I stated that from January 1st up to that date there had been fifty-three cases of scarlet fever, sixty-seven of diphtheria, and three of enteric fever. Twelve of the cases of diphtheria occurred in the four days ending August 16th, most of the patients lived in different parts of the town and attended different schools. The West Street School and the Church of England School were chiefly affected. The former was closed on August 17th for a week and disinfected and cleansed.

The twelve cases of diphtheria above mentioned were of a bad type, three died, and in one case it was necessary to perform tracheotomy. One of those who died had been ill at home for six days before a doctor was called in.

On August 14th, there were in the Institution twenty-six cases of scarlet fever and seventeen of diphtheria. On the 19th, I found it necessary to hire a tent to accommodate some of the patients at the hospital as the wards were overcrowded. The day schools at this time closed for the summer holidays and the Ministers of the various denominations in the town, who were most anxious to help me in dealing with the outbreak, kindly offered to keep their Sunday schools closed until the day schools re-opened. One of the Picture Palaces also excluded children from attendance at the request of the Council.

On August 28th, there were in the hospital twenty-six cases of scarlet fever and twenty of diphtheria, and the resources of the Institution were very much taxed, and the following day the porter was admitted with diphtheria which he contracted apparently when removing a patient, no other member of the staff, permanent or temporary, I am thankful to say, contracted any infectious disease during the year.

By September 26th, the number of cases had dropped to diphtheria seventeen, and scarlet fever fifteen, and the use of the tent had been discontinued.

Five members of one family were admitted in September with diphtheria, they had been hop-picking at Chilham. One child required tracheotomy. During the five weeks ending October 30th one case of enteric fever, eight cases of scarlet fever, and nine of diphtheria were notified, five of the cases of scarlet fever were connected with the Church of England School, during the last two months of the year only a few cases were notified and at the end of 1914 the number of patients in the Isolation Hospital were diphtheria ten and scarlet fever seven.

Everything possible was done to cope with the outbreak, sanitary defects found in infected houses were dealt with, the schools were frequently visited and the children inspected, swabs were taken from suspicious cases, "carriers" were isolated, patients removed to hospital, bedding and clothing disinfected, houses and schools fumigated and cleansed, in the latter pencils, books, papers, plasticine, &c., were destroyed. Leaflets were issued to the public, and medical practitioners were supplied with antitoxin free of charge.

With regard to the four cases of enteric fever, they were notified on the following dates:—May 25th, June 23rd, July 9th, and September 26th. The two first were brother and sister (twins), aged 2 years.

It is a significant fact that the food of the first case was prepared by a relative who had an attack of enteric twenty-seven years before but still gave a positive Widal reaction.

The third case lived next door to the other two and probably contracted the disease from them.

The fourth case had frequently, during the summer, visited a town on the coast where he had eaten shell fish.

Non-notifiable infectious disease was not prevalent to any extent in the district during the year. The Infant Department of the West Street School was closed on account of chicken pox during the first fortnight of March.

The following record, showing the extent to which the various schools in the town have been affected by infectious disease, is of interest:—

Name of School.	Number on Roll.	Number of Cases.	
		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.
Church of England	480	24	22
West Street	422	20	9
Council	986	14	11
Roman Catholic	60	4	12
S.E. & C.R.	640	4	7

The last named school is attended by many children who live outside the district and any who contracted infectious diseases would be notified to the Medical Officer of Health for East Ashford.

In connection with the outbreak of infectious disease, Dr. Manby, an Inspector of the Local Government Board, visited the District on September 3rd, he quite approved of all the steps I had taken, and only emphasized the necessity of taking "swabs" from contacts and isolating, and treating all "carrier" cases. He interviewed the Sanitary Committee and pointed out the need for carrying out certain alterations and additions at the hospital, plans for which the Committee had at the time under consideration on my recommendation.

## Infectious cases notified in the Ashford Urban District :—

Year.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric.
1904	36	48	18
1905	4	46	7
1906	2	53	6
1907	2	35	13
1908	5	56	2
1909	16	28	5
1910	4	27	—
1911	24	6	2
1912	16	7	46
1913	43	12	1
1914	106	79	4

## Cases treated in the hospital :—

1905	1	44	1
1906	—	49	—
1907	—	35	9
1908	2	58	1
1909	7	25	3
1910	4	24	—
1911	20	6	—
1912	10	7	40
1913	41	11	1
1914	99	79	3

### E. - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

According to Article V. of the Tuberculosis Regulations of 1912, which were made by the Local Government Board, under Section 130 of the Public Health Act, 1875, every Medical Practitioner attending on, or called in to visit, any person shall within forty-eight hours after first becoming aware that such person is suffering from tuberculosis, notify the case to the Medical Officer of Health for the district. Any practitioner who fails to do this is liable to heavy penalties.

