

[Report 1920] / Medical Officer of Health, Hastings County Borough.

Contributors

Hastings (England). County Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1920

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. . . THE . . .
ANNUAL REPORT
. . . ON . . .
The Health,
Sanitary Condition,
ETC., ETC., OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS,
FOR THE YEAR
1920.

BY

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SOCIETY OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

ST. LEONARDS :

PRINTED BY A. H. BUTLER, LTD., 34-35 WESTERN ROAD.

MCMXXI.

TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND BURGESSES
OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF HASTINGS.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of this Borough for the year 1920.

The Vital Statistics based on the figures given by the Registrar General were more favourable than they had been in recent years.

The Birth-rate, 19·1 per thousand, considerably exceeds the records of recent years, but the death-rate shows a satisfactory decline, being 14·2, compared with 16·00 per thousand of the population in 1919, and 19·4 in the influenza year of 1918. Corrected for age and sex the death-rate was only 11·9, which is the figure to be used in comparing the local death-rate with that of the country at large. The most satisfactory feature was the decline in the rate of infantile mortality which was 51 per thousand of births compared with 80 in England and Wales.

The accommodation for the Public Health Department, the work of which has greatly increased lately, being quite inadequate for its requirements, has been receiving the attention of the Council, who during the current year have made arrangements for the provision of other offices sufficient for its needs.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the specified requirements of the Ministry of Health, and although your Council is already familiar with many of the details, I hope the re-statement of them will not be without interest.

Thanking you for the assistance you have always been ready to afford to my Department in the execution of its duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. SCARLYN WILSON, D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall, Hastings.

1921.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The County-Borough of Hastings, facing almost due south on the English Channel, occupies an area (including 373 Acres of Fore-shore) of 4,857 Acres. Its Eastern and Northern boundaries are formed by lofty hills which afford considerable shelter from the winds blowing from those quarters. Open land lies to the West of the town. Spurs from the Northern Boundary Ridge, with valleys between, running mainly North and South intersect the basin in which the town lies and terminate near the Coast in rugged cliffs of sandstone, porous and fissured. The face of the Cliffs has been cut away to allow of the erection of the houses which line the shore for a distance of about three miles from East to West. The West-end of the Borough is commonly known as St. Leonards. In the sheltered valley at the extreme East lies the Old Town of Hastings between the East Hill and West and Castle Hills. This is the oldest and most densely populated area. It is traversed by two narrow converging thoroughfares, but, apart from these main streets, there is little evidence of any ordered planning, many of the dwellings being crowded together in irregular groups, rows and narrow alleys, to the exclusion of light and air.

In other low-lying situations as well as on the rising ground inland buildings are less closely set, while much of the Northern part of the Borough is rural in character.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Borough is largely residential and an excellent educational centre with a large and now increasing number of Preparatory Schools. As a Health and Holiday Resort the chief industry of the town is the provision of accommodation in Hotels and Apartment-houses for its numerous visitors. At the East end of the town many of the inhabitants are engaged in the Fishing Industry, though without the convenience of a harbour, but the majority of the working classes find employment in the building and kindred trades and in the various municipal and commercial undertakings which minister to the needs of a town of this character. Owing to the large number of young women employed in shops and in domestic service the female population

is greatly in excess of the male for in the absence of anything of an industrial character in the district or neighbourhood, the demand for male labour is insignificant.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of Hastings in 1920, for both the birth-rate and the death-rate is approximately 60,000 being 60,168 for the former and 59,972 for the latter.

The difference between the two is so small that it may well be disregarded. At the Census of 1911 the ascertained figure was 61,145, and in my opinion the population has since then been increased by the addition of some three or four thousand persons.

However, for the purposes of statistics in the present Report I am taking the population in the middle of 1920 to have been 60,000. On this basis the various rates depending on such estimate will be to some extent exaggerated.

VITAL STATISTICS.

DEATHS.

