

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Hartismere R.D.C.

Contributors

Hartismere (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1937

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Hartismere Rural District

Year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1937,

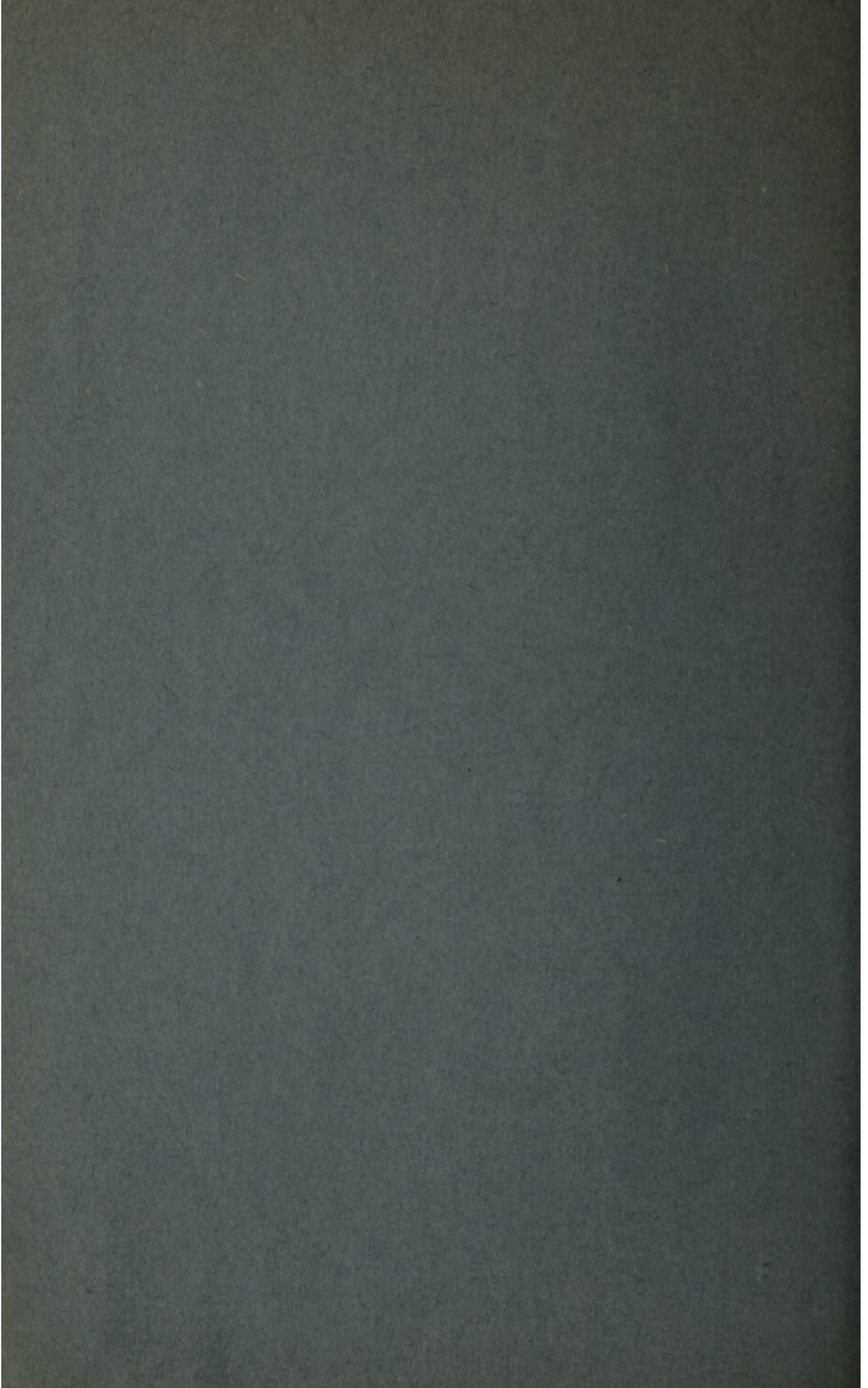
BY

HUBERT PEDLER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

EYE,

A. G. ROPER, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.





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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Board of Directors

of the

City of New York

for the year ending December 31, 1901

Published by the City of New York

1902

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE Hartismere Rural District

For the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

To The HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	96,486 acres.
Population	...	...	...	17,400
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,955
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£37,239
Sum raised by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	£186
BIRTHS				
		M	F	Total
Live Legitimate	...	140	122	262
„ Illegitimate	...	11	7	18
Rate per 1000 population	-	16		
(Rate for England	-	14.9)		
Still Legitimate	...	12	5	17
Rate per 1000 live and still births				57.2
Rate per 1000 population			-	.9
DEATHS				
		M	F	Total
All Causes	...	133	136	269
Rate per 1000, crude	=15.4,			corrected=12.0
(Rate for England	= 12.4)			
From Puerperal Sepsis			2	
Rate per 1000 live and still births				= 6.6
(Rate for England	= 3.11)			
Infantile Mortality (deaths under 1 year)				
All Infants, 8=rate of	28.5 per 1000 live births			
(Rate for England	= 58)			
Illegitimate nil.				
		M	F	
From Cancer	...	11	18	
„ Measles	...	2	1	
„ Whooping Cough		1	1	
„ Diarrhoea, nil.				

These figures show no marked change from the usual average. The population is the estimate supplied by the General Register Office for the year. The area death rate comparability figure remains the same, =78.

The number of inhabited houses is an approximation at December 31st, owing to the progression of the housing programme and corresponding demolitions.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

There is one Medical Officer of Health who is also Assistant County M.O.H.

There is one Sanitary Inspector and one Sanitary Inspector's Assistant. This staff is still not permanently established. The developments in housing, water supply and drainage demand planning and constructional work which will differ widely from the inspectional work needed by future maintenance and alteration will take place as the nature of the work varies.

NURSING SERVICES. These are supplied, as before by the District Nursing Association under the administration of the County Council, but are salaried partly by the County and partly by the Local Branch from supporters donations and fees. The County Health Visitors also serve the district.

Those serving the district are now as follows :—

- Aspall, Bedingfield, Kenton, Rishangles, Southolt.—V. E. M. BOLTON, Debenham.
- Brome, Braiseworth, Mellis, Oakley, Palgrave, Stuston, Thrandeston, Thornham, Yaxley.—E. COOK, Pretoria Villas, Brome.
- Botesdale, Burgate, Finningham, Gislingham, Redgrave, Rickinghall, Wortham.—A. A. FARNISH, Botesdale.
- Metfield, Mendham, Syleham, Weybread, Wingfield.—G. E. GRIMMER, Weybread.
- Brundish, Tannington.—E. RICHARDSON, Dennington.
- Mendlesham.—E. KNIGHTS, Mendlesham.
- Laxfield.—E. M. KNIGHTS, Mill View, Laxfield.
- Occold, Redlingfield.—I. LOCKWOOD, Wellington Road, Eye.
- Athelington, Denham, Fressingfield, Horham, Hoxne, Stradbroke, Wilby.—E. M. NICHOLAS, Fressingfield.
- Wetheringsett, Thorndon, Thwaite, Stoke Ash.—N. LACY, Wetheringsett.

Bacton, Cotton, Westhorpe, Wickham Skeith, Wyverstone.—
G. M. WOODWARD, Newton Ho, Bacton.

Bedfield, Monk Soham, Worlingworth.—E. G. WARDEN, Bridge
Ho. Earl Soham.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

1. *Infectious Diseases.* Cases from the western half of the District (formerly Hartismere) are sent to the Stowmarket Isolation Hospital, and those from the eastern half (formerly Hoxne) to the Ipswich Isolation Hospital, after April 1938 all cases will be sent to Stowmarket.

2. *Smallpox.* The district participates in the General County Scheme for the detection and treatment of this serious disease.

3. *Tuberculosis.* Hospitals are provided by the County Council at Ipswich and Oulton Broad.

4. *Ambulance Services.* Ambulances for the removal of infectious and other cases are hired locally and can be obtained without difficulty. The County Ambulance is used for cases of Tuberculosis.

CLINICS.

1. *School Inspection and Clinics.* This work is carried out by the M.O.H. acting as Assistant School Medical Officer under the County Council.

2. *Tuberculosis.* There are no dispensaries within the area. All notified cases are examined at their homes by the M.O.H. acting as Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer. Further expert advice is available for them by the Chief Tuberculosis Officer of the County.

3. *Veneral Diseases.* Clinics are available at Ipswich and Norwich for their treatment under the confidential circumstances prevalent throughout the country.

4. *Orthopædic & Artificial Light.* These are now available at the East Suffolk Hospital at Ipswich.

5. *Infant Welfare Centres.* There as as yet none of these. This is to be regretted. It is in similar case to the lack of nurses and midwives and is intimately dependent on the scattered nature of the villages and lack of transport. The centre at Eye Borough and that at Stowmarket serve a limited area on the outskirts of the District.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

Pathological and Bacteriological work is carried out under the County Council at the County Laboratory at Ipswich.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Ages													Admitted		
	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	Total	Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever				1	1	1	13	10	1	1	1		29	21	
Pneumonia	1	2	1		1	5		2	2	1	3	4	22		9
Diphtheria				1		1	1	2		1			6	6	1
Erysipelas							1		1			1	3		1
Puerperal Fever									1				1		
„ Pyrexia									1				1		

No cases occurred of Small Pox or Enteric Fever. Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified. One case of Meningitis (cerebro-spinal fever) appears under the deaths but was not notified as such previously. One death also occurred from Scarlet Fever while in hospital, not having been notified while in the District. The notifiable infectious disease incidence, per 1000 population, was 3.6. This does not differ widely from the usual figure. No illness assumed unusual proportions during the year, but among the non-notifiable infectious diseases, the most marked was Influenza at Mendlesham and Eye and in lesser degree at Laxfield. An outbreak of Measles in January and February involved Bacton, Cotton and Wetheringsett. Whooping Cough was prevalent during the second half of the year at Laxfield and Wetheringsett. Three cases of Anthrax in stock were reported, all places were visited but no human suspects needed investigation.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1								
5				1				
15		1	1	1				
25	1	1						
35		1						
45			1					
55	1	1			1	1	1	
65	1				1			
Totals	3	4	2	2	2	1	1	

Three of the above cases were both new notifications and deaths within the year. Of two cases not shown above, one had been previously notified and removed from the District and again came into it and out in the year; the other, previously notified in another District, moved into the district and away again in the year. Yet another came from elsewhere with disease of some standing, so three of the eleven new cases were almost certainly not contracted here. The number on the register at the end of the year was 42, the same as last year. Notification is satisfactory, both of tuberculosis and infectious disease,

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M	F		M	F
Measles ...	2	1	Bronchitis ...	11	5
Scarlet Fever ...	1		Other Respiratory Diseases	2	
Whooping Cough ...	1	1	Peptic Ulcer ...	4	
Diphtheria ...		1	Appendicitis ..	1	
Influenza ...	2	4	Cirrhosis of Liver		1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		1	Other Digestive Diseases	1	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	Nephritis ...	3	3
" other forms	1		Puerperal Sepsis ...		2
Cancer ...	11	18	Congenital Debility and		
Diabetes ...	1		Premature Birth	3	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	8	10	Senility ...	11	23
Heart Disease ...	37	50	Suicide ...	2	
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	1	Violence ...	4	3
Pneumonia ...	7	2	Other Defined Diseases	14	5

These figures do not differ widely from the normal with the exception of those for "Senility." I think this to be due to a difference in classification rather than any actual change. Country districts always include a large number of elderly retired people, and it is sometimes only a matter of opinion whether a person of 90 or upwards dies of heart disease, bronchitis, pneumonia or senility alone. A minor degree of such ailments might, obviously, be only a factor and not the real cause of death.

CANCER.

The British Empire Cancer Campaign has been organizing a spread of accurate and unsensational information on this subject as a counterblast to the rumours and often exaggerated statements in the press. I have been fortunate in arranging Lectures to Institutes and other bodies on the subject and should be glad to hear of more. Any body of people or club can have them, and if they will let me know with sufficient notice I can deal with it.

SANITARY PROGRESS.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Those established last year have proved satisfactory and are

now more generally used. At first there was prejudice against the water because of its hardness, and in some cases, high iron content. This is now dying down and it cannot be too strongly emphasised that the water from the new deep bores is pure and uncontaminated and that this point is the important one.

Further bores have been sunk at Burgate, Mendlesham, Mellis, Syleham and Wickham Skeith. These are not yet in use as their ultimate destinies in connection with the piped supplies are not yet settled. The Syleham is of 14-inch diameter: the 18-inch proved difficult from sand blowing, and it was reduced with success and provides a good yield.

The Palgrave and Rickingham bores are also finished, these are part of the piped supply to the eastern part of the district. In spite of the hopes of this scheme, it must be remembered that there will be many small sections of the community that will not benefit by the piped supply. So much of the district is composed of small widely separated groups that miles of unproductive pipe would be required to supply them.

I am sure that eventually further bores will be desirable and it is in my opinion, a defect in the housing plans that a bore is not constructed with every group of houses. It would represent only a small cost in relation to that of several houses and would serve as a public supply to others in the Villages. Where there are houses, water supply is needed and it has already been laid down that new houses should be built near existing villages so as to share in their amenities. This would effect both requirements and be less costly than separate supplies in the long run.

SEWAGE.

No change is yet to be recorded; all three schemes, Stradbroke, Laxfield and Fressingfield are still being considered and details are under discussion. It is hoped some finality will be reached in the new year. The most serious trouble is in the disposal of the effluent at Laxfield because of the slow fall and the lack of water in the receiving stream at some seasons of the year.

SCAVENGING.

A scheme has been drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector for some of the larger villages and will be brought before the Council early in the new year.

MILK.

Satisfactory but slow progress continues. There are now 36 accredited farms on the list and two of these are also Tuberculin tested. More careful and thorough inspection has shown that small scale producers exist who have either dodged registration or not

been inspected regular enough. Most of these make chiefly butter and have drifted into the way of selling the surplus milk locally. Only small amounts are involved but they are none the less producers and their buildings and milking methods are of poor standard as a rule. On inspection they readily recognise that they are not efficient, and it is hoped to effect improvements by pressure. It has not been necessary as yet to withdraw registration from any, but this may have to be done in some cases where improvement is either impossible or refused. The school milk is improving, most of them have milk now available at the reduced price, and some, near the towns, are receiving pasteurised. The school supplies and the accredited and tuberculin tested are under the supervision of the County M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector and their continued influence in directing the attention of the public generally to the importance of clean milk is most valuable. Twelve samples were examined for tuberculosis with negative results. This is in accordance with the usual routine and is satisfactory as far as it goes, but, in my opinion is not nearly far reaching enough to be of any great value. Three other samples showed too high a bacterial count; none of these were from accredited farms. They were visited, criticized and subsequently produced improved results.

HOUSING.

Progress is satisfactory. 85 of the programme were completed by the end of the year and many others are well advanced. Owing to some re-adjustments of the rehoused population, the number of houses for the overcrowding scheme will be reduced. It at present stands at 80 instead of the 130 mentioned last year. This is however not the final figure. In practice it is found that some of the tenants find other accommodation, some move into other districts and some prove unsatisfactory for new and modern houses.

Some of the border line cases have been reviewed and a supplementary clearance programme of 14 is at present expected.

Some difficulty is experienced in effecting the demolishing of the condemned houses and pressure will have to be brought to bear to get this done.

A weak point in the act is the absence of compulsion to remove the debris of a demolition: it can readily be foreseen that these heaps may become rat-ridden and insanitary, but it is not until they actually become a nuisance that action can be taken: I still feel that more will be necessary in the future of housing. The programme of the last few years was rather in the nature of an enforced settlement of arrears. During the inspections many border-line cases were found and put aside, rather than introduce controversial matter and add unduly to the immediate financial burden. These proper-

ties are deteriorating yearly and many have doubtless now reached the irreparable stage.

I hope in the next few years to be able to place a further programme of progress before you for your consideration.

WORKSHOPS.

Inspection of these is now more satisfactory and efficient. Several establishments were found to be without proper sanitary accommodation for the staffs and have been remedied ; more remain still to be done. Information with regard to new such places is always welcome, there is no routine for the registering or license of most of them and unless discovered by chance inspection may be delayed.

GENERAL.

A party of Basque refugees was encamped in the district for a short time during the year. It was, however, well looked after by its own officials and no untoward incidents occurred.

Caravan dwellers continue to cause trouble. The new Public Health Act gives a certain amount of control over them but the position is far from satisfactory. Not only the structures but the inhabitants are insanitary, as a rule. They are a migratory class and not amenable to ordinary routine. I should like to put in force all of the law that applies to them and hope for your support in these actions.

On a level with these from a health standpoint are elderly eccentric people, living alone, frequently in deplorable dirt and squalor. One case of this terminated, fortunately, in the voluntary removal of the individual to the Institution, but not till after legal proceedings were started.

Typhoid, prominently before the public during the year, was luckily absent from the notifications of the year. One case was reported from London as having been in the district, the water of the place was tested and found all right and no other case developed. In connection with this group of diseases and the possible piped water supplies, the Council should be prepared to authorize regular and frequent tests of the same to obviate any untoward incidents.

It remains only for me to renew my thanks for the support accorded to me at all times and for the progressive and enlightened policy now being followed by the Council.

Your obedient Servant,

HUBERT PEDLER.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. No statutory action has been necessary with respect to the 159 Factories and Workshops now Registered. The lack of proper Sanitary and urinal accommodation for garage workshops, together with limewashing generally of workshops were the principal defects found.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. 34 cases of Infectious disease were notified, 27 of which were removed to hospital.

DISINFECTION. 37 rooms were disinfected after the removal of patients to hospital, or the recovery of patients nursed at home. Premises were also disinfected after fatal cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer.

WATER SUPPLY.

The borewell scheme for water supply was completed with respect to 13 parishes, the wells number 17. No complaint of shortage of water has been received from the parishes thus supplied.

There is an urgent need for water in other parishes where the population have to rely upon ponds or shallow wells. The scheme for supplying by mains from a central source is not yet in being, but when completed will form a nucleus for further extensions as and when revenue will permit.

Five public ponds and 4 filters were cleansed during the year, the banks and hedges being trimmed and the filtering media renewed.

Certificates under the Public Health Act of 1936 were issued in respect of 12 new properties.

SCAVENGING.

The report upon Refuse Collection has been prepared and is now awaiting consideration by the Council. After the necessary survey had been made, I decided as a preliminary to put forward proposals dealing with the built up portions of the larger parishes.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Fifteen privy vaults were abolished and replaced by pail or water closets and 10 new pail closets were constructed for new houses built by private enterprise.

Ten new drainage systems on the Septic Tank principle, together with water closets were installed for private houses.

MILK.

The standard for the production of milk in the District is gradually rising. The methods of the Accredited Producer are being more and more copied with general benefit. Although the licences for Accredited Milk Scheme are issued by the County Council through the County Public Health Department, there is close co-operation, and the scheme is working smoothly.

Six new cowsheds have been constructed giving accommodation for 128 cows. Inspections have resulted in requests for Lime-washing and cleansing which have been complied with. There is great disinclination on the part of the cowkeepers to clip and properly cleanse the udder and teats of the cows before milking, and to wash his hands as required. The requirements are simple and should be a routine procedure.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS YARDS,
AND MEAT AND FOOD REGULATIONS.

The Slaughterhouses and knackers yards throughout the District have been conducted without complaint. Requirements for cleansing and limewashing have been complied with, and no action have been necessary to enforce the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

This Act consolidated all the previous Housing Acts, but still includes similar provisions of the Housing Act, 1930, with respect to unfit houses. The Council's rehousing programme is proceeding exceptionally well under adverse circumstances. The lack of contractors and labour made it difficult to obtain suitable tenders, but even so 85 new cottages were erected and occupied during the year, and progress was being made with the remainder of the Council's programme of 167 houses. A further supplementary programme of 10 houses were the subject of demolition orders or undertakings, bringing the total of the Council's present rehousing liability to 177 houses. This is exclusive of 63 houses to be erected to relieve overcrowding.

Great difficulty is being experienced in dealing sympathetically with the rehousing of the occupants from the Single House, i.e. where only one house is required in a Parish to replace an unfit house, or to abate overcrowding.

With the removal by demolition of the worst class of house in the District, the standard of housing is being automatically raised. The houses in the next category are in many cases fast becoming unfit through the inability of the owner to carry out the necessary repairs as an economic proposition.

The reconditioning of cottages under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act has received impetus through the housing policy of the Council, and many properties which were scheduled for consideration as not being capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost, have been reconditioned by the owner with the aid of the grant.

The measurement of working class houses in the District was undertaken, a total of 2,657 properties were measured and recorded during the year. Although possibly the amount of rehousing would have been excessive had the standard been based on bedroom accommodation only, there are still very many properties which are definitely overcrowded from a sleeping accommodation point of view. It is not a practical proposition for the Living Room of an agricultural workers cottage to be used for sleeping purposes, as this is in most cases the only room in which he can dry his wet clothes during the night, ready for the next day. This matter in Rural Districts should receive further consideration.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

The properties in the District needing action under this Act are few. For the most part the shops consist of owner occupier premises, and the necessary sanitary and water requirements are fulfilled in the adjoining house.

Where found necessary, requests have been made for compliance with requirements.

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Analysis of Inspections.

Total number of visits and revisits of inspection	...	1823
Number of complaints	...	32
Letters and Preliminary Notices issued	...	1080
Statutory notices served	...	1
Drains and Sewers examined and repaired or cleaned	...	34
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	4
Ditches cleansed	...	6
Conversion to pail closets	...	7
New urinal replacing old	...	2
Nuisance from animals	...	0
Inspection re water supplies	...	266
Water samples	...	14
Public pumps repaired	...	21
New Public Pumps	...	2
Public wells cleansed	...	0
Public Ponds cleansed	...	5
Filters cleansed	...	5

Slaughterhouse and knackers yard inspection	...	52
Dairies, cowsheds and milk shops	...	148
Milk samples	...	12
Positive T.B. results	...	0
Informal notices to cleanse cowsheds and dairies	...	65
Cowsheds reconstructed or renewed	...	15
Bakehouse inspections	...	29
Request for limewashing	...	8
Infectious Disease—Visits and inquiries	...	53
Rooms disinfected	...	41
Cases removed to hospital	...	27
Inspections of new Buildings	...	125
Inspections of Council Houses	...	724
Factory and Workshop Inspections	...	22
Inspections under Shops Act, 1934	...	36
Visits under Housing Act, 1936, Part 4 (overcrowding)	...	2657
Sewerage and Housing Site Inspections	...	91
Prosecutions	...	1

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	285
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	329
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	245
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	306
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	83
(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	...	162

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	53
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :

(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	...	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	1
(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	...	...	1

(c) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...	...	10
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	25

(d) Proceedings under Sec. 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	nil

Your obedient Servant,

H. AUSTIN REEVE,

Sanitary Inspector.

- 1) The first of the three main parts of the work is devoted to a general survey of the history of the subject.
- 2) The second part is devoted to a detailed examination of the various theories which have been advanced.
- 3) The third part is devoted to a critical examination of the various theories which have been advanced.
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THE HISTORY OF THE SUBJECT

THE VARIOUS THEORIES WHICH HAVE BEEN ADVANCED

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