This notification of cases of tuberculosis is not made under the Notification of Infectious Disease Act, 1889, in which case the penalty is only 40/-

The number of cases notified in Ashford during the year were nineteen, of these fifteen were Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four of other organs or structures.

From Dr. Newsholme's Report to the Local Government Board, it would appear that one ought to expect the notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis to number double the deaths.

It was pointed out in the Report of the County Medical Officer that in Ashford, the number of deaths for an average of the five years ending December 31st, 1912, was 12, the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified (during the year, 1913) was 14, whereas this number, one would expect to have been 24.

The average number of deaths for the five years ending, December 31st, 1913, was 14, the number of cases notified was 15, instead of 28 as one would anticipate.

The County Council has control of all cases of tuberculosis in the County. Tuberculosis officers and nurses are employed. There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at No. 1, Barrow Hill Place, which is open one day a week.

Arrangements have been made with the County Medical Officer, whereby one of the tuberculosis nurses visits all cases of tuberculosis notified in the District, if I consider it desirable that she should do so, with a view to searching out "contacts."

The facilities of the dispensary are available for all persons needing treatment for tuberculosis, whether insured or non-insured. The functions of Tuberculosis Dispensaries were summed up in the Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Tuberculosis, as follows:—

- (a). Receiving house and centre of diagnosis.
- (b). Cleaning house and centre of observation.
- (c). Centre for curative treatment.
- (d). Centre for examination of "contacts."
- (e). Centre for "after care."
- (f). Information bureau and educational centre.

The area served by the Ashford Dispensary is the Ashford Urban District and Parishes within a five mile radius thereof.

Population approximately 26,000.

Area 43,600 acres.

The Ashford Dispensary was opened on 15th October, 1913, and the following are the particulars of the work done between that date and 31st December, 1913:—

Occasions open.	New Patients.		Attendances.	
	Insured.	Uninsured.	Insured.	Uninsured.
11	8	5	37	20

The work of the Sanitary Authority is limited, chiefly to dealing with any defects in sanitation of the dwellings occupied by the persons notified as suffering from tuberculosis, and the carrying out of disinfection in the event of death or change of residence. The homes of cases notified were all visited on several occasions by the Inspector of Nuisances. Sputum flasks were supplied when necessary. Of the fifteen cases of Pulmonary Consumption, notified during the year, 4 went to Sanatoria.

One of them developed diphtheria, and during a part of his illness he was treated in a shelter at the Isolation Hospital.

Of the nineteen cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, six died.

There were 13 deaths registered in the District during the year as having been due to tuberculosis.

The County Council is now erecting a Sanatorium for Consumptives near Lenham, the site is an admirable one and the position in the County very suitable.

As I pointed out in my last Annual Report, the treatment of persons now suffering from tuberculosis is very important but what is more necessary is to prevent the onset of the disease, and I still think the four principal means whereby this may be accomplished are

The provision of:—

- (1). Good houses and proper sanitary arrangements.
- (2). Good food.
- (3). Institutions where patients in the last and most infectious stages of tuberculosis can be isolated and nursed.

And finally, that dairy cattle should be inspected and those animals slaughtered which are affected with tuberculosis.

When Sanatorium Benefit was introduced those who had had experience in such matters felt that the public were being lead to expect a much greater result than was possible and it appears to me doubtful whether the expenditure of such large sums of money on Sanatoria, Dispensaries, &c., is justifiable; at any rate, I am certain that to make the expenditure of this money worth while, *at the same time*, steps should be taken to deal with the housing of the community for, after all, it is bad housing conditions which help to spread, if they do not actually cause consumption.

Dry and well ventilated houses are above all things required without over crowding in order to stop the onset of this disease, and again it is obvious that the present state of affairs whereby a consumptive person is taken away for a few months to a sanatorium where his disease is arrested and his general health improved, and then allowed to return to his original damp, dark, badly ventilated cottage, is *most unsatisfactory*.

The proper ventilation of schools, in which the rising generation spend so many hours, is of very great importance, as is also the frequent performance by the scholars of "breathing exercises."

#### F.—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of deaths which occurred from cancer and malignant disease during the past seven years.