The aggregate number of deaths registered in the Borough in 1920, including deaths of visitors or temporary residents in the District, was 906, namely 423 deaths of males and 483 of females. An addition of 22 deaths of males and of 27 deaths of females belonging to Hastings but occurring in other localities must be made to these figures. On the other hand 115 persons (48 males and 67 females) died in the Borough, whose deaths are correctly transferred by the Registrar General from Hastings to other areas where they usually resided. Subject to these corrections the number of local deaths in 1920 was 850, of which 393 were deaths of males and 457 of females. The corresponding figures in 1919 were 926 total deaths of which 398 were of males, 528 of females. The excess of female over male deaths is to be accounted for by the great predominance of females in the population of this District not by any exceptional mortality affecting the female sex. For, as is well known, at almost every age period the death-rate of males exceeds that of females. Using the Registrar General's estimate of population the death-rate in Hastings in 1920 was 14·2

per thousand, compared with 16·0 in 1919 and 19·4 in 1918 the year of the great influenza epidemic. Mortality was highest in the first and fourth quarters of the year and lowest in the third. As has been pointed out before, the proportion in the population of persons of advanced age, amongst whom the death-rate is necessarily high, is exceptionally great in Hastings. For purposes of comparison with statistics of other districts where the age distribution of the inhabitants is different a certain factor for correction must be found. In the case of Hastings this factor is 0·8409. And if this factor be applied the death-rate of 14·2 becomes reduced to 11·9 per thousand of population in 1920 compared with 13·4 in the preceding year. The death-rate in England and Wales in 1920 was 12·4 per thousand.

DEATHS IN INSTITUTIONS.

Of the 906 deaths registered in the Borough 241 were in the chief public Institutions of the District.

| | Residents. | Non-Residents. | Total. |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------|--------|
| Guardians Institution ... | 119 | 2 | 121 |
| East Sussex Hospital ... | 48 | 33 | 81 |
| Buchanan Hospital ... | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Eversfield Hospital ... | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Borough Sanatorium ... | 16 | 3 | 19 |
| Fairlight Sanatorium ... | — | 4 | 4 |
| | 193 | 48 | 241 |

Thus, 26 per cent of registered deaths occurred in our Public Institutions. Of deaths amongst Hastings residents which occurred away from the Borough, a large proportion were in the County Asylum at Hellingly and a few in other Public Institutions.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

All deaths in the Borough were duly certified, either by the Medical Attendant or by the Coroner after Inquest, but in the case of one infant aged four months belonging to Hastings who died outside the District the death, which was attributed to thrush, was uncertified.

INQUESTS.

Inquests were held by the Coroner on the bodies of 55 persons, death being attributed to natural causes in 21 cases, to accident or misadventure in 24 cases, to suicide in 7 cases, to wilful murder in one case. The cause of death of two sailors whose decomposed bodies were washed ashore in Hastings could not be ascertained.

DEATHS BY VIOLENCE.

Violent deaths were 26 in number including 7 suicidal deaths, compared with 24 (4 suicidal) in 1919.

DEATHS FROM CERTAIN CLASSES OF DISEASES —
DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

Deaths amongst infants from wasting diseases numbered 31 and formed 53 per cent of all deaths under one year of age. Of these 17 were due to premature birth, 7 to congenital malformation and 7 to atrophy, debility, marasmus, or atelectasis, 19 occurring within the first week of life. Syphilis was responsible for 4 infant deaths and not improbably for some of the other deaths which resulted from prematurity and congenital defect.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Deaths from Tuberculosis showed a very marked diminution in number, being 89, compared with 108 in 1919. Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 66 deaths (34 of males and 32 of females) and other forms of tuberculosis 23. The phthisis death-rate which had been 1·59 in 1919 and 1·69 in 1918 declined in 1920 to 1·10 per thousand.

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis declined from 134 in 1918 and 122 in 1919 to 89 in 1920, of which 51 were at ages of 65 and upwards. The death-rate from these diseases was 1·43 against 2·1 in 1919.

The local death-rate from respiratory diseases is usually rather high owing to the number of persons suffering from such

complaints who come to reside in Hastings for the benefit commonly derived by them from the equable climate. Three quarters of all deaths from bronchitis were at ages over 65 years.

CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

The mortality from Cancer the cause of which is yet unknown was again very high, 121 deaths, equivalent to 14 per cent of the total deaths being attributed to malignant diseases. In 1919 the deaths numbered 127 or 13 per cent of all local deaths registered in that year. From the table appended to this Report it will be seen that all but 4 of the deaths from cancer were of persons aged 45 and upwards.

DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN CHIEF EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

| | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 | 1920 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Smallpox | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | — |
| Diphtheria | 2 | 1 | 9 | 15 | — | 4 | 4 | 14 |
| Enteric Fever | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 5 |
| Measles | 4 | — | 28 | 3 | 10 | 12 | — | 6 |
| Whooping Cough | 7 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 10 | 4 | 4 |
| Diarrhœa (under 2 years) | 12 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 |
| Total | 25 | 13 | 45 | 25 | 27 | 30 | 12 | 38 |

BIRTHS.

The year 1920 witnessed a great increase in the number of births registered in the Borough, the total being 1,151 against 785 in the preceding year. Of these births 584 were of males and 567 of females, being in the proportion of 103 males to 100 females.

BIRTHS REGISTERED.

| | | Inward Transfers. | Outward Transfers. | Nett. |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Total | { Males ... | 584 | 15 | 586 |
| | { Females ... | 567 | 2 | 560 |
| Including Illegitimate | { Males | 42 | 6 | 45 |
| | { Females | 43 | — | 39 |

Nett births were thus 1,146, of which 84 were illegitimate.

The proportion of illegitimate births to total births registered fell to 7·3 per cent., having been 11·8 in 1919, when of only 784 births 93 were illegitimate.

The number of births notified to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours of birth was 1,103, including 46 still births. Of these, 591 were notified by midwives, and 512 by parents and doctors, leaving 89 failures to comply with the Notification of Births Act. Although, owing to the difference in the period within which notification (36 hours) and registration (6 weeks) are to be effected the numbers are never likely exactly to correspond, yet the discrepancy between the two figures should be much less than it is. In cases attended by midwives the obligation to notify births seems to be almost invariably acted upon, and it is therefore in the others, where doctors and nurses are engaged that the default arises. It is primarily the duty of the father, if he be resident in the house at the time, to notify the birth of his child.

In order to ensure that the list of births on the books of the Registrar and of the Medical Officer of Health shall correspond it is the custom of the local registrars at frequent intervals to inspect the Notification Registers which are kept at the Health Department and to send to the Medical Officer of Health the names and addresses of any children registered whom they find to be un-notified. Similarly the Registrar is enabled as the result of his inspection to take steps to secure the registration of all births found to be notified, for every live birth must by law be registered and notified, and every still birth must be notified. Thus, in practice, both lists are probably complete.

Taking the births on the basis of the Registrar General's return to have been 1,146 in the year and using his estimate of the population, approximately 60,000, the birth-rate in 1920 was 19·1 per thousand, the highest birth-rate recorded in Hastings for many years. When the figures obtained at the Census of the current year come to be published it will probably be found that the estimate of the population given above on the authority of the Registrar General is considerably below the real figure, in which case the birth-rate for the year has been correspondingly over estimated. But, however, this may prove to be, there was

undoubtedly a notable increase in birth-rate as compared with recent years.

| | Births, Total. | | Illegitimate. | | Per Centage Illegitimate. | | Birth-Rate. |
|-------|-------------------|-----|---------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|-------------|
| 1912. | 916 | ... | 60 | ... | 6·5 | ... | 15·1 |
| 1913. | 870 | ... | 59 | ... | 6·8 | ... | 14·5 |
| 1914. | 844 | ... | 49 | ... | 5·8 | ... | 14·2 |
| 1915. | 809 | ... | 87 | ... | 10·7 | ... | 15·5 |
| 1916. | 785 | ... | 91 | ... | 11·6 | ... | 15·7 |
| 1917. | 759 | ... | 88 | ... | 11·6 | ... | 15·1 |
| 1918. | 838 | ... | 105 | ... | 12·6 | ... | 16·1 |
| 1919. | 784 | ... | 93 | ... | 11·8 | ... | 13·0 |
| 1920. | 1,146 | ... | 84 | ... | 7·3 | ... | 19·1 |

