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Contributors

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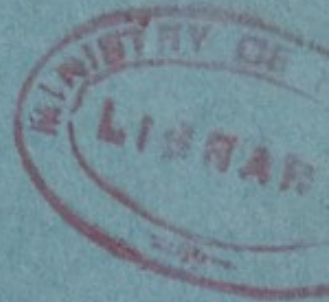
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GODMANCHESTER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER
FOR THE YEAR 1937

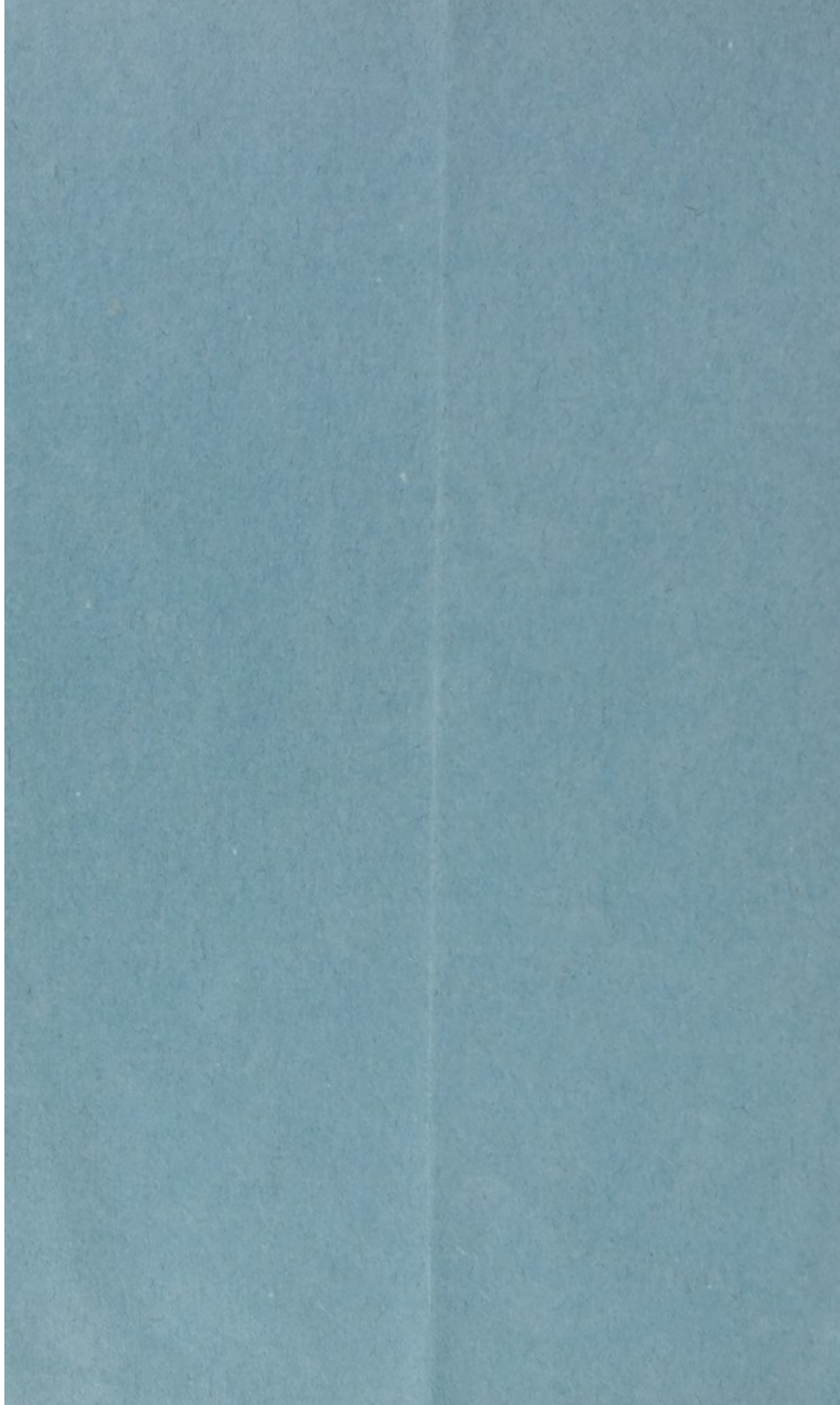
BY

CHARLES E. HICKS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON :

PRINTED BY W. GOGGS & SON, 116, HIGH STREET.



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To the Godmanchester Urban District Council.



GENTLEMEN,

The Ministry of Health requires information on certain subjects. This information is embodied in this report to save extra printing and time.

Godmanchester is a Borough situate on the south side of the river Ouse, with an area of 4,956 acres. The Borough proper is located on the banks of the river with many straggling streets and lanes, and spreading over a considerable acreage, flanked on the East and West by extensive commons, which are at times flooded.

The rising ground on the Southern side of the Borough is dotted with farm-houses and homesteads. The soil of the Borough proper is gravel, overlaid with loamy soil, and that of the higher ground Oxford clay.

The population is 2,025.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 639.

The Rateable Value is £7,754.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £30 10s. 6d.

The population is mostly connected with agricultural pursuits.

There is one Hosiery Factory in the Borough employing a considerable number of women and girls. The old Flour Mill has been taken over by "Farmers' Glory," Ltd., makers of cereal foods.

Vital Statistics.

The Births registered were 36 ; 19 males and 17 females. There were 3 illegitimate children born in the Borough. This gives a Birth-rate of 15·3 per 1000 persons living. The Birth-rate for England and Wales is 14·9 per 1000. There were five still births registered.

The deaths registered were 35 ; 20 males and 15 females, an average of 17·28 per 1000 persons living. Of these 11 were over 70, 3 over 80, 1 over 90, and 1 aged 104 years. The Death-rate for England and Wales is 12·4 per 1000. There were no deaths due to pregnancy or childbirth.

There were no deaths of children under 1 year of age.

Public Assistance Medical Relief is utilised to a fair extent, principally amongst the older inhabitants, also the Huntingdon County Hospital is used by both In and Out-patients.

The Public Assistance Institution at St. Neots now takes care of Mental cases which are not bad enough to be sent to the Mental Hospital at Arlesey.

The Huntingdon Institution at the North end of the adjoining Borough receives cases of bodily illness and also the aged and infirm who are more or less able to look after themselves, but want a certain amount of supervision.

Nursing in the Home.

Cases of illness are visited by a District Nurse in their homes and cases of infectious disease are conveyed to the Local Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities.

Food is examined periodically by Mr. Solomon Greenberg, Tenison Road, Cambridge, and Clinical material by Dr. Harvey, of Cambridge, through the County Council.

Legislation in Force.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
" " "	...	1907
" " "	...	1936
Infectious Diseases Notification Act	...	1889
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act ...	...	1890
Notification of Births Acts ...	...	1907
Shops Act ...	...	1934

Hospitals.

In Huntingdon there is a Voluntary General Hospital which receives cases from the Borough ; an Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases supported by the rates from this and neighbouring Councils. Cases of Small Pox would be taken care of by the Huntingdon County Council.

Ambulance Facilities.

There are two Ambulances used for service in the Borough, one for ordinary cases and one for infectious cases.

Clinics.

There is no clinic in the Borough, but cases of Tuberculosis, Child Welfare and Ante-natal matters are dealt with by the Huntingdon Centre under the Huntingdon County Council.

Water Supply.

Water was laid on in the Borough on December 8th, 1936, and many houses are connected to the Main. The supply comes from The Huntingdon Urban District Council's Waterworks and is of excellent quality and quantity.

I hope in time to have every house connected up to this pure supply.

There are a good many wells still in use which I hope will gradually be closed as time goes on.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sanitary conditions of the District remain in much the same condition now as in previous years. There are 117 water closets, the rest being of the pail system. This Council must also consider works for a proper drainage and sewerage system, and thus do away with the very unsatisfactory arrangement of pail closets, and the annoyance it entails to the inhabitants of the Borough. I hope that later on every house will have a water closet with proper flushing cisterns.