In 1914,	No of deaths from Cancer	18	Total deaths	161
In 1913,	" " " "	22	" "	164
In 1912,	" " " "	16	" "	166
In 1911,	" " " "	22	" "	185
In 1910,	" " " "	6	" "	138
In 1909,	" " " "	10	" "	185
In 1908,	" " " "	8	" "	189

The percentage of deaths in Ashford due to cancer in 1914 was 11.18, in 1913 it was 13.49, in 1912 it was 9.63, while in the whole of the Urban Districts of Kent in 1913 it was 9.5, and in 1912 it was 9.47.

Comparing the deaths from cancer with those from tubercular diseases, we find in 1913 the number of deaths from cancer was 22, from pulmonary tuberculosis was 8, from tuberculous meningitis 3, and from other tubercular diseases 2, a total of 13; while in 1914, the number of deaths from cancer was 18, from pulmonary tuberculosis 8, from tuberculous meningitis nil, and from other tubercular diseases 5, a total of 13.

No case of Small Pox was notified during the year.

The following table gives the number of Births in Ashford, the number of children successfully vaccinated, and the number of statutory declarations of conscientious objection for the years, 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913:—

Year.	Births.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Objections.
1910	315	170	121
1911	297	130	134
1912	283	135	130
1913	284	130	132

As I remarked last year one cannot but view with alarm the number of conscientious objectors, and deplore the fact that such a large percentage of the population is now without the protection of vaccination. Ignorance of the dreadful effects produced by an outbreak of small pox is undoubtedly in a great measure responsible for the neglect of vaccination.

#### G.—MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

The Midwives' Act is administered by the County Council; Ashford being included in a district supervised by one of the County Inspectors of Midwives.

During the past year there has been only one registered midwife working in the district.

On August 6th, the Council, on my recommendation, decided to adopt the Notification of Births Act, 1907.

This Act provides for the earlier notification of births. Whereas, it is necessary to give notice to the *Registrar of Births* of the birth of a child within *forty-two days*, under the Notification of Births Act the birth has to be notified to the *Medical Officer of Health* within *thirty-six hours* after the birth.

Section I., Sub-Section I., reads as follows:—

“In the case of every child born in an area, in which this Act is adopted, it shall be the duty of the father of the child, if he is actually residing in the house where the birth takes place at



At the Annual Meeting of the Ashford District Nursing Association, held on April 23rd, addresses were given by Mrs. Aitken and Miss Escombe, of Canterbury, on the subject of "Mothercraft," they explained how much useful work was done in Canterbury by voluntary effort in teaching young and ignorant mothers how to deal with their children.

It is possible that Ashford may some day follow the lead of the cathedral city, and I would like to draw attention to a circular which was issued by the Local Government Board, and which shows what that body has in view. The circular is dated 30th July, 1914, and commences as follows:—

"SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that an estimate has been laid before Parliament for a grant to be distributed by the Board in aid of the expenditure of local authorities and voluntary agencies in respect of Institutions or other provision for maternity and child welfare."

Accompanying the circular is the following Memorandum:—

*Maternity and Child-Welfare.*

A complete scheme would comprise the following elements, each of which will, in this connection, be organised in its direct bearing on infantile health.

1. Arrangements for the local supervision of Midwives.
2. Arrangements for—
 

ANTE-NATAL.	{	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1). An Ante-natal Clinic for expectant mothers.</li> <li>(2). The home visiting of expectant mothers.</li> <li>(3). A Maternity Hospital or beds at a hospital, in which complicated cases of pregnancy can receive treatment.</li> </ol>
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3. Arrangements for—
 

NATAL.	{	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1). Such assistance as may be needed to ensure the mother having skilled and prompt attendance during confinement at home.</li> <li>(2). The confinement of sick women, including women having contracted pelvis or suffering from any other condition involving danger to the mother or infant, at a hospital.</li> </ol>
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4. Arrangements for—
 

POST-NATAL.	{	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1). The treatment in a hospital of complications arising after parturition, whether in the mother or in the infant.</li> <li>(2). The provision of systematic advice and treatment for infants at a Baby Clinic or Infant Dispensary.</li> <li>(3). The continuance of these Clinics and Dispensaries, so as to be available for children up to the age when they are entered on a school register, <i>i.e.</i>, the register of a Public Elementary School, Nursery School, Crèche, Day Nursery, School for Mothers or other school.</li> <li>(4). The systematic home visitation of infants and of children not on a school register as above defined.</li> </ol>
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The infant mortality rate, or the death rate of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 registered births was 44 for the year 1914. In the previous year it was 84, in the year 1912 it was 50, and in 1911 it reached 142.