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Fortunately the rate of infantile mortality which is measured by the number of infants under one year of age who die within the year and the number of births recorded in the same period is independent of any possible error in the estimation of the population. In the year 1920 deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 60, of which 3 did not belong to Hastings and are therefore to be excluded. On the other hand two babies of parents belonging to Hastings died in other districts and their deaths are transferred to the Borough, making the nett deaths of infants to be 59, viz. :—37 males and 22 females. As the total number of births was 1,146 the rate of infantile mortality was only 51 per thousand of births compared with 71 in 1919 and in 1918, 78 in 1917, and 61 in 1916. The rate of mortality amongst male infants was 63, compared with 39 amongst females. The mortality rate amongst illegitimate infants was as usual much higher than in those born in wedlock, being in the proportion of 119 to 46 per thousand. The deaths of illegitimate infants, 10 in number, were attributed to the following causes :—

Diarrhœa, 3 (all in the Guardians' Institution).

Prematurity marasmus, 5, including 3 in the Guardians' Institution.

Pneumonia, 2, of which one was in the Guardians' Institution.

Thus of the total of 10, 7 occurred in the Guardians' Institution where they received every care.

The mortality rate amongst infants compares very favourably with the returns from the large towns of England and Wales as appears from the following table :—

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 80 |
| 96 Great Towns | ... | ... | ... | 85 |
| 148 Smaller Towns | ... | ... | ... | 80 |
| Hastings | ... | ... | ... | 51 |

Figures as low as these have never been attained before, and unquestionably the reduction in the rate of infantile mortality is to an appreciable extent the outcome of Maternity and Child Welfare work.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is in the hands of the Council and is derived from a number of wells in the District and neighbourhood which are sunk in the Ashdown Sand. The supply is satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and almost all the houses in the Borough draw their water from the mains. The number of private wells now remaining in use is small, though in the more rural parts of the district some houses still depend upon these sources of supply.

Great demands on the water supply have recently been made through the conversion of old houses into flats each with its bath-room and domestic water service. It has therefore become necessary to supplement the deep well water by a certain amount drawn from the Brede River. This, which is softer water, is mixed with that from the deep wells and is chlorinated in order to destroy the effect of any possible pollution which might reach the stream.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The water-carriage system is universal in the Borough and the general condition of the house drainage is very good. The sewerage of the high ground known as the Ridge, which forms the northern boundary of the district, has now been carried out by the Corporation whereby the drainage of about 60 houses, formerly connected with a series of cesspools is now conveyed into the sewers. The cesspools have been filled up, and a great source of nuisance has been removed. The small number of houses now depending on the cesspool system is insignificant and the premises are situated in remote and isolated areas only.

The method of sewage disposal is by discharge into the sea from collecting tanks at either end of the town. The sewage reaches the tanks for the most part by gravitation, but in a small low lying area at the west end of the Borough it has to be raised by the Shone Pneumatic system. The sewers are ventilated by high upcast shafts, not by road level ventilation. Traps are interposed between house-drains and sewers. The roadside gullies are constantly being flushed and cleansed.

SCAVENGING.

The collection and disposal of house refuse are undertaken by the Council. In the case of ordinary dwelling-houses collection of house refuse is made weekly, but in some of the large hotels and other establishments at more frequent intervals. The bulk of the refuse is burnt at the Destructor at the extreme east end of the Borough, but some is tipped in out-of-the-way spots within and without the District where it can be used for manure or other purposes such as brick burning. In the great majority of cases movable ash-bins with proper covering are provided, but about 6 per cent. of houses, chiefly in the older parts of the Borough, still have in use the dry ash-pit. As the Housing scheme progresses these pits will be gradually superseded by movable ash-bins. 154 of these ash-bins were provided during the year 1920.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

INSPECTIONS.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|--------|
| Inspection and Re-inspection of premises | ... | ... | 14,019 |
| Houses and Premises inspected | ... | ... | 3,145 |
| Complaints investigated | ... | ... | 232 |
| Complaints investigated under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act | ... | ... | 12 |

PRELIMINARY NOTICES.