There are no privies in the Borough, nor sink wastes connected direct to the drains.

The sewers are mostly stoneware, though there are one or two of the old barrel type.

The sewers are running very well now.

Scavenging.

The Refuse is collected and ploughed into the land by farmers at an annual cost of £500.

Inspection.

During the year I have made many inspections of the District accompanied by your Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspections are embodied in the Sanitary Officer's Report, *vide* page 8.

Schools.

Water is now laid on to both Schools and water carriage system is now installed in the Girls' School. The Schools are kept clean and are well ventilated.

The Schools were not closed through illness during the year.

Housing.

Housing accommodation for the labouring classes is of a mixed character. The old thatched cottages are gradually being replaced by more modern dwelling-houses, and the house accommodation is generally improving. Out of 357 working class houses inspected for overcrowding under 1935 Act only 6 were found to be overcrowded. On account of the female labour employed in local factories, the young women who formerly left home for domestic service remain and cause the houses to be fully occupied. During the Canning Season at Messrs. Chivers in Huntingdon, a considerable number of young women come from Peterborough and the near villages, lodging in Godmanchester, thus overfilling the houses occupied by the working classes.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	62
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	228
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under Section 5 of Housing Act, 1936	53
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	79
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	19
--	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses on which notice served under Section 11	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses closed	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertaking given	4

The provision of Parlour type houses by the Council has met local needs. The provision of the Non-Parlour type houses has nearly met local needs, but a few more houses would readily let.

Generally there is plenty of open space about the houses, the cleanliness of the surroundings in some places is not of a high class, the yards being imperfectly paved and gravelled, but there is a decided improvement yearly in these conditions.

Infectious and other Diseases.

All houses in which Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever appear are disinfected during the first 24 hours.

The following cases were notified under the Act :

Varicella	...	...	...	3
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	10
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1

Tuberculosis.

There were 2 deaths from Tuberculous disease during the year.

Cancer.

There were 9 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Vaccination.

Vaccination is a dead letter in the Borough, most parents taking advantage of the conscientious objection clause in the Act.

Small Pox.

Cases of Small Pox will be cared for by the Huntingdon County Council.

Isolation Hospital.

The District now sends cases of Infectious Diseases to the Huntingdon Joint Hospital.

HUNTINGDON,
May, 1938.

CHARLES E. HICKS,
Medical Officer of Health,
Godmanchester Urban District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937.

Total No. of Inspections made during 1937	422
,, ,, Notices Served (Informal) ...	10
Complaints received	Total number of 28
Premises, Houses, etc. (under sec. 91)	No. inspected 9
	Nuisances abated 8
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse ...	No. inspected 1
	Nuisances abated 1
Animals improperly kept	No. inspected 0
	Nuisances abated 0
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit ...	No. inspected 5
	Nuisances abated 5
Drain, drain-traps, etc., etc.	No. inspected 11
	Nuisances abated 10
House, or part thereof, overcrowded...	No. inspected 3
	Nuisances abated 1
Smoke nuisances	No. of observations Nil
	Nuisances abated Nil
Offensive accumulations	No. inspected Nil
	Nuisances abated Nil
Other sanitary conditions	No. inspected 0
	Nuisances abated 0
Lodging houses	No. registered Nil
	No. of inspection Nil
Slaughter houses and shops	No. licensed or registered 3
	No. of inspections 57
Offensive trades (sec. 112 P. Health Act, 1875)	No. established Nil
	No. of inspections Nil
Canal Boats	No. registered Nil
	No. of inspection Nil
	No. with infectious diseases on board Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome ...	No. of Nil
Infectious Diseases	Houses affected with Tuberculosis 0
	Houses inspected 3
	No. of inspections 3
	Houses disinfected 3
	Schools disinfected Nil
	Disinfected used ... Formalin
	Lots of clothing disinfected ... Nil
	,, ,, destroyed ... Nil
Privy Middens	New provided Nil
	No. repaired Nil
	No. converted to pails ... Nil
	No. converted to W.C.'s ... Nil
Pail or Earth Closets	New provided 3
	No. converted to W.C.'s ... 64
Water Closets	New provided 3
	No. supplied with water ... 117

Ashpits	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	Nil
					No. converted to Ashbins	...	...	Nil
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	New provided	...	...	2
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	Samples taken for analysis	...	...	Nil
					Samples condemned	...	...	Nil
					Wells closed	...	...	Nil
					Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	Nil
					Public supply substituted for well or pond	...	...	Nil
					Cisterns, cleansed, repaired, covered	...	...	Nil
					Waste pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	Nil
Building Bye-Laws adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
The Council has passed a resolution to adopt the model bye-laws of the Ministry of Health (series 4 Buildings).								
Total Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summons, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
					Convictions	...	...	Nil

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Workshops	...	...	...	...	Total number on register (including bakehouses)	...	...	14
					Number in which nuisances abated	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	No. on Register	...	...	4
					No. in which nuisance abated	...	...	2
					No. of outworkers	...	...	Nil
					No. of houses	...	...	Nil
					No. of infected houses	...	...	Nil
Legal Proceedings, <i>i.e.</i> , Summonses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
					Convictions	...	...	Nil

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—Dairies and Cowsheds are regularly inspected and any defects removed where required by the owners under the 1926 order. Samples of Milk are examined in any suspicious circumstances. There is a distinct improvement in the Cowsheds in the Borough; on the whole they are more up to date. Main water supply has been laid on to four cowsheds.

(b) MEAT.—Slaughter-houses and meat are regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and M.O.H.

(c) ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—No samples taken.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD. No action taken.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Milk Sellers)—									
No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
No. of Inspections during Milking Time	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary Improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Have regulations been adopted	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Yes
Premises with Well Water Supply—									
No. of	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of from which water analysed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Dairymen, Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk (Butter and Cheese Makers—									
No. in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. Inspection of Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

CHARLES E. HICKS,
M.O.H.

May, 1938.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ending 31st December, 1937.

General.

(1)	Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	4956
(2)	Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	2025
(3)	General Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	17·28
(4)	Adjusted Death-rate	...	...	...	...	...	13·65
(5)	Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	·98
(6)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(7)	Births	{	Legitimate	...	33	} Total	36
			Illegitimate	...	3		
(8)	Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	...	15·3
(9)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	639
(10)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	380
(11)	Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£7754
(12)	Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£30 10s. 6d.

Causes of Death in the Borough of Godmanchester, 1937.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	20	15
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	—
Cancer	5	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	2
Heart Disease	3	4
Other Circulatory	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—
Senility	—	1
Violence	1	—
Influenza	3	1
Appendicitis	1	—
Digestive Disorder	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	—
Other Defined Causes	—	2

BOROUGH OF GODMANCHESTER.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1937.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total under										Total Deaths under One Year	
	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months			
All Causes { Certified ... Uncertified											Nil.
	...											Nil.
T.B. Peritonitis											Nil.
												Nil.

Nett Births in the year :—
 Legitimate ... 33 } Total 36
 Illegitimate ... 3 }
 Nett Deaths in the year of :—
 Legitimate Infants ... 0 } Total 0
 Illegitimate Infants ... 0 }

*Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1937.*

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil.	Nil.
25 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—		
35 ...	—	1	—	—	1	—		
45 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—		
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—		
Total	1	1	—	—	2	—	Nil.	Nil.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action was taken.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937,
for the Urban District of Godmanchester.**

on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection
with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries)	4	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	} 23	Nil.	Nil.
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' Premises)			
Total ...	27	Nil.	Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number offences in respect to which Prosecu- tions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Want of ventilation ...				
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of floors ...				
Other nuisances ...				
Sanitary accommodation :—	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
insufficient ...				
unsuitable or defective... not separate for sexes ...				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts—</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Other offences ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Total ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Ten Years Fatal Cases of :

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1928	1	1
1929	4	1
1930	2	5
1931	4	4
1932	4	1
1933	5	5
1934	4	2
1935	6	0
1936	0	4
1937	9	2
	39	25