The question of infant mortality is one of very great importance, especially now that the birth rate is so low, and we in Ashford can hardly realise what is being done in other parts of England to reduce this infant mortality.

During the last two years, I have had the opportunity of attending the National Conference on infant mortality, and I may perhaps be allowed to quote the following extract from the Presidential Address, which the Right Hon. J. Herbert Lewis, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board, delivered at Liverpool last summer. He said:—"The results of the campaign have indeed been remarkable. It has fallen to the lot of few bodies to see so manifest signs as has this Conference of the good work which has been achieved. The figures are familiar but they will bear repetition. In 1904, the death rate of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births in England and Wales was 145, in 1906 132, in 1908 120, in 1910, it had fallen to 105. In 1913 the rate was 109. Had the death rate, during the five years, 1906-10, been equal to the average death rate during the ten years, 1871-1880, nearly 150,000 more infants under one year of age would have died than was actually the case, and more than 400,000 infants under five years of age would have died. This multitude, equivalent to the population of a great city, has been saved in England and Wales alone in a period of only five years."

To show the various questions which were discussed at the Conference, I may quote the titles of some of the papers:—

"Ante-Natal Hygiene and its relation to still and premature births and mortality in the first months of life"

"The teaching of infant care and management to girls in Public Elementary Schools."

"The scope and functions of Schools for mothers."

"The aims, objects, and methods of sterilization of milk."

The Report of the Health Visitor shows one very important fact, and that is, that at present the majority of the mothers in Ashford are doing their duty to their offspring, and giving them the best possible start in life by feeding them upon breast milk.

Dr. Hope, Medical Officer of Health for Liverpool, states that investigation has tended to prove that out of every 1,000 infants under three months of age, naturally fed upon breast milk alone, 20 die of autumnal choleraic disease, but if the same number of infants at the same age are artificially fed then instead of 20 dying, as many as 300 will die from this cause.

As is well known the disease called Ophthalmia Neonatorum is the cause of a very large proportion of cases of blindness, and it was decided by the Local Government Board to make it notifiable under

the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889; on February 5th, regulations were made for the purpose, and they came into force on April 1st. It is thus incumbent on all medical practitioners and midwives to notify any cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum they attend to the Medical Officer of Health.

In connection with child-welfare work the following extract from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board may be quoted: -

"The extent of this work may be gathered from the number of official health visitors employed by them. In Birmingham, there, at a recent date, numbered 37, in Liverpool 26, in Manchester about 30, in Sheffield 18. In Manchester and Liverpool the infant consultations and similar organisations are under voluntary management. In Liverpool, home visiting is done in connection with the work at the Municipal Milk Dépôt as well as independently of this. In Sheffield, there is a municipal infant consultation on five days a week, the town Council paying the physicians in charge £250 per annum. In Birmingham, there are five municipal infant consultations in addition to a number of similar voluntary agencies. A woman Assistant Medical Officer of Health conducts these consultations. In Bradford, there is a municipal infant consultation and milk dépôt employing three whole time women, medical officers, and 13 nurses. A new central infant-welfare centre is being built, estimated to cost £14,000, which will include 20 beds for the in-patient treatment of non-infectious cases of children under school age."

## H. - VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The estimated population of the Urban District, calculated at the middle of 1914, was 13,950, that is, assuming the increase has continued at the same rate as between the census years, 1901 and 1911.

The total number of deaths registered in the District during the year was 154, after subtracting 10 deaths of non-residents and adding 17 deaths of residents dying outside the District, we obtain the nett deaths belonging to the District, *viz.*, 161.

The death rate for the year was 11.53 per 1,000, as compared with 12.25 per 1,000 for 1913.

The infant mortality was 44 per 1,000 registered births, as compared with 84 per 1,000 registered births for 1913.

The number of births registered during the year was 286, to which 3 births occurring outside the District but belonging to the District must be added.

This gives a total of 289 and a birth rate of 20.7 per 1,000, as compared with 19.68 per 1,000 for the previous year.

The zymotic death rate was .78 per 1,000, in 1913 it was 1.29 per 1,000.

The Birth rate is higher than it has been since 1908. The infant mortality rate was I believe the lowest it has ever been, the following Statement shows what it was in previous years:—

In 1905	...	62	In 1910	...	59
„ 1906	...	101	„ 1911	...	142
„ 1907	...	94	„ 1912	...	50
„ 1908	...	54	„ 1913	...	84
„ 1909	...	90			

*Public Health of Ashford as affected by the War.*

My Report would not be complete without some remarks with regard to the way in which the War has affected Ashford.

As soon as it commenced one naturally thought of enteric fever, which has a ways occurred among the troops in previous campaigns, there being 57 000 cases in the South African War. I warned the Council of the possibility of enteric being brought into the District by convalescent or "carrier" cases.

Then again with the advent of Belgian Refugees, there was the possibility of small pox being introduced; moreover, in the past, wars have usually been followed by an increase in the number of small pox cases.

Owing to the absence of flies, the greater knowledge of Hygiene, the more sympathetic co-operation between the combatant and medical branches of the Army, and, above all things, the almost universal inoculation of the troops against Enteric, up to the present time, the number of cases among the Army in the Field has been very small.

At the beginning of August, there were only a few recruits at the Drill Hall of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment), the numbers increased, and with the 4th and 5th Buffs there were at one time some 700 men quartered in the Drill Hall and in certain empty houses. The Reserve Battalion of the Buffs left the District on November 20th.

On November 23rd, half of the 5th Battalion of The King's (Liverpool) Regiment came to the town, being quartered in the Corn Exchange, billeted on private individuals and in two empty houses.

On December 8th, this Regiment left and was succeeded by half a Battalion of the Welsh Regiment.

Before proceeding to allot billets, it is the duty of Chief Officers of Police to consult the Medical Officer of Health, and it is incumbent on him to keep the billets under supervision.

Belgian Refugees to the number of about 275 arrived in the town in the autumn, some remained in Ashford, others were distributed in the surrounding villages, at the end of the year about 70 were living in Ashford.

In order to provide accommodation for the wounded the Congregational School-room, which had been very kindly lent for the purpose, was fitted up in the autumn; beds, bedding utensils, &c., being lent or given, and on October 14th it was opened by the K48, Voluntary Aid Detachment.

There are 24 beds in two wards, and between the date of opening and the end of the year, 70 cases, English and Belgian, were treated.

On December 4th, a house in Church Road was opened as a small hospital for Territorials with 12 beds, and has been more or less full, chiefly with medical cases.

The V.A.D. Hospital, as it is called, is used in the first instance, as a depôt, all wounded brought into the town being conveyed there, the more serious cases are then transferred to the Cottage Hospital.

Public subscriptions have been contributed, and in addition the War Office allows two shillings per head per day for each wounded soldier.

The year 1914 was an eventful one for Ashford, not only on account of the War, and because troops were stationed in the town, and Belgian Refugees admitted, but because of the large amount of infectious disease which prevailed.

It was also an eventful year by reason of the amount of sanitary work which was carried out, notably the erection of the steam disinfecter, and the re-organisation and enlargement of the Isolation Hospital.

The Council is, in addition, to be congratulated on the adoption of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, the Notification of Births Act, 1907, and the appointment of a Health Visitor, and, finally, on having made provision for dealing with an outbreak of small pox if one should occur.

I trust that during the coming year the sewerage of the Beaver and Kingsnorth Road District will be carried out, the question of the Housing of the Working Classes will be constantly kept under consideration, the provision of a Refuse Destructor will be discussed, and the additions to the Isolation Hospital completed.

**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,**  
**For the Year ending 31st December, 1914.**

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In carrying out the inspections, every effort is at the time made to improve the sanitary condition of properties affected; all nuisances detected are placed upon record and not allowed to be lost sight of until a suitable remedy has been adopted.

The total number of inspections and re-visits made during the year amounted to 3,522, carried out respectively under the Public Health Acts, the Housing, Town Planning etc., Act, Factory and Workshops Act, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Regulations and also other Acts, Regulations, and Bye-laws in force within the District.

As will be seen from the following details, and the Summary at the end of this Report, a large number of insanitary conditions were found to exist, which have been abated and a good many useful improvements carried out.

It has not been necessary to resort to legal proceedings, although 17 Statutory Notices have been served for the abatement of Nuisances and carrying out necessary works.

*House Drainage.*

The drainage to 11 houses has been re-laid or partly re-laid, and the drains at 66 houses have been cleared and repaired. A cesspool has been constructed for the sink drainage from one house, instead of draining direct to a ditch. 23 new houses have been connected to the main sewers, and 27 new houses have been connected to cesspools.

*Closet Accommodation.*

Four extra closets have been provided and fitted with flushing cisterns, 36 defective w.c. pans have been removed and replaced by new ones, and in each case a flushing apparatus has been fitted, also 6 defective w.c. pans have been replaced by new ones, 4 closets have been provided with flushing cisterns, and 20 flushing cisterns have been repaired.

*Sinks and Sink Waste Pipes.*

Fifteen new sinks have been provided where none existed, or replaced defective ones, and 11 sink waste pipes have been renewed or properly disconnected.

*Paving of Yards, Side Passages, &c.*

The work of paving common yards, back yards, and side passages in close proximity to living rooms, sculleries, and domestic offices, has been steadily progressing throughout the year.

The number of yards, etc., dealt with and which have been properly paved for the first time, or else had the old paving broken up and properly re-constructed are as follows;—

Yards, passages, etc., the paving or repairing of which resulted from inspections under the Housing, etc., Act amounted to .. .. .	26
Number of yards, etc., dealt with in a similar manner by ordinary notices under the Public Health Act, amounted to .. .. .	3

The paving wherever necessary has been provided with the necessary gullies to carry off the rain and surface water.

#### *Water Supply.*

Thirteen samples of well waters have been submitted to the County Analyst; 12 wells supplying 43 houses were condemned after analysis, and have been closed and the town water laid on, and seven houses using well waters have been connected to the town supply without samples being taken and analysed.

#### *Nuisances.*

87 complaints relating to various nuisances have been received during the year. Each complaint was promptly investigated and where found to be of a genuine nature the necessary remedial measures taken.

It will be observed by the summary attached hereto that various other nuisances and sanitary defects have been discovered and abated.

#### *Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.*

The following works have been carried out when dealing with notifiable infectious diseases. Phthisis is now included:—

One hundred and eighty-one cases, infectious disease, removed to the Isolation Hospitals, *viz.*, diphtheria 99, scarlet fever 79, enteric fever 3.

Two hundred and sixteen rooms and 4 schools have been disinfected.

Three hundred and thirty-five sets, comprising 3,472 articles, bedding, clothing, &c., were removed, disinfected and returned.

In connection with the billeting of Troops, and V.A.D. Hospital for wounded in the town, 7 public buildings and premises, and 26 rooms have been disinfected and 1,403 blankets, uniforms, &c., treated at the Disinfecting Chamber.

The new steam disinfecter which has been in use since September 10th last, has been a great help in dealing with the infected bedding, clothing, &c., being more efficient and much quicker than the hot air disinfecter, which was in use prior to this date.

In those houses where infectious disease occurred, thorough sanitary inspections were made, and where defects were discovered, notices were served to remedy the same. The drains in all doubtful cases were subjected to the smoke test.

*Slaughter Houses and Food Inspection.*

There are twelve slaughter houses in the district which have frequently been inspected, and as a rule were found in a clean and sanitary condition.

The paving to two slaughter houses has been relaid in cement concrete.

A lair to one slaughter house has been enlarged and partitioned off from an adjoining stable.

Notices were served and the work carried out to re-limewash 6 slaughter houses.

The shops occupied by butchers have been frequently inspected.

Notices were sent to all the butchers in the town on February 4th last, requesting them, in their own interest, to inform me and voluntarily surrender any meat they should become possessed of which is of a doubtful character.

Two emaciated pig carcasses were voluntarily surrendered and buried in lime, under my supervision.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, Etc., ACT, 1909.

During the year I have made special inspections under the Act, in accordance with the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, as follows :—

Number of houses inspected .. .. .	160
Number of houses in which defects were discovered ..	131
Number of houses in which defects were remedied under Section 15 (including defects remedied at 15 houses brought forward from the year 1913) ..	110
Number of houses in which defects were remedied under Public Health Acts .. .. .	3
Number of houses in which the defects were not remedied on 31st December, 1914 .. .. .	33
Number of houses closed .. .. .	Nil
Number of houses demolished .. .. .	Nil
Number of re-visit inspections made during the time the works which were specified as necessary, were being carried out .. .. .	218
Number of houses not requiring remedy .. .. .	29

All the prescribed entries and records respecting the above inspections have been made in the Record Books, specially provided for the purpose.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

### (1). *Inspection.*

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year was :—

	Number.	Inspections.
Factories .. .. .	44	90
Workshops .. .. .	81	151
Workplaces .. .. .	9	16
Bakehouses .. .. .	15	43
Outworkers' premises ..	11	17
New Factories registered .. .. .		1
New Workshops registered .. .. .		7
Underground Bakehouses in use ..		2

### (2). *Defects found.*

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	9	9	..
Want of ventilation .. .. .	3	3	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	1	1	..
Abstract not posted .. .. .	..	..	2
<b>Sanitary Accommodation :—</b>			
Insufficient .. .. .	3	3	..
Unsuitable or Defective .. .. .	8	7 1 in hand )	..
Not separate for sexes .. .. .	..	1	..
<b>Offences under Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 :—</b>			
Re-limewashing required to Bakehouse .. .. .	1	1	..
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>

There are eleven outworkers on the Register. The whole of the homes of these outworkers have been visited and have been found clean and satisfactory in each case.

### FABRICS (MISDESCRIPTION) ACT, 1913.

This Act came into force on 1st January, 1914. In carrying out the requirements of the Act, I have made inquiries at 15 shops and premises, as to the selling or keeping for sale of any marked or stated to be non-inflammable textile fabrics. At one shop only was this material kept, and a square yard was purchased and put to the specified test, and proved to be inflammable after such test. The Council resolved to take no action in the matter.

*Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.*

There are 20 cowsheds, 16 milkshops, and 6 Dairies in the District, which have been inspected from time to time, and the following defects remedied:—

One cowshed has been properly drained, and a watertight cesspool constructed.

The drainage from cowsheds at one farm has been re-laid.

Notices have been served and the work carried out to limewash sheds in 6 cases, and to remove manure accumulations in 2 cases.

A circular letter was sent to all cowkeepers on July 17th last, calling attention to the necessity of carrying out the Regulations as to milking cows.

One milk store has been properly lighted and ventilated. Two purveyors of milk have been added to the Register. Four milk stores have been disused during the year.

*The Tuberculosis Order of 1913.*

One cow suspected to be affected with tuberculosis was notified to the Authority, but after examination by the County Council's Veterinary Inspector, it was considered not a case of tuberculosis.

*Common Lodging Houses.*

There are three Registered Common Lodging Houses in the town, which have frequently been visited and inspected. A number of nuisances have been detected and remedied.

It was necessary to serve notice on the keeper of one lodging house to carry out the re-limewashing, according to Section 82 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

*Licensed Premises.*

The whole of the outside w.c.'s and urinals belonging to licensed premises in the town have been inspected, and various sanitary improvements carried out and defects remedied.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.****SUMMARY.**

Special Inspections and Investigations of Complaints .. 724

Miscellaneous Inspections, including re-visits .. ..	789
House to House Inspections .. ..	557
Houses Inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act	160
Re-visit to Inspections to Houses .. ..	218
Visits and Inspections in connection with Infectious Disease	397
Slaughterhouse Inspections .. ..	139
Bakehouse Inspections .. ..	49
Factory, Workshop and Workplace Inspections .. ..	274
Dairies, Cowshed, and Milkshop Inspections .. ..	102
Common Lodging House Inspections .. ..	27
Meat and Food Inspections .. ..	71
Visits to Shops and Premises <i>re</i> Fabrics (Misdescription) Act	15
Samples of Water submitted to County Analyst .. ..	16
Drains tested for defects with smoke .. ..	68

The following is a Summary of work which has been carried out under statutory, preliminary and verbal notices :—

Statutory Notices served .. ..	17
Preliminary Notices served .. ..	369
House drains cleared and repaired .. ..	66
House drains re-laid or partly re-laid .. ..	11
Defective gullies removed and replaced with proper ones ..	59
Defective W.C. Pans replaced with proper ones, with flushing cisterns .. ..	42
Extra W.C.'s erected and fitted with flushing apparatus ..	4
Flushing Cisterns provided to existing W.C.'s .. ..	4
Flushing Cisterns repaired .. ..	20
Offensive Accumulations removed .. ..	50
Houses in a dirty condition, cleaned throughout .. ..	15
Cases of Overcrowding abated .. ..	39
Nuisances from keeping Animals abated .. ..	17
Defective Guttering and Down Pipes repaired or disconnected	90
Houses provided with a proper supply of drinking water ..	50
New Sinks provided where none existed or replaced defective ones .. ..	15
Sink Waste Pipes renewed or disconnected .. ..	11
Defective Paving to common and back yards renewed .. ..	29
Foul Ditches Cleansed .. ..	4
Fixed Living Room Windows made to open .. ..	8
Bedrooms properly ventilated .. ..	8
Defective Roofs repaired .. ..	7
Interior Walls to Urinals re-limewashed .. ..	12
Urinals enlarged and re-built .. ..	2
New Ventilating Shafts erected .. ..	3
New Inspection Chambers provided .. ..	3
Slaughter Houses re-limewashed .. ..	7
Slaughter Houses re-paved .. ..	2
Cowsheds re-limewashed .. ..	4
Cowsheds provided with proper Drainage, &c. .. ..	2
Well cleansed and surface contamination prevented .. ..	1
Miscellaneous matters .. ..	11

*Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.*

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) .. .. .	95	12	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) .. .. .	195	10	..
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) .. .. .	9	2	..
Total .. .. .	299	24	..

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness ..	9	9		
Want of Ventilation ..	3	3		
Overcrowding ..	1	1		
Want of drainage of floors ..				
Other nuisances ..				
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient ..	3	3		
Unsuitable or defective ..	8	7 and 1 in hand		
Not separate for Sexes ..		1		
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s 10i) ..				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ..				
Other offences ..				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) ..				
Re-limewashing required to Bakehouse ..	1	1		
Total .. .. .	25	25		

## 3—HOME WORK.

Nature of Work:—	Lists received from employers twice in the year:—			Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.
	Lists.	Outworkers.		
		Contractors.	Workmen.	
Wearing Apparel:—				
Making, &c. ..	8	4	6	3
Furniture and upholstery ..	..	..	5	..
Total ..	8	4	11	3

## 4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at end of year.	Number.
Bakehouses .. .. .	13
Dressmaking, Millinery, &c .. .. .	20
Tailors, Bootmakers, Saddlers .. .. .	11
Building Trade .. .. .	20
Engineers and General Smiths .. .. .	13
Upholsterers .. .. .	4
Laundries .. .. .	2
Various .. .. .	11
Total .. .. .	94

## 5—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
<b>Matters notified to H. M. Inspector of Factories:—</b>	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 13 <sup>1</sup> , 1901) .. .. .	2
Workshops found not registered .. .. .	3
<b>Action taken in matters referred by H. M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901):—</b>	
Notified by H. M. Inspector .. .. .	5
Reports (of action taken) sent to H. M. Inspector .. .. .	5
Other .. .. .	..
<b>Underground Bakehouses (s. 101):—</b>	
In use at end of year .. .. .	2

TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT  
DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANS-FERRABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	14824	295	295	19.90	153	10.32	7	12	25	90	158	10.65
1910	15090	274	274	18.15	137	9.07	7	8	16	59	138	9.14
1911	13690	260	262	19.13	182	13.30	8	11	37	142	185	13.66
1912	13781	258	260	18.86	153	11.10	5	18	13	50	166	12.04
1913	13869	266	273	19.68	171	12.32	15	14	23	84	170	12.25
1914	13960	286	289	20.7	154	11.03	10	17	13	44	161	11.53

Total population at all ages .. .. 13,668 }  
*Total families or separate occupiers* .. .. } At census of 1911.  
~~Number of inhabited houses~~ .. .. 3,196 }

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 2,850.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1914.

TABLE II.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous group) .. ..	106	2	9	74	9	11	1	..	99
Erysipelas .. ..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	79
Scarlet fever .. ..	79	1	11	63	3	1	..	..	..
Typhus fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever .. ..	4	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3
Relapsing fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Polio-myelitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	15	..	..	1	4	8	2	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. ..	4	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Totals .. ..	213	5	23	140	18	23	4	..	181

Isolation Hospital—Urban District Isolation Hospital.



TABLE IV.  
 INFANT MORTALITY.

1914. Nett deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	{ Certified ..	13									—
	{ Uncertified ..	..									—
{	Small-pox .. ..	..									—
	Chicken-pox .. ..	..									—
	Measles .. ..	..									—
	Scarlet Fever .. ..	..									—
	Whooping Cough .. ..	..									—
	Diphtheria and Croup .. ..	..									—
	Erysipelas .. ..	..									—
{	Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	..									—
	Abdominal Tuberculosis .. ..	..									—
	Other Tuberculous Disease .. ..	..									—
	Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> ) .. ..	..									—
	Convulsions .. ..	..									—
	Laryngitis .. ..	..									—
	Bronchitis .. ..	..					1				1
	Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	..						1	1	1	3
{	Diarrhoea .. ..	..					2				2
	Enteritis .. ..	..									—
	Gastritis .. ..	..									—
	Syphilis .. ..	..									—
	Rickets .. ..	..									—
	Suffocation, overlying .. ..	..									—
	Injury at Birth .. ..	..	1			1					1
	Atelectasis .. ..	..									—
{	Congenital Malformations .. ..	..	2			2					2
	Premature Birth .. ..	..	4			4					4
	Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus .. ..	..									—
	Other Causes .. ..	..									—
Totals		7				7	3	1	1	1	13
Nett Births in the Year		{ legitimate 275 illegitimate 14									
Nett Deaths in the Year of		{ legitimate infants 11 illegitimate infants 2									