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Contributors

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

JANUARY, 1912.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1911, with the usual Tables. These latter are in many respects different to those in former years. Thus Table II. has been omitted altogether, and a Table has been added to show the steps taken by the different authorities for the treatment of tuberculosis cases. In the other Tables also are some minor differences to those of previous years.

The census has been taken during this year and shows the population of your district to be 7,595: as I have during the last ten years estimated the population as a stationary one, this is now shown to be an over-calculation, and there has been a total decrease of 278. I know of no particular village in which there has been a marked decrease, so conclude that there has been a slight general decrease throughout the district.

The total number of births during the year was 139, with a ratio per 1,000 of 18.3. This is a rather larger number than in the previous year, when there were only 132, but with this exception it is much below the average of former years. The number of male births was 69, and of female, 70—practically even.

The total number of deaths in children under one year of age was 10, showing a ratio per 1,000 births registered of 71.9. This is a very satisfactory return and lower than in any previous year except 1909, when there were only 8 deaths. It is pleasing to record that only 2 deaths were attributed to enteritis or diarrhoea, which is an unusual fact for this year, as, on account of the hot weather, many localities have had to deplore a considerable number of deaths amongst these children from such causes. Four of these deaths were due to premature births or atrophy, and three to chest diseases.

The total number of deaths at all ages, after allowing for transferable deaths, was 106, giving a ratio of 14 per 1,000. This is a larger number of deaths than has occurred since 1907; during the last three years the mortality has varied from 13 to 11.5 per 1,000. I have often pointed out that this mortality and the small number of births in country districts is probably due to the fact that the younger people migrate into the towns and the older inhabitants remain in the villages. This seems borne out, especially in this year's death table, as no less than 21 of these 106 cases were deaths of persons of 80 years old and upwards, and this will account for the increased mortality of the present year. Old people stand extreme heat as badly as extreme cold, and probably this may explain such a large number of deaths amongst elderly persons.

Table III. shows the causes of deaths during the year. There were 6 deaths from epidemic diseases—1 from enteric fever and 5 from diphtheria. This is a larger number of deaths from epidemic disease than we have had for many years, and is due to the large outbreak of diphtheria from which the district has suffered. All the diphtheritic deaths occurred in connection with the outbreak at Hackleton Schools, which was particularly severe; whilst in the Cooknoe epidemic no deaths were recorded and the disease seemed of a much milder type. There were no deaths from scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough or influenza. There were 5 deaths from various tubercular diseases and 11 deaths from cancer; it is peculiar that these numbers were exactly the same last year. There were 17 deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, which is much above the average, and 5 suicides, but no other violent deaths. Four deaths were reported from diarrhoea and enteritis, but only one of these occurred in a person over 2 years of age.

Table II. shows the number of infectious diseases notified during the year. The total number of these was 58, which is much larger than the average, but as 19 of these were cases of chicken pox, which is a very mild disease and only notifiable in this district, the real number in comparison with other districts is 39, which is still a larger number than has been notified since 1905. The cases of chicken pox were nearly divided between Wootton, where there was an epidemic in the early part of the year, and Denton, which suffered in the last two months. Only one case of scarlet fever has been notified and that occurred at Little Houghton, but no other cases developed from it. The single case of enteric fever also happened at Little Houghton; the young man was at once removed to the Northampton General Hospital and unfortunately died there. There were no other cases in the district, and he worked at Cooknoe; it was my impression that during this hot summer he must have become very thirsty and drunk some infected water whilst at his work, but this is difficult to prove.

This year has been remarkable, however, for the large number of cases of diphtheria that have been notified, and this is somewhat extraordinary as I do not remember any number of such cases during all the long time that I have held the office of Medical Officer of Health; as a rule this district has been remarkably free from such disease. There were altogether 31 cases, and of these no less than 5 were fatal. In the early months of the year 5 cases were reported, 1 single one at Hardingstone and 4 at Roade. The Hardingstone case occurred in a new, nicely situated cottage above the village, and I could find no reason for it; but in the Roade cases the drainage of the cottages was found in every case to be very faulty. The drains from one row of cottages there had never been properly connected with the main sewer, but the contractor had contented himself with knocking a hole in the sewer and laying a big lump of cement on the top, and the cement was blocking up most of the drain so that the sewage percolated into the soil. In other cases we found the drains blocked, or improperly laid, and it took some time to get the drainage of the village at all into a proper state.

Three other cases were notified at Yardley Hastings; they were single cases cropping up at different times during the year and I could find no cause for them, but such cases seem to occur sporadically in this village. All the remaining cases—23—occurred in the last two months of the year amongst children attending either the Cooknoe or Hackleton Schools. There can be no doubt that a mild case attended school, the disease not being recognized, and that the infection thus spread amongst the other children. The first case at Hackleton was quickly fatal and the parents attributed it to the child playing about the brook which receives the sewage from Piddington and Hackleton almost untreated. The first case at Cooknoe occurred in a boy who had received no medical treatment, but when I visited him his glands were still very enlarged and the parents insisted at first that it was only mumps. The cottage well was situated close to the privy and during the very dry weather it is my opinion that the sewage found its way into the well. On analysis the well water was found to be very polluted, so steps were taken to close the well and a fresh and more sanitary closet has been provided.

Fortunately there has been no occasion to open our Infectious Hospital for scarlet fever cases as there has been only one reported, so the Hospital being empty I opened it for diphtheria, and ten of our cases have been treated there and one from the Northampton District, with one death. Most of the cases were very severe and two trained nurses were engaged to nurse them. One other child died a little time after leaving the Hospital from kidney disease, which developed after the diphtheria, the parents unwisely, in my opinion, insisting on having him at home to nurse. One other fatal case occurred at Roade during the epidemic there, and one at Horton, where the parents again refused to allow the child to be treated at the Hospital. All the Hospital cases were treated with anti-diphtheritic serum, and a large quantity has also been provided by the District Council during these various epidemics for the use of the local medical men.

The schools at Roade, Hackleton, and Cooknoe have been closed during the epidemic of diphtheria at those places.

Only five cases of tubercular disease have been notified during the year—single cases at Brafield, Collingtree, and Denton, and two cases at Yardley Hastings, one of the latter cases was notified from the Northampton Hospital where it was undergoing treatment. Five deaths

are reported from the various tubercular diseases. No steps have at present been taken by the Council to provide sanatorium treatment for these cases, but it is a common practice for sufferers to obtain letters and get treatment at the Northampton General Hospital. All cases are at once visited after notification instructions given them as to the prevention of infection, spitting vessels are provided for them, and in case of death the rooms occupied by them, bedding, etc., are disinfected in the same manner as after other infectious diseases.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

Dwelling houses unfit for habitation and demolished—2 (demolished and re-built).

Closing orders made—2.

Houses, after closing orders, put into fit state for habitation—2.

Defects remedied without closing orders :

Structural repairs—11.

Privies and ashpits rectified—19.

Houses generally in filthy state—5.

Closets ordered to be connected with sewer—12.

Drainage repaired—20.

Eight new houses have been built after the plans had been approved by the Council.

The following is a list of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspector and number of notices served :

Cowsheds and dairies—36 inspections made and 1 notice served.

Slaughter-houses—34 inspections made and 2 notices served. No unhealthy nor tuberculous carcasses found.

Bakehouses—33 inspections, no notices.

Insanitary ashpits and closets—21 inspections made and 19 notices served.

Drains—15 inspections made and 12 orders made for drains to be connected with sewers.

Overcrowding—4 notices served.

Pigsties—5 notices served.

All the notices have been complied with and the nuisances remedied.

Besides this a large amount of work has been done in the way of house and bedding disinfection after infectious diseases. This work has been very heavy amongst all the cases of diphtheria that have been notified this year.

The Sewage Schemes in the various villages have been kept in working order and only a few small repairs to them have been carried out. No complaints of the state of the different effluents have been received. The sewage bed at Roade after being re-laid has been working quite satisfactorily, and many drains have been attended to as previously mentioned in my remarks on the diphtheria epidemic here. I believe the drains are all now in an efficient state. Twelve orders have been served during the year on different owners, where the drainage was imperfect, to have their drains connected with the sewers, and this work has in each case been carried out. The sewage systems at Piddington and Hackleton are now engaging the attention of the Council. These are the only remaining villages of any size in which the drainage does not receive treatment but runs at once into the brook. The nuisance has increased since two large dairy farms have been established here, and the effluent from these villages, particularly Piddington, is very foul. Plans are in course of preparation and in a short time it is fairly certain that the sewage will be treated in each case in a septic tank before it is laid into the brook, though the exact plan has not yet been passed. If this is done I think there will be a great improvement and the sewage will also be removed from the ditch by a public footpath where it at present constitutes a great nuisance. The various other small defects that have received attention are now embodied in the Sanitary Inspector's Report and call for no comment ; all have been remedied with little trouble after attention has been called to them by the Sanitary Inspector.

Regarding the Housing Acts, two cottages that were ordered to be demolished at Hackleton have been pulled down and two others erected in their stead after the plans had been passed by the Council : an old building at the back has been repaired and utilized for closets to these cottages and the result is a great improvement.

One cottage at Milton fell down whilst repairs were being done to it, and as the adjoining cottage was also in a dangerous condition the two were ordered to be closed as well as an adjoining stable. These repairs have all been effected and the houses put into a fit state for habitation.

Minor repairs are tabulated in an accompanying table and have all been rectified.

In spite of the hot weather the water supply seems to have been fairly well maintained. The only village from which complaints have been received is Little Houghton, and here most of the wells failed but the wet weather set in soon after this defect began to be rather acute. I think an efficient water supply for this village should soon receive attention. The public supplies at the different villages have been quite abundant and there is no want of water in these villages.

Factory Acts.—A list of buildings coming under this Act is given in the Table prepared for the Home Office. All the places are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector and kept clean and in good order. Only one complaint has been received from a place where horse-slaughtering and boiling is carried on, and it was asserted that the fumes from the boiling were very objectionable. I visited the building and suggested various alterations which the proprietor at once agreed to carry out, and the place is now much cleaner and less likely to cause offence, but it cannot be denied that it is a rather smelly business; it is, however, in a place quite remote from other buildings, and if such a business is to be carried on at all it could not be in a more suitable place.

The Dairies are regularly inspected and kept clean and whitewashed. At one dairy farm the yard was in a very dirty unpaved state, but when I drew attention to it the landlord at once had it properly drained and rectified as well as building a new cooling house. No Veterinary Surgeon has been appointed to visit the dairies for the purpose of detection of tuberculosis amongst the cattle.

The slaughter-houses are regularly inspected at the time of slaughtering, if possible, and no sale of tubercular meat has been detected: the meat killed, from my own inspection, has always seemed excellent.

A County School Medical Officer regularly inspects the schools and I have always received support from him in any steps I think necessary as regards closing of schools, etc., in case of an epidemic. Any cases reported to me by him of ringworms or verminous children are at once attended to.

The Notification of Births Act is not in force in this District.

No cases have arisen under the Midwives Act and no case of puerperal fever has been notified.

G. H. PERCIVAL, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

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

JANUARY, 1912.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1911 with the usual tables. These have been somewhat altered from those of previous years, thus the old Table II. has been omitted altogether, and a new table has been added to show what steps have been taken by your Council to deal with cases of tuberculosis; in the other tables minor alterations have been made.

During the last ten years I have assumed that the population of this district has been stationary, but the census has been taken this year and shows an increase of 279 since the preceding census. The necessary alterations have been made in this year's return and give, of course, a slight improvement in the death rates of previous years. It is peculiar that whilst I estimated the population of this district as 279 too little, I estimated the population of Hardingstone district as 278 more than is really the case. This increase is probably entirely due to the building that is going on in the village of Duston, as no houses up to the present are being erected in other parts of the district; but in the next few years we may anticipate a considerable increase in the village of Weston Favell, where building operations are just commencing.

The total number of births during the year was 138, giving a ratio per 1000 of 20.5. This is the largest number of births during the last six years, whilst last year and in 1907 there were only 107 births. Of these births 56 were males and 82 were females—a very large preponderance of females.

The total number of deaths in children under one year of age was 15, giving a ratio per 1000 births registered of 109. This is a very high death rate and considerably higher than has been the case for many years; it is chiefly due to deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis (17 deaths), whilst of late years our mortality from these causes has been very low. We seem to have suffered with other districts in this respect, and the very hot summer is answerable for most of this mortality throughout the kingdom. Six deaths were attributed to premature birth or atrophy, one to measles and one to whooping cough.

The total number of deaths at all ages throughout the district was 152, with a ratio per 1000 of 22.6. From these deaths, however, 70 deaths have to be deducted from Berry Wood Asylum of non-residents in the district, and three deaths of town residents who died in your district. On the other hand, sixteen deaths have been returned to me by the Registrar General of residents in this district who have died out of it, either in the Northampton General Hospital or the Northampton Union Workhouse. On making the necessary corrections, therefore, we get the nett result of 95 deaths, with a ratio of 14 per 1000. Even this, however, shows a higher mortality than we have had for many years; in the last six years the mortality has in three years been only approximately 8 per 1000. Excluding the deaths in children under one year of age there does not seem any marked increase in any one disease, but there is a general increase in the various classes. There were six deaths from infectious disease, but in the previous year there were seven, so it is satisfactory that there is no increase in this class. Most of the deaths from tuberculosis occurred at Berry Wood, only seven taking place in the district, but this is more than we have had in previous years. There were nine deaths from cancer against six in 1910, and twelve from respiratory diseases against five. There were also seven deaths from accident or suicide, which is a rather large number as there were only three in the previous year.

No less than nineteen deaths occurred in persons over 80 years of age, which is a very large number, and seems to prove that very hot weather is dangerous to the health both of the very old and very young.

Table II. shows the numbers of infectious cases notified during the year. The total number for the whole district was 57, which is considerably higher than it has been for many years; the average for the last ten years being 36.5, and in the previous year there were only 26. This increase is almost entirely due to the severe epidemic of enteric fever which broke out at Great Billing towards the end of the summer months, and which calls for more detailed treatment. The only other disease of any note was scarlet fever, and of this there were eleven cases against seventeen in the previous year. These cases were really the remnant of last year when there was an outbreak of the disease at Weston Favell, and six of them occurred in that village in the early months of the year—four of them being in one family. The others were chiefly isolated cases in different villages and it was difficult to trace their origin—fortunately they did not spread. One case occurred at Lower Heyford, two at Bugbrooke, one at Duston in a person who worked in the town and probably contracted the disease there, and one at Harpole, who fell ill with scarlet fever a few days after removing from Market Harborough to Harpole.

One case of diphtheria was notified from Harpole, and it is difficult to account for this as no other cases occurred in the district and he had not been away from the village. He was at once removed to the Hardingstone Infectious Hospital and no other cases fell.

Only two cases of tuberculosis have been notified, but I can hardly imagine that all these cases have been recorded. Probably under the new regulations we shall be able to get more in touch with this disease.

The epidemic of enteric fever was a very severe one and was almost entirely confined to Great Billing, 40 out of 42 cases happening in that village. The first two cases were notified on August 16th, and on August 17th six other cases were notified amongst servants at Billing Hall. On visiting the village I found that there were a large number of cases of diarrhoea scattered throughout the village, and that other bad cases of diarrhoea had existed since the middle of June. I persuaded the medical man in charge of these cases to send samples of the blood of a certain number of them to the Clinical Report Office in London for examination. A report was returned that all the cases sent re-acted positively to what is known as Widal's reaction and, as a consequence, by August 26th no less than 21 fresh cases of enteric fever were notified. Eight more cases were notified during September mostly amongst the same families, and on October 6th the last case was reported. There were two deaths recorded, one of a patient who was being treated at the temporary hospital in the village and who succumbed from intestinal hæmorrhage, and one of a patient who had not been previously notified but who, on account of mental disease, had been admitted into St. Andrew's Hospital and died there on August 29th, the cause of death being certified as enteric fever—duration five days.

Concerning the origin of this outbreak, it was very difficult to trace it on account of diarrhoea having been so long prevalent in the village, but all the first cases had their drainage system connected with an old tank that received the sewage from this part of the village, and it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that this must in some way have been the cause of the outbreak. From the high temperature experienced this summer there were a very large number of flies throughout the village and some people surmise that they may have carried the disease from the effluent to etables, &c., but this, of course, can only be a problematical explanation.

The following were the means taken by me to stop the spread of the disease :—

The Sanitary Inspector at once engaged two men, and every privy was visited where any diseased excreta were deposited and the contents well soaked with chloride of lime. A trench was dug in a field at some distance from the village and these privies were next all emptied and the

excreta buried in this trench. After that was done the whole of the affected excreta were collected daily by these men, disinfected with chloride of lime and buried in the above-mentioned trench. Through the generosity of Mr. Elwes and Miss Waterton two nurses were at once engaged to nurse the sufferers; they came on August 23rd and were a very great help in every way. At first they nursed them in their own homes and there was no hospital then available for treatment. I had inspected one building but found it could not be utilised. However, in the beginning of September Mr. Elwes offered us the use of an old school building with a cottage adjoining it for the use of the nurses; the District Council at once accepted the offer and furnished the building which, after necessary preparations for treating both sexes, was opened on September 19th, the two nurses that had been previously engaged nursing the patients with the addition of a third nurse as night nurse. This hospital remained open till November 4th, when the last patient was discharged.

Regarding the steps taken to prevent another outbreak of this disease, arrangements are in progress by which the present tank, which is suspected as the origin of the epidemic, will be done away with in its present form, and the sewage will be more scientifically treated by filtration over land given for the purpose by Mr. Elwes. It may be as well to state that both the milk supply and water supply of the village were carefully investigated, but they were of such a nature that the origin of the epidemic could not in any way be traced to these.

Two cases of this disease still remain to be accounted for. One happened at Berry Wood Asylum, where one of the male attendants contracted the disease, and the origin was again obscure as no other case there sickened with it, though of recent years it has shown a tendency to crop up at this Asylum. The other case occurred at Weston Favell, the adjoining village to Great Billing, but the man had not been to Great Billing, and as there were no cases at Weston Favell we could not trace the origin. The man was at once removed to the Northampton General Hospital and there were no further cases.

The schools at Great Billing were of course kept closed from the beginning of the epidemic till all the cases had recovered and there was no further danger of its spreading. Besides this there have only been partial closures, some children during January having been kept from school on account of chicken-pox and, during April, some infants at Kislingbury were kept away for whooping cough.

The number of cases of tubercular disease in this area have at present been so few (only two this year being notified) that no steps have yet been taken by the Council to secure sanatorium treatment for them, but it is a common thing for these cases to obtain letters and seek treatment at the Northampton General Hospital. If notified, such patients are always visited and instructions given to them regarding isolation and measures for preventing infection; whilst if a death occurs the rooms occupied by them and bedding, &c., are disinfected as after other infectious diseases.

The following is a list of inspections made during the year by the Sanitary Inspector and number of notices served:—

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES—82 inspections; nineteen informal letter notices served all *re* limewashing.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—24 inspections; one informal letter notice served *re* limewashing. No unhealthy carcasses found.

BAKEHOUSES—16 inspections; one informal letter notice served *re* defective ceiling and limewashing.

FACTORIES—9 inspections; one informal letter notice served *re* ventilation and one concerning insufficient sanitary accommodation.

WORKSHOPS—40 inspections; no notices served.

INSANITARY ASHPITS AND CLOSETS—50 informal letter notices served, also eleven statutory notices.

PIGSTIES—Two informal notices served; one for sty in unsuitable place and one because the drainage was taken direct into the brook.

DRAINS—One statutory notice was served for carrying sewage matter direct into surface drains.

All notices, both informal and statutory, have been at once complied with and the nuisances remedied.

Plans have been passed by the Council during the year for ten new houses and alterations to two existing houses.

A large amount of work has also been done by the Sanitary Inspector in the way of disinfecting and cleaning houses after infectious diseases. This work has been very heavy after the Great Billing epidemic, every house having been disinfected, its wallpaper stripped off and whitewashing and painting done at the close of the epidemic.

Dwelling houses unfit for habitation : Repairs progressing—3.

.. .. . Voluntarily closed—1.

Houses put into fit state for habitation—5 (all for overcrowding).

Defects remedied in other cases :—

Structural repairs	...	...	...	...	...	48
Privies and ashpits rectified	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses generally in filthy state	...	...	...	...	...	2
Closets ordered to be connected with sewer	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drainage repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4

Also one whole yard at Weston Favell was drained and properly tiled with blue bricks.

WATER SUPPLY.

Though the summer has been so hot and dry no complaints have been received of shortness of water in the various villages. Duston is now well supplied from the town water works; a breakdown of the pumping machinery has occurred once and caused a certain amount of inconvenience, but is was soon remedied. The supply at Kissingbury has been extended at the farther end of the village, and an extension of the Lower Heyford supply is now under discussion. Weston Favell is now also well supplied from the town supply and new houses here will probably at once avail themselves of this. In consequence of the outbreak of enteric fever at Great Billing some pressure is now being put by the Local Government Board on your Council to get the town to continue their water mains to this village. I do not think that this is altogether advisable for several reasons :—

- (1) The town will have to continue their mains for a distance of over two miles.
- (2) The town supply is already very insufficient and a scheme for a fresh supply is now engaging serious attention.
- (3) The epidemic of enteric fever can have had nothing to do with the water supply at Great Billing.

- (4) Great Billing already has a public supply of its own which has always been pronounced pure on analysis, and which is of such ample quantity that it has been more than sufficient for the needs of this village during the late very dry summer.

On the other hand I think an extension of the present public supply to other parts of this village would be very inexpensive and very useful, as it would do away with many shallow wells at present used here and of very doubtful purity.

SEWAGE SCHEMES.

These various schemes have worked satisfactorily throughout the year. At Duston one high ventilating pipe has been erected in a spot where it was much wanted, but no building is yet being carried out on the adjoining property so no fresh ventilators have at present been erected here. The sewage scheme at Bugbrooke deals with only a small part of the sewage from this village and during the hot weather the brook was somewhat foul—a prolongation of the scheme may soon become necessary. A new treatment for the sewage at Great Billing is in process of installation, which it is hoped will do away with the obvious nuisances of the present one. Building is commencing on the Weston Favell estate, and probably in a short time a considerable number of new houses will be erected here. This will necessitate a new plan for the disposal of the sewage in this village and the matter is now engaging the serious attention of your Council.

HOUSING ACTS, &c.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector and the work undertaken under the Housing Acts are given this year in a tabulated form according to recent instructions from the Local Government Board; this certainly has the advantage of considerably shortening my annual report. This work mostly relates to minor matters, and calls for no comment as all the various notices served have been at once carried out. No closing orders have been made.

Regarding the new houses in course of erection I might call attention to the building now being carried out by Mr. Manfield opposite his house at Weston Favell. This is a considerable distance from the village and will require quite separate treatment as regards its water supply and sewage. Concerning the former, there is a good supply from Mr. Manfield's private spring. The sewage is being carried from the cottages to a cesspool at some considerable distance where no nuisance is likely to be created. When finished a large block of working men's houses will be erected here on the detached plan, each block consisting of two or more separate cottages. This will be a great improvement on most of the present day plans for these houses and, when completed, the whole will form a pretty and useful small village.

The Cemetery at Dallington is now rapidly being filled, very little room remaining for fresh graves. A considerable extension of this burial ground is therefore urgently needed, and negotiations are proceeding with Earl Spencer which will result in a considerable extension of this graveyard. I have visited and inspected the site and in my opinion it is eminently fitted for the purpose. At the same time I may point out that this cemetery is largely used for burial purposes by the people of Northampton, and a good profit must result from its use.

FACTORY ACTS, &c.

Regarding these there are very few observations to make except to point out, as I have done in former years, that this is an agricultural district and therefore these Acts have little force here. There are only two small factories in the district, and the table of inspections made by the

Sanitary Inspector shows that these and the other workshops, &c., have been regularly inspected and kept in good working order. The meat sold at the various butcher's shops is very good; the slaughter-houses are clean and also kept regularly whitewashed; there are no under-ground bakehouses in the district.

A County School Medical Inspector regularly inspects the schools, and I have always received his support in the closure of schools when necessary on the outbreak of an epidemic. Any cases of ringworm or verminous children reported to me by him are at once visited and receive proper attention.

The Notification of Births Act has not yet been adopted by your Council.

No cases have arisen under the Midwives Act, and no case of puerperal fever has been notified during the year.

I cannot close this report without expressing my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for the very excellent way in which he carried out my instructions for the abatement of the enteric fever epidemic at Great Billing. It entailed a vast amount of very hard work on his part whilst it lasted, and to his admirable support I attribute the rapid manner in which the outbreak was cut short.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. PERCIVAL, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.