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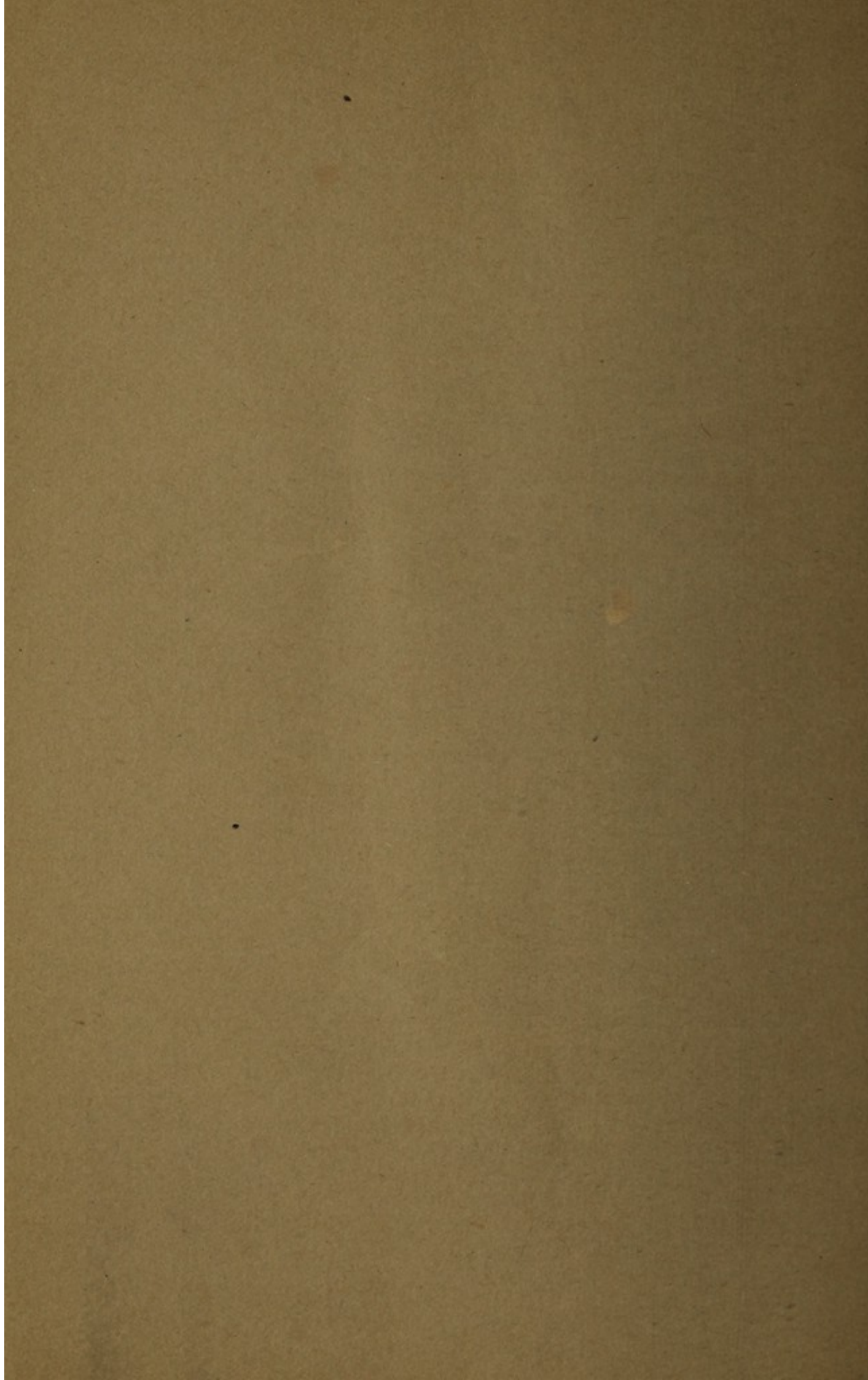
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HAILSHAM
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1937

JUNE, 1938



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1937.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural
District Council.*

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1937.

The general health of the District during the year has been satisfactory, the Net Death Rate being 9.78 per 1,000.

No epidemic of a notifiable disease occurred, and the 45 cases of Scarlet Fever were spread over the whole District. Six cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, of which two were fatal.

The measures introduced during the previous year for Diphtheria prophylaxis were continued, but I am able to report very little success, and only 40 children were immunised with material supplied by the Council.

It would appear that the payment of the doctor's fee of 5/- is the main difficulty, for in one District in this County, where responsibility for the payment of this fee was assumed by the Council, a large proportion of the children of school age—more than 90%—have been immunised.

A community in which such a large proportion of the susceptible children have been rendered immune is not likely to suffer from an epidemic of Diphtheria, and in the long run much of the cost of immunisation will be recovered by the saving in hospital charges.

Cases of infectious disease from this District were treated at the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital after 14th February, 1937. The arrangement has worked very well, and there have been no objections on the part of parents, even those living in the extreme north of the District. On one or two occasions, for various reasons, cases have been sent to Hastings, under the County Scheme.

As in the previous year, much of the time of the Staff has been occupied on work in connection with Housing, and a summary of this will be found in the body of the Report.

Monthly reports on the incidence of Overcrowding were submitted to the Housing Committee, and much useful work in this connection was done by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The removal of house refuse by the District Council has been extended to the parishes of Hailsham and Herstmonceux, in the former of which the work was formerly carried out by contract.

The Northern and Southern Schemes have continued working satisfactorily, although the latter is always working under pressure.

Much of this could be obviated, and the cost of collection much reduced, if householders would burn all they can, such as newspapers, and use their dustbins only for ashes, tins, etc., which they are unable to destroy.

The question of co-operation between general practitioners and Public Health Officers was brought up at a recent meeting of the Eastbourne Division of the British Medical Association, and as a result, both Medical Officers of Health in the Division have been appointed *ex-officio* to the Executive Committee.

It will thus be possible for me to maintain close liaison with general practitioners in the District.

Twelve Basque refugees were transferred from the Camp at North Stoneham to Herstmonceux Castle on 28th June, 1937, and remained there until 30th September. The health of all of them remained good during their stay, and no case of infectious disease occurred.

The Public Health Act, 1936, came into operation with effect from 1st October, 1937.

It is already clear that it will do much to simplify and help our work, but it is too early yet to make any detailed comments as to its effects.

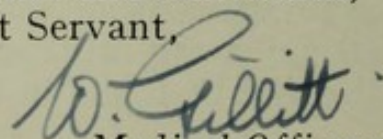
Mr. L. E. Scott joined the Health Department on 1st February, 1937, as an Assistant Sanitary Inspector, in place of Mr. G. H. Hine, who obtained an appointment under the Suffolk County Council.

Mr. Warman continued to act as Meat Inspector throughout the year; his work has been most satisfactory by reason of his thoroughness and tact.

Mr. Chapman, as in previous years, has never spared himself, and has devoted all his energies to the service of the Council. He has proved himself to be a most loyal and helpful colleague.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Comparative Statistics.

	1936.	1937.
Area in Acres	99,138	99,138
Census Population (1931)	30,213	30,213
Number of Inhabited Houses	10,005	10,476
Rateable Value	£237,672	£250,335
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£864	£986

	1936.	1937.
Pop. estimated to middle of year (Reg. Gen.)	34,050	34,970
Population estimated to middle of year (R.D.C.)	—	37,862
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	12.77	13.122
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births	39.07	36.2
Total Death Rate per 1,000	10.36	11.78
Net Death Rate per 1,000	8.59	9.78
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000	0.06	0.05
Death Rate from Phthisis per 1,000	0.27	0.25
Death Rate from other Respiratory Diseases per 1,000	0.91	0.85
Senile Mortality Deaths as a percentage of Net Deaths (65 years and over)	53.6	58.01

BIRTHS—Legitimate ..	Total 442	Males 229	Females 213
Illegitimate ..	„ 17	„ 8	„ 9
Number of women dying in consequence of childbirth, 2.			

Comparative Vital Statistics.

	Birth Rate		Infantile Mortality		Death Rate
Hailsham Rural	13.122	..	36.2	..	9.78
England and Wales	14.9	..	58.0	..	12.4

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health, D.P.H.	Part Time.
Senior Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector	Whole Time.
Assistant Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector	Whole Time.
Assistant Sanitary Inspector	Whole Time.
Two Clerical Assistants	Whole Time.

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological and Pathological Specimens are forwarded to Dr. Geoffrey Shera at the County Laboratory, Hellingly.

All water samples are examined bacterially and chemically by Dr. S. Allinson Woodhead, the Public Analyst.

Milk samples obtained for chemical and bacterial examination are delivered to the Pathological Laboratory, Hellingly.

Clinics.

The following Clinics are held at Hailsham in the Church Room, Victoria Road :—

- (1) Orthopaedic.
- (2) Maternity and Child Welfare.
- (3) Ante-Natal.
- (4) Dental (M.C.W. and School).
- (5) Minor Ailments (in connection with Elementary Schools).

Hospitals.

Tuberculosis.—Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge, provided by the County Council.

Diphtheria and Fevers.—Eastbourne Isolation Hospital (occasionally to Hastings).

Smallpox.—Arrangement with County Borough of Hastings.

Venereal Diseases.—Treatment at Tunbridge Wells, Hastings and Brighton.

Water Supplies.

The District is well served by the following four Water Companies, except on the Western side, where there are six parishes dependent upon wells, which penetrate Weald Clay and, to a lower degree, Lower Greensand and Gault.

Apart from the Central part of the District, each of the respective Companies covers wide areas, and draws its supplies from plentiful and wholesome catchments as follows :—

Area	Water Companies.	Statutory Areas.	Catchment.
North ..	Heathfield and District Water Company.	Heathfield, Waldron and a small part of Warbleton (North)	Ashdown, Tunbridge Wells Sand and Weald Clay.
South ..	Eastbourne Waterworks Company.	Pevensey, Westham, Willingdon, East Dean, Friston, Polegate, Alfriston and Wilmington.	Chalk.
East ..	Bexhill Water Company.	Ninfield, Wartling (North), Herstmonceux (Central).	Tunbridge Wells Sand, Wadhurst Clay
Central ..	Hailsham Water Company.	Hailsham.	Ashdown Sand, Tunbridge Wells Sand and Weald Clay.

Water Main extensions have been made to provide services to building developments at Heathfield, Waldron, Willingdon and Polegate, and although the rainfall was erratic, the average for the year slightly exceeded the normal, and no appreciable diminution in supplies has occurred, nor were restrictions in use called for.

After prolonged negotiations with the Eastbourne Water Company to provide a wholesome water supply to the village of Jevington, a standpost service has been made available and has proved a boon to the village, which has hitherto depended upon a number of wells about 200 feet deep ; one such well, serving 25 houses, was declared by the Analyst to be unfit and was closed.

During the year the Hailsham Water Company sank a new bore at Adam's Hole, from which encouraging results have been obtained, both in regard to quality and yield. This new source will go far towards preventing a recurrence of the trouble and anxiety caused by excessive sediment in the mains between June and August, to remedy which the Company introduced chemical precipitation.

This succeeded in arresting the deposit, and consequently improved the quality of the water.

Bacterial and Chemical Reports show that this improvement has been maintained.

Periodical Reports are now forwarded by each Water Company, and the respective qualities or variations noted and reported to the Council.

The following records of comparative rainfall have been reported :—

	Pevensey	Heathfield	Pevensey Bay	Polegate	Willingdon
1935 ..	37.07	.. 43.63	.. 41.00	.. —	.. —
1936 ..	27.55	.. 31.22	.. 29.61	.. 30.31	.. 31.81
1937 ..	35.13	.. 38.80	.. 36.99	.. 39.62	.. 39.74

Other Sources.

Much activity has taken place in the examination of waters from other sources, including shallow and deep wells according to their geographical distribution, from Tunbridge Wells and Ashdown Sands, Greensand and Clay subsoils.

The following samples were submitted and reports received :—

No. of wells analysed	(Formal) 65	(Informal) 130
No. found to be wholesome	17	49
No. found to be unsatisfactory	48	81

Most of the unsatisfactory waters were derived from sources exposed to pollution, or from new untried wells, the supplies from which, particularly from clay or peaty substrata, are rarely found to be wholesome unless treated. The services of the department have therefore been made available to any who sought assistance in correcting and improving their supplies, and it is satisfactory to report that no less than 109 wells have by these means been rendered fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Since the completion of the work of Sewer extension early in the year, which included reconstruction and enlargement of the Hailsham Sewage Disposal works, large numbers of houses *en route* at Hailsham and Hellingly have been connected with the Sewer, and the abatement of many long standing nuisances finally accomplished.

This scheme, which provides for the disposal of sewage from the Mental Hospital, has now been in operation some months and continues to give an incentive to building developers.

Considerable extensions by private enterprise have been made at Polegate, where the activity in building development reported last year has continued, and although sundry extensions and improvements have been considered in regard to the following areas, no work has been carried out to date :—

Alfriston.—Re-drainage and Sewage Disposal Works.

Heathfield.—Street End Lane Drainage.

Herstmonceux.—Drainage and Disposal Works.

Willingdon and Polegate Joint Parishes.—Extension of Disposal Works.

Westham and Pevensey Joint Parishes.—Improvement of Pumping Plant.

In order to obviate complaints of nuisance from Sludge Lagoons at the Vines Cross Sewage Works, the Council have carried out by direct labour at a cost of £750 works comprising a rising main laid from the works on the Heathfield side of the stream to land on the Waldron side, where improved aeration and irrigation beds have been installed. These have functioned satisfactorily and without nuisance.

Non-Sewered Areas.

Provision is made for the cleansing of cesspools at Waldron and Heathfield in parts where Sewers are not available. This service is confined to once a quarter unless the responsible occupiers request additional cleansing, for which a charge is then made,

The work entailed by cesspool cleansing has increased by reason of additional calls from existing premises, rather than from new developments, although in the rural areas of Waldron an appreciable increase of new properties continues. As these are situated in restricted areas, where private sewage disposal works have been installed, the construction of sewers and public disposal works may be obviated for some years.

The following comparisons show the increased costs in the cleansing of cesspools :—

1936	..	..	Waldron	£458	Heathfield	£113
1937	..	..	„	£564	„	£130

Rivers and Streams.

Strong sustained action has been taken by the Council in the preservation of all streams and watercourses, where reported to be exposed to contamination from farms, or sewage from dwelling-houses. Particular attention was given to the fouling of the Willingdon and Pevensy Fresh Water Sewer, which catchment, apart from the River Cuckmere, constitutes the largest volume of water in the District.

Numerous notices were served, and in most cases were promptly complied with. At the close of the year only one case remained outstanding, and this was reported to the County Borough of Eastbourne, into whose area the offending owner's land was transferred on 31st March, 1938.

It has not been necessary to take Summary Action against any Owner, and it is gratifying to note a change in the attitude of those responsible for pollution, in that they are now ready to apply means to abate pollution, which they had hitherto strongly resisted, since they had considered they had an inalienable right to drain their land, irrespective of the condition of the effluent, into the nearest stream or watercourse.

Closest Accommodation.

In the purely rural parts of the District where sewers are not available, and in sewered areas where houses are remote from the sewer, or where for reasons of gravitation sewers are inaccessible, the misnamed Earth Closet is still met with. This consists of a bucket for filth without the accompanying receptacle for dry earth, as required by Article 34 of the Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings, which reads :—“The Earth Closet shall be provided with a suitable vessel of adequate capacity for dry earth or other deodorizing substance, so constructed and placed as to admit of ready access for depositing the necessary supply of dry earth or other deodorizing substance.”

Wherever these conditions have been found, and they are the rule rather than the exception, measures were taken to correct the inadequacy, and much progress has to be recorded during the year in this direction.

There are still a few privies to be found at scattered houses, a number of which have been dealt with during the year either by conversion to Earth Closets or Water Closets and cesspool drainage.

Removal of Night Soil.

Removal of Earth Closet contents continues to be carried out by contract at Alfriston only, and remains constant.

The method is wholly insanitary, costly and unsatisfactory from every point of view, particularly having regard to the confined yards and apartments so common in this ancient village, and it is a matter of great concern to me that the long overdue drainage system has not yet materialised.

Except in those parts of Waldron and Heathfield which are remote from Sewers, and where Scavenging of Cesspool contents is undertaken by contract (see "Sewerage and Drainage"), occupiers are responsible for the regular cleansing of cesspools where Water Closets are used.

Public Cleansing.

The Council have inaugurated schemes of House Refuse Removal in the following groups of parishes ; these services have functioned well and with much appreciation since the work has been carried out by direct control :—

Area.	Parishes served.	Service.	Means of Collection.	Staff.
1	Alfriston, Pevensey, Westham, Willingdon.	Weekly.	Morris-Commercial 3-ton refuse waggon.	4 collectors 1 tipman.
2	Heathfield, Waldron, East Hoathly.	Fort- nightly.	Morris-Commercial 2-ton refuse waggon.	2 collectors
3	Hailsham, Herstmonceux.	Weekly.	Bedford 2-ton refuse waggon.	3 collectors 1 tipman (part-time).

The excessive amount of paper and combustible materials, however, particularly at Polegate, Pevensey and Willingdon, is responsible for much avoidable cost in removal and disposal, owing to bulkiness and difficulty of proper control at the tip. Although householders have been circularised, inviting co-operation by the reduction of this combustible refuse, little effective result can be recorded.

At schemes 1 and 3 the controlled system of Refuse disposal is practised, whilst at No. 2 incineration and tipping are carried out pending the introduction of "controlled" principles, which have hitherto been impracticable owing to the difficulty of getting land. The site intended for use is on the old Ghyll Road Sewage Disposal Works at Heathfield.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Information is given in the subjoined Summary including Tabular Statements under Art. 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, in reference to the abatement of Nuisances and general Health Work carried out in the District.

This work, it will be noted, covers a wide field of activity, including General Nuisances ; Defective Houses ; Polluted Water Supplies ; Impure and Unfit or Deficient Foods ; Unsuitable Food-producing premises ; Slaughterhouses ; Overcrowded, Defective or Unsuitable Cowsheds ; Infectious Diseases Inspections and Disinfestations ; Drain Examinations ; Factories and Workshops ; Offensive Trades ; Knackers' Premises ; Moveable Dwellings ; and Rats and Mice Destruction, etc.

These multifarious duties have been satisfactorily carried out by the Health Department, a very gratifying feature of which is that so much has been accomplished by the tact of the Officers as to obviate Summary proceedings. The steady progress in raising the standard of Housing has been maintained, and the general health of the District has benefited by the vigilance of the Officers and prompt removal of all prejudicial influences where found.

Shops.

Since the delegation of powers from the County Council to the District Council regulating the Health and Comfort of the Workers, advice has been given and action taken towards improved sanitary arrangements, ventilation and heating of isolated premises and shops, but it has not been possible to arrange for a systematic inspection of shops by reason of staff limitations, and causes referred to elsewhere in this Report.

Smoke Abatement.

In view of the fact that the Rural District is mainly Agricultural, there are few factories which are likely to cause trouble, and although occasional complaints have been received, no serious or insurmountable causes were met with. Advice has been given as to suitable types of smoke-digesting apparatus, methods of stoking, and in one case, an extension of smoke shaft, which have resulted in alleviation of nuisance.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

In connection with a Country Club House at Herstmonceux a Swimming Pool has been installed, and is conducted on hygienic lines.

The water is first drawn from the Bexhill Water Company's Mains and is subjected to continuous treatment by Chloros, which has been found effective in maintaining a reasonably high standard of clean and wholesome water.

It is satisfactory to note that the method adopted and regularity of attention given to its cleaning during the period of its use has prevented complaints being made.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

The services of the Department have been solicited in the extermination of bugs by new occupiers of premises who discovered the presence of the pest, or by owners whose premises had become infested by means known and unknown ; in each case assistance was given and the work of eradication undertaken by the staff.

In no case was infestation found at a Council house.

The method employed is that of partially removing all fixed mouldings and flooring, removal and thorough saturation with an insecticide as well as fumigation of all bedding, the bedsteads being completely dismantled and treated with benzine or petroleum sprays, whilst in some cases painting with a 20% solution of Formaldehyde has been found very effective.

To complete the work of education and disinfection, owners or occupiers are invited to report on the re-appearance of any bugs, when further attention is given to the matter, and copies of extracts of "Life History and Prevention of Dissemination of the Parasites" are supplied, but it is satisfactory to record that where the Officers have been invited to deal with infested premises, no return of the pest has been reported.

Schools.

During the year I made a detailed inspection of all the Church Schools, accompanied by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and a Schedule of Defects found was sent to the Managers and to the School Medical Officer.

As a result, many much-needed improvements were effected, and further inspections will be made in the future in order to effect the removal of all sanitary defects.

Joint inspections were also commenced in Council Schools, and these will be continued.

The following Schools were closed during the year on the recommendation of the County Medical Officer of Health for the periods and causes stated :—

Heathfield Clappers Council.	January 8th to 15th	Influenza.
East Dean & Friston	January 11th to 22nd	Whooping Cough.
Warbleton	January 14th to 20th	Influenza.
Hailsham Senior and Junior.	January 18th to 22nd	Influenza.
Hailsham Infants .. } Polegate Council .. } Polegate Voluntary } Ninfield C.E. .. }	January 18th to 29th	Influenza.
Chiddingly Council.. } Herstmonceux C.E. }	January 20th to 29th	Influenza.
Hooe C.E.	Jan. 25th to Feb. 5th	Influenza.
Selmeston C.E. ..	January 25th to 29th	Influenza.
Arlington Park Mead	January 13th to 17th	Whooping Cough.
Ripe C.E.	January 26th to 29th	Influenza.
Willingdon	Jan. 29th to Feb. 5th	Influenza.
Arlington	Feb. 25th to Mar. 5th	Heavy Colds.

The following School was closed by the District Council on my recommendation on account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever :—

Cross-in-hand.—13th December until the end of the year.

Housing.

Apart from routine housing inspections, considerable activity has taken place in investigating the conditions of fifty dwelling-houses distributed throughout the parishes of Hellingly, Chiddingly, Herstmonceux, Heathfield and Waldron, which were alleged to be in such a defective state of repair as not to be repairable at a reasonable cost.

These premises were inspected with due regard to their age, equipment, state of repair, means of water supply and drainage available, and the conveniences offered both before and after reconstruction.

A special committee examined most of these cottages and made recommendations for the retention, after reconditioning, of the majority. It was considered that the restoration to the required standard of fitness of three properties of the bungalow type, built in 4½ in. brickwork, would have been uneconomic.

In consequence of inspections made under the Housing Overcrowding Survey, 1935, which revealed numerous structural defects in connection with which action was taken, in addition to that necessary for the abatement of overcrowding when found to exist, Housing Notices fell into arrears.

It is hoped, however, now that the whole-time services of the second Assistant are available, that this condition will be corrected in a few weeks, and that it will be possible to keep the Housing situation more up-to-date.

A marked feature which has operated in saving many of the cottages which would otherwise have had to be demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, is the readiness of owners to spend more than could be regarded as reasonable within the meaning of that Section. This attitude has operated in certain cases for reasons of sentiment; a desire for the preservation of picturesque specimens of cottage architecture, and even for economic considerations, inasmuch as the value of land and buildings in this district is appreciably higher than rural districts more remote from seaboard towns, where the same specifications of work would show quite different ratios between values of properties and their economic repair.

The appended summary gives details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors, Notices served and the amount of work outstanding.

Housing Statistics.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK, showing the action taken under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, or matters arising therefrom.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)		560
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..		740
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932		178
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..		372
3) Number of dwelling-houses found defective :—		
(a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		26

(b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	152
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 Local Authority or their Officers	69
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	10
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses acquired and subse- quently rendered fit by the Local Authority ..	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	170
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a) By Owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 11 (3) :—	
(a) To render the house fit for human habitation	10
(b) As to usage other than for human habitation	3
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. Number of New Houses erected during the year 1937 :—
- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| (1) State aided :— | | | |
| (a) By Local Authority | .. | .. | — |
| (b) By Public Utility Societies, etc. | .. | .. | — |
| (2) Without State aid | .. | .. | 527 |
5. Housing Conditions :—
- | | | |
|---|----|--------|
| (1) Total number of houses in the district | .. | 10,476 |
| (2) Estimated number of working-class houses (included in above) | .. | 6,852 |
| (3) General observations as to housing conditions and shortage of new houses. | | |

In June, 1937, investigations were made under the Housing Act into Housing conditions in the parishes of Chiddingly, Hellingly, Herstmonceux, Heathfield and Waldron, in connection with which reports had been received that certain areas should be represented as Clearance Areas. After careful investigations and reports by the Sanitary Inspector, a Special Committee was appointed to examine these conditions. Their representations were made to the Council, who instructed notices to be served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, in regard to the majority and under Section 11 for three bungalows whose reconstruction would have been unwise and uneconomic.

The Council have considered proposals for the erection of two pairs of houses at Factory Lane and have resolved to proceed with their erection without delay.

There has been special activity in house building in the following areas :—Polegate, Willingdon, Heathfield, Waldron, Hailsham (North) and Willingdon (South), also a continuation of the development reported in 1936 at Pevensey.

Van Dwellings and Similar Structures.

No appreciable increase has occurred in the use of this type of dwelling and much success has attended the work of controlling the class during the past year under the Public Health Acts and the Byelaws with respect to occupied huts and similar structures.

The Council took active steps to control the use of Moveable Dwellings under the Public Health Act, 1936, which came into operation on 1st October, 1937, details of which action are recorded elsewhere.

Inspection of Food (Milk and Dairies).

During the first nine months of the year the customary activity in inspection of Dairies and Milk Sampling was maintained, details of which are included below. Special attention has been given to the improvement of Cowsheds and the provision and equipment of Dairies, in which it is satisfactory to report that outstanding progress has been made, an important feature of which has been the improvement by informal means of Water Supplies and Drainage, which by Statutory measures would have necessitated the service of 18 months' Notice.

Progress was retarded and rendered impossible during the last three months of the year, owing to the prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease in the District, which rendered visitation from farm to farm inadvisable.

A considerable increase in the number of producers has occurred, as also in the number of cows per producer, and milk production, which is a fairly reliable indication of the increase of milk consumption.

The results of Chemical Tests given include about 50% of morning's milk samples, which show a much lower percentage of butter fats than afternoon milks.

All samples for Specific Gravity, Butter Fat and non-fatty solids are carefully and accurately tested by the Department, and advantage has been taken of this by several farmers who have wished to isolate a cow which has been suspected of producing a deficient or unsatisfactory milk.

The encouragement and facilities given by this Council to farmers to make use of this service have been greatly appreciated.

It will be noted from this Report that the former method of bacteriological testing for Plate Count has been replaced by the Methylene Blue Test (termed the Reductase Test), whilst that for Coliform Bacilli has been retained. The change, it appears, was brought about largely in consequence of representations by farmers and others as to the unreliability of the Plate Count, but from the details given it is clear that the Methylene Blue Test is also responsible for inconsistent results.

All bacteriological samples are delivered to the Pathological Laboratory, Hellingly, and as a result a minimum of time elapses between production and test, thus obviating causes which are commonly advanced by producers whose milks show adverse results.

The following tables include results of 244 Qualitative and 227 Bacteriological Examinations

Chemical or Qualitative Examination of 244 Milk Samples.

Samples.	Butter Fats.	Remarks as to Quality.
44 ..	3% and under ..	Unsatisfactory.
48 ..	3.1%—3.4% } ..	Fair.
57 ..	3.5%—3.9% }	
47 ..	4.0%—4.4% } ..	Good.
32 ..	4.5%—4.9% }	
15 ..	5% and over ..	Very Good.
1 ..	1 sample soured overnight.	

The above figures include 16 individual samples from cows where a bulk sample proved deficient, in order to determine which was the delinquent.

Bacteriological Tests of 227 Samples.

Methylene Blue Test.		B. Coli Test.			
Satisfied.	Failed.	Absent.	Present in 1 tube.	Present in 2 tubes.	Present in 3 tubes.
172	51	122	30	14	54

Two special samples were submitted and found to contain heavy deposits of pus, whilst one sample was examined for Acid Fast Bacilli and, although negative, was declared to contain an excess of leucocytes.

One sample of Pasteurized Milk tested showed a satisfactory Bacterial Count, but proved on test to be inefficiently Pasteurized.

Meat and Other Foods.

The number of animals slaughtered within the area is very large for its size. Only a very small proportion of the meat prepared for food, however, is consumed within the District; by far the greater proportion is distributed over a triangular area formed by lines connecting the towns of Rye, Tonbridge, Lewes and Worthing, including the residential boroughs of Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton and Hove. A large percentage, mainly surplus and inferior meat, is dispatched to the London Meat Market at Smithfield.

Fortunately most of the slaughtering is grouped within the parish of Westham, in which are situate a very large wholesale and several smaller slaughterhouses, although the relatively small number of animals killed in the country districts entailed a considerable amount of travelling.

Rural District Councils' (Slaughterhouses) Order, 1924, and the Public Health Meat Regulations, 1924.

At the beginning of the year there were 26 slaughterhouses in the District, of which 15 were registered and 11 licensed. There was also one knacker's yard.

The licence issued in respect of one slaughterhouse at Langney was not renewed, and the registration of another slaughterhouse at Hailsham was deemed to have lapsed, no notification of slaughter having been received for eighteen months. The total number was thus reduced to 24 on the 31st December, 1937.

There were three changes of occupation of slaughterhouses during the year.

Informal action resulted in improvements in the structure and equipment of the slaughterhouses, especially in the older registered premises.

Details of Inspection.

Below are set out details of inspections made, the meat withheld as unfit for human food, and the numbers of animals slaughtered and inspected :—

Total number of visits paid in connection with slaughterhouses, meat shops, etc.	..	..	..	3,046
Total number of animals inspected	..	..	..	33,041

Types of carcasses inspected as follows :—

Bulls	..	..	..	..	144
Bullocks	..	..	..	..	410
Cows	..	..	..	..	2,289
Heifers	..	..	..	..	865
Calves	..	..	..	..	5,563
Sheep	..	..	..	..	9,141
Pigs	..	..	..	..	14,595
Goats	..	..	..	..	24

Diseased Meat Condemned.

		Estimated Weight in lbs.
(a) By reason of Tuberculosis	.. ..	141,775
(b) By reason of Other Diseases or Conditions	.. ..	42,335
	Total	<u>184,110</u>

Details of Diseased Meat Condemned.

				Estimated Weight in lbs.
<i>(a) Tuberculosis.</i>				
Cows	..	..	151 carcasses and offal	.. 75,200
Heifers	..	..	9 " "	.. 4,700
Bullocks	..	..	3 " "	.. 1,900
Bulls	..	..	1 " "	.. 600
Calves	..	..	4 " "	.. 231
Pigs	..	..	18 " "	.. 2,177
Sows	..	..	4 " "	.. 1,260
Miscellaneous	..	..	2,612 portions or organs	.. 55,707
Total				.. 141,775

(b) Other Diseases or Conditions.

				Estimated Weight in lbs.
Dropsy	..	..	17 carcasses of cows	.. 8,100
			1 " bull	.. 450
			79 " sheep	.. 2,665
				11,215
Emaciation	..	..	13 " cows	.. 5,700
			82 " sheep	.. 2,358
				8,058
Fever	..	..	1 " bull	.. 550
			3 " cows	.. 1,550
			2 " heifers	.. 800
			5 " calves	.. 238
			2 " sheep	.. 70
			6 " pigs	.. 328
				3,536
Swine Erysipelas	..	..	9 " pigs	.. 667
Moribund	..	..	2 " calves	.. 130
			13 " sheep	.. 670
			2 " pigs	.. 130
				930
Unwholesome and unsound	..	..	1 " bull	.. 400
			1 " bullock	.. 400
			1 " cow	.. 450
			1 " sheep	.. 25
			1 " pig	.. 60
				1,335
Septicaemia	..	..	2 " cows	.. 1,200
Multiple Injuries	..	..	2 " sheep	.. 120

				Estimated Weight in lbs.
Bacterial Putrefaction ..	1	„	sow ..	356
Nephritis ..	1	„	pig ..	70
Septic Metritis ..	1	„	sheep ..	60
Multiple Abscess ..	1	„	cow ..	450
Immaturity ..	2	„	calves ..	50
Umbilical Pyaemia ..	1	„	calf ..	56
Jaundice ..	1	„	calf ..	25
	1	„	sheep ..	44
	1	„	pig ..	40
				— 109
Distomatosis ..	2	„	sheep ..	51
Gangrenous Pneumonia	1	„	sheep ..	65
Ricketts ..	1	„	pig ..	20
Melanosis ..	1	„	calf ..	110
Osteomyelitis ..	1	„	pig ..	20
Miscellaneous ..	1,083	portions or organs..		13,857
Total ..				42,335

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There were 96 slaughtermen licensed to slaughter animals under this Act in this Area. All men whose licences were renewed are competent men and no new licences were issued until the applicants had satisfied the Council as to their competency. It was not found necessary to take other than informal action for any contravention of the Act.

Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders.

For three months of the year the District was affected by the restrictive orders made in consequence of the outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease, which paralysed active business in markets and confused private slaughtering.

The Area was affected in two ways, namely (a) by complete prohibition of movement of cattle in the Herstmonceux parish, and (b) by restrictions over the whole area. These conditions continued until 28th December, when the Area was declared free and restrictions lifted.

Several cases of suspected Anthrax, some of which were confirmed, were notified during the year.

A constant watch is kept in the slaughterhouses, regardless of any known or suspected incidence of cases of contagious diseases, and information is passed immediately to the appropriate authority.

General Remarks.

Most of the meat withheld from consumption is treated with disinfectant or otherwise rendered unmarketable and disposed of, by arrangement with the Eastbourne Corporation, at their Destructor. In a few cases unsound food is released on condition that it be sent to an approved waste products establishment. Where, however, neither this nor incineration is possible, burial is insisted upon.

As in former years, a considerable proportion of the inspection has had to be carried out in the evenings, and during the summer months also on Sunday mornings and Bank Holidays. The Council have discouraged in every possible way the Sunday slaughtering of animals, and it has only been permitted in times of seasonal stress.

It is interesting to note that the Wholesale Establishment have installed the electro-lethal method of stunning small animals, *i.e.*, calves, sheep and pigs. This method is accepted as the best, both from the point of view of humaneness and marketing of the carcase, which, it is claimed, keeps in better condition for a longer period than when other methods are used.

At no time was it found necessary to take legal proceedings against any of the butchers for exposing unsound food or for the condition of their premises.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

In view of the agricultural or residential character of the respective parts of the District, few Factories are to be found, and although the Register contains numbers of premises so described because of the presence of mechanical means for the processes carried on, they could not be described as factories by reason of the industry.

Although it has not been the practice to visit "Factories," except where Notification that some statutory default has been found by H.M. Inspector of Factories, or where advice or assistance has been sought respecting escape from fire, or alterations or extensions to sanitary conveniences, routine inspections of Workshops and Workplaces have been made, details of which are included in the Return of Information herewith to the Secretary of State in accordance with Section 132 of The Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

These inspections include Bakehouses and all premises where Food, Fish, Vegetables, as well as textile industries, are prepared or carried on, and which receive periodical visits.

Apart from sundry misdemeanours or defects found, for the removal of which Notices have been served, no special difficulty or obstruction has been met with, and in general due regard has been paid to the necessity of cleansing, lighting and ventilating those premises where food is in course of manufacture or preparation.

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)	5	4	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	41	21	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	13	8	—
Total ..	59	33	—

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

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of Defects	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—		
Want of cleanliness	11	9
Want of ventilation	5	5
Overcrowding	1	1
Want of drainage of floors	2	2
Other nuisances	3	2
Sanitary accommodation—		
Insufficient	3	3
Unsuitable or defective	7	5
Not separate for sexes	1	1
Total ..	33	28

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

As in previous years, the Council endeavoured to direct public attention to the destruction of rats and to the dangers presented by rat infestation of premises by the exhibition of posters and supply of poisons gratis during National Rat Week from November 1st till 6th, when many occupiers of farms, poultry houses, piggeries and warehouses took advantage of these facilities.

Throughout the year advice and instructions have been given in the setting of suitable baits, for contrary to the general opinion that these animals will take any bait, it requires in many cases considerable ingenuity to induce them to take prepared poisons, owing to the amount of intelligence or danger-sense which these creatures undoubtedly possess.

In addition, the services of the Department have been available for gassing where such a method of extermination was considered safe or advisable.

As a result of sustained efforts throughout the year and of the concerted action during Rat Week in particular, it is satisfactory to report that outstanding results have been obtained.

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health Act, 1936.

On October 1st this Statute came into force and included (Section 269) provisions for the Licensing of Moveable Dwellings either in the form of a land or a dwelling licence, of which the Council have taken full advantage.

Up to 31st December the Council approved Licences in respect of 150 such structures, excluding an area at Exceat, which has been the subject of an Agreement between the Council and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as owners of the land, which is subject to variation in the number of tents or caravans according to Season.

Section F.

During the year 45 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, compared with 40 cases in the previous year. It appears that the type of infection was more severe and complications were more common than for many years past; this opinion has been confirmed by the cases which have occurred up to date this year.

Six cases of Diphtheria were notified; two of these, occurring in one family, were of a very severe type and were rapidly fatal.

In all cases Diphtheria anti-toxin was used as soon as the nature of the disease was suspected.

Pneumonia, of which 61 cases occurred, was very prevalent in the early months of the year. During this period, too, outbreaks of Influenza and Whooping Cough led to the closure of several schools, details of which are given in the appropriate section.

No action was taken by this Council (under Sections 176 and 172 Public Health Act, 1936, respectively) in connection with the Prevention of Blindness or Tuberculosis.

Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	16 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and over	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	—	1	1	1	6	25	7	1	2	—	1	—	45
Pneumonia	1	2	—	—	1	—	2	2	5	1	27	20	61
Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	6
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	6
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

Cases Admitted to Hospital and Total Deaths.

DISEASE	TOTAL NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever	45	36	—
Pneumonia	61	—	20
Diphtheria	6	4	2
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	—	2
Erysipelas	2	—	—
Tonsillitis	—	1	—
Meningococcal Meningitis ..	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	4	—	—

**Number of Cases Removed to the
Isolation Hospital in each month.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	3	—	4	1	3	2	3	2	11	7
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Tonsilitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis—New Cases, 1937.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 years ..	2	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 years ..	3	5	2	1	1	2	—	1
25 to 35 years ..	4	6	1	2	1	1	—	—
35 to 45 years ..	3	2	—	2	1	—	—	—
45 to 55 years ..	9	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years ..	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total ..	24	15	5	9	6	4	—	1

Analysis of Housing Inspections.

The following defects were discovered and remedied as a result of Housing Inspections :—

Plaster of walls	..	..	..	..	41
Plaster of ceilings	..	..	..	..	74
Dampness	..	..	..	..	148
Insufficient or defective gutters	..	..	..	..	79
Roof coverings	..	..	..	..	87
Floors (brick or wooden)	..	..	..	..	116
Windows (including sash-cords)	..	..	..	..	65
Insufficient ventilation by windows	..	..	..	..	60
Insufficient light	..	..	..	..	34
Insanitary or defective sinks	..	..	..	..	16
Absence of sinks	..	..	..	..	14
Insufficient light or ventilation to closets					114
Insanitary privies	..	..	..	..	25
Defective or exposed walls	..	..	..	..	79
Unserviceable kitcheners	..	..	..	..	28
Coppers in disrepair	..	..	..	..	43
Doors defective or non-weatherproof	..	..	..	..	76
Chimney defects	..	..	..	..	40
Brickwork insecure	..	..	..	..	10
Stairways defective	..	..	..	..	16
Absence of food stores	..	..	..	..	34
Unsatisfactory drainage	..	..	..	..	90
Defective or insufficient yard paving	..	..	..	..	76
Unsatisfactory water supplies	..	..	..	..	78

General Summary of Sanitary

Inspections and Food Analyses.

Public Health Nuisances	..	..	..	..	348
Public Health Nuisances Reinspections	..	..	..	..	133
Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	212
Housing Acts Reinspections	..	..	..	..	533
Complaints	..	..	..	..	199
Public Cleansing	..	..	..	..	506
Drains Examined	..	..	..	..	374
Closet Accommodation—					
Privies and Earth Closets	..	..	..	..	19
Water Closets	..	..	..	..	48
Milk and Dairies—	..	..	..	..	550
Sediment Tests	..	..	..	..	358
Chemical Samples	..	..	..	..	246
Bacteriological Samples	..	..	..	..	227

Slaughterhouses	3,046
Meat Shops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc. ..	173
Offensive Trades	11
Knackers' Yards	28
Bakehouses	19
Water Supply	714
Water Samples—	
Formal	65
Informal	130
	— 195
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	241
Factories and Workshops, etc.	44
Infectious Diseases	79
Rooms Disinfected	70
Rats and Mice Destruction	121
Verminous Premises dealt with	28
Offensive Accumulations	24
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc.	17
Smoke Abatement	3
Schools	10
Laundries	5
Pollution of Watercourses	56
Markets	21
Miscellaneous	414
	<hr/>
	8,971
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