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| Number of Notices served during the Year 1920 | ... | 351 |
| " " " complied with during the Year 1920 | ... | 301 |
| " " " not complied with during the Year 1920 | ... | 7 |
| " " " reported to the Public Health Committee during the Year 1920 | ... | 36 |
| Number of Notices served during the Year 1920 which are still receiving attention | ... | 41 |

The great majority of Nuisances are dealt with by the Inspectors interviewing the Owner or Agent, without service of written notices.

LEGAL NOTICES.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of Legal Notices served by the Town Clerk during the Year 1920 | 38 |
| Premises inspected under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920 ... | 20 |
| Number of Certificates granted during the Year 1920... | 15 |

INSPECTORS' SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR 1920.

| | Eastern District. | Western District. | Northern District. | Central District. | Total. |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|
| Drain tests applied | 95 | 145 | 67 | 80 | 387 |
| Houses and premises provided with new water-tight drains, properly intercepted and ventilated | 11 | 41 | 18 | 13 | 83 |
| Cesspools emptied and cleansed | 9 | — | 5 | — | 14 |
| Cesspools abolished | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Drains cleared and amended | 42 | 47 | 6 | 43 | 138 |
| New iron and lead, soil, and ventilating pipes fixed | 14 | 43 | 19 | 18 | 94 |
| New closets fixed | 14 | 107 | 24 | 30 | 175 |
| Closets amended | 36 | 35 | 13 | 22 | 106 |
| New flushing boxes provided, necessary storage cisterns being fixed where necessary | 21 | 91 | 17 | 15 | 144 |
| Flushing boxes repaired | 32 | 54 | 27 | 20 | 133 |
| Houses and premises provided with a proper supply of water | — | 2 | 12 | — | 14 |
| Glazed stoneware sinks fixed, fitted with proper waste-pipes, and trapped where necessary | 5 | 48 | 32 | 21 | 106 |
| Yards repaved | 15 | 32 | 21 | 28 | 96 |
| Sanitary Ash-bins provided | 20 | 95 | 21 | 18 | 154 |
| Accumulations of manure and other refuse removed | 62 | 24 | 7 | 43 | 136 |
| Rooms, etc., cleansed and whitewashed ... | 253 | 132 | 206 | 214 | 805 |
| Nuisances abated from animals improperly kept | 12 | 11 | 4 | 15 | 42 |
| Nuisance abated from chimneys sending forth black smoke | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Enquiries made respecting cases of infectious diseases | 120 | 52 | 78 | 51 | 301 |
| Nuisances abated from overcrowding ... | — | 1 | 1 | 8 | 10 |
| Manure pits constructed | — | — | — | — | — |
| Miscellaneous repairs | 57 | 76 | 54 | 31 | 218 |
| New cowsheds built | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Visits to Cowsheds | 11 | 8 | 32 | 8 | 59 |
| Visits to Slaughterhouses | 25 | 111 | 343 | 197 | 676 |
| New W.C.'s erected | — | 12 | 1 | 1 | 14 |
| Cellar dwellings closed | — | — | — | — | — |
| New urinals constructed | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.
INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

| Premises. | Number of | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Prosecutions. |
| Factories (Including Factory Laundries) | 28 | 3 | — |
| Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) | 291 | 25 | — |
| Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' Premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ... | 1,117 | 27 | — |
| Total | 1,436 | 55 | — |

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

| Particulars. | Number of Defects. | | | Number of Prosecutions. |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Found. | Remedied. | Referred to H.M. Inspector. | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i> | | | | |
| Want of cleanliness | 135 | 129 | ... | ... |
| Want of Ventilation | 2 | 2 | ... | ... |
| Overcrowding | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Want of drainage of floors... .. | 4 | 4 | ... | ... |
| Other Nuisances | 62 | 62 | ... | ... |
| Sanitary accommodation | | | | |
| { insufficient | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| { unsuitable or defective | 16 | 16 | ... | ... |
| { not separate for sexes | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| <i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i> | | | | |
| Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other offences— (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report) | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Total | 221 | 215 | 2 | ... |

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7, and 8, of the Factory and Workshops Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

| Class. | Number. |
|---|---------|
| 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS. | |
| Workshops on the register (S. 131) at the end of year. | |
| Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here. } | |
| Total number of workshops on Register ... | 310 |
| 5.—OTHER MATTERS. | |
| Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :— | |
| Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133, 1901) | 2 |
| Action taken in matters referred by H. M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (S. 5, 1901) | 5 |
| Notified by H.M. Inspector ... | 5 |
| Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ... | 5 |
| Other | 1 |
| Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :— | |
| Certificates granted during the year | Nil. |
| In use at the end of the year | 29 |

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF COMMON LODGING HOUSES FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

All the Registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough are kept under supervision and are in very good condition.

They are kept in a cleanly condition both as regards premises and bedding, the latter being cleansed and renewed as required.

The premises are thoroughly cleansed, etc., throughout, at least twice in every year.

No cases of ordinary infectious diseases have been notified as occurring in the houses, but one case of "Sleepy Sickness" was reported. There could however be found no defects in the house to account for this in any way and no further cases occurred.

The Keepers of the houses carry out their work with considerable care.

SHOPS ACT.

The Inspectors carried out the duties required of them under the Act, and a large number of visits were made to the shops.

Many notices were served drawing the occupiers' attention to the fact that they were not exhibiting certain notices as required under the Act. Nine cases of infringements were reported to the General Purposes Committee. These infringements referred to cases where certain business premises failed to close on the weekly half holiday. No action was taken on the reports as the Council, after receiving a deputation from the traders, made a suspension order as had been done in previous years, for the holiday months.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THEATRES, MUSIC HALLS, ETC.

Upon instructions received from the Ministry of Health in a circular letter all Theatres, Music Halls, etc., in the Borough were inspected during the year and reported on to the General Purposes Committee. The inspections resulted in additional lavatory accommodation being provided where it was found to be inadequate.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

All the Public Elementary Schools are provided with water from the mains, and are in good sanitary condition. They provide accommodation for 10,095 children, but the average number on the Registers in 1920 was only 7,361, with an average

attendance of 6,516, the percentage attendance in 1920 being 88.5.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL IN 1920.

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1. | For Infectious Diseases (including Rheumatism and Influenza) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 350 |
| 2. | „ Skin Diseases (including Ringworm) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 214 |
| 3. | „ Diseases of Throat and Tonsils | ... | ... | ... | ... | 227 |
| 4. | „ Nervous Diseases (including Chorea and Epilepsy) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 |
| 5. | „ Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| 6. | „ Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 116 |
| 7. | „ Cardiac Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26 |
| 8. | „ Injuries | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| 9. | „ Diseases of Ears | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| 10. | „ Diseases of Eyes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| 11. | „ Other Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| | Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,202 |

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

The following departments were closed owing to outbreaks of infectious diseases in 1920 :—

| | Departments. | School Days |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Measles | Mixed | 8 |
| „ | Infants | 50 |
| „ | Mixed and Infants | 11 |
| Diphtheria | Infants | 8 |
| „ | Girls | 14 |
| Measles and Whooping Cough | Infants | 31 |
| Measles and Chicken Pox | Junior Mixed | 10 |
| Chicken Pox | Junior Mixed | 9 |

Making a total of 8 Closings for a total of 141 school days.

Fifty-six children of school age were reported to the School Authorities by the Medical Officer of Health to be suffering from Diphtheria, and 24 children from Scarlet Fever. This information is supplied by the Medical Officer of Health on receipt of notification that infectious disease has invaded the home of any school children and a date is given for the re-admission to school of contacts.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

There has been no real scarcity of milk the quantity being adequate. The high price has been a source of difficulty in many poor homes, and a large amount of milk has been supplied to necessitous mothers and their infants at the expense of the Borough Council.

The quality of the milk was on the whole satisfactory, but in two cases, involving 7 analyses, it was very poor and the vendors were prosecuted and fined. Seventy-four samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Analyst. Preservatives were not found in any of the milks nor in 5 samples of cream taken under the Milk and Cream Regulations.

Microscopical examination of milk for the discovery of tubercle bacilli being very unsatisfactory, steps were taken during the year to secure examination by inoculation tests in the future.

THE DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS AND MILK SHOPS ORDERS OF 1885, ETC.

The number of persons registered as carrying on the trades of Cow-keepers, Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk within the Borough during the year was as follows:—Cow-keepers 22, Dairymen 42 and Purveyors of Milk 64.

These premises have all been visited and are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Practically all the cow-sheds are situated in the Rural portions of the District.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

There is no public abattoir in the Borough and slaughtering is done in 19 privately owned slaughter-houses of which four are registered and 15 licensed, 3 of the latter being licensed for the slaughtering of swine only. There is also one house licensed for the slaughtering of horses.

The following were in use:—

| | In 1914. | In January, 1920. | In December, 1920. |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Registered | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Licensed | 19 | 16 | 15 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 23 | 20 | 19 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

Owing to the isolated and remote position of some of these supervision by the Inspectors is a matter of some difficulty and involves the expenditure of considerable time. Those which are readily accessible are under constant supervision, the more distant ones are visited at frequent intervals and at times when slaughtering is in progress. All are kept in satisfactory condition and several have recently undergone much improvement.

It is desirable from many points of view, particularly from that of completeness of supervision that a public abattoir should be established. The code of bye-laws should also be revised and the stunning of all animals prior to killing should be insisted on.

Meat condemned was as follows :—

FOOD CONDEMNED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

MEAT (TUBERCULOUS).

| <i>Heifers.</i> | <i>Cows.</i> | <i>Steers.</i> |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 6 Carcases. | 10 Carcases. | 3 Carcases. |
| | 2 Fore-quarters. | 1 Fore-quarter. |
| | 2 Heads. | 1 Liver. |
| | 2 Tongues. | 1 Set Lungs. |
| | 2 Sets Lungs. | |
| | 2 Livers. | |
| | 2 Spleens. | |
| <i>Beef.</i> | | <i>Pigs.</i> |
| 2 Fore-quarters. | | 1 Head. |
| 1 Hind-quarter. | | |
| 1 Fore Rib. | | |
| 2 Heads. | | |
| 2 Tongues. | | |
| Skirt. | | |
| 2 Livers. | | |
| 1 Set Lungs. | | |

MEAT (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOUS).

| <i>Cows.</i> | <i>Heifers.</i> | <i>Sheep.</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Carcases. | 1 Carcase. | 6 Carcases. |
| <i>Pigs.</i> | <i>Rabbits.</i> | <i>Bacon.</i> |
| 1 Carcase. | 44. | 50 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. |
| <i>Chicken.</i> | <i>Ham.</i> | |
| 1 Case. | 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. | |

also Tongues, Livers, Kidneys, and other parts, and Tinned Meat.

45 lbs. of Mutton were seized and condemned by a Magistrate. No legal action ensued as the man, in whose possession it was, left the town before the summons could be served.

SUNDRIES.

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Milk.</i> | <i>Eggs.</i> | <i>Butter.</i> |
| 457 Tins. | 9,284. | 3 cwt. 22 lbs. |
| <i>Sugar.</i> | <i>Parsnips.</i> | <i>Margarine.</i> |
| 29½ lbs. | 1 Ton. | 34 lbs. |
| <i>Apples.</i> | <i>Potatoes.</i> | <i>Dates.</i> |
| 21 Boxes. | 27 cwts. | 1 cwt. 11 lbs. |
| 117½ lbs. | | |
| <i>Tomatoes.</i> | <i>Pine Apple.</i> | |
| 18 Boxes, 9 Tins. | 4 Tins. | |

Also a quantity of other Tinned Foods.

INSPECTION OF FISH.

The inspection of railway-borne fish at the Fishmarket is now carried out systematically, and a very large amount, which might otherwise have been put on sale, has been condemned and destroyed.

FISH CONDEMNED DURING 1920.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Sprats.</i> | <i>Coalfish.</i> | <i>Herrings.</i> |
| 7 Barrels. | 3 Boxes, 4 Kits. 3 Cases & 29 Stones. 6 Stones. | 22½ Barrels, 35 Cases. 56 Boxes, 3 Kits. |
| <i>Kippers.</i> | <i>Dabs.</i> | <i>Cod.</i> |
| 119 Boxes, 17 Stones. | 2 Cases, 1 Kit, 6 Stones. | 6 Cases, 1 Kit, 7½ Stones. |
| <i>Fillets.</i> | <i>Mixed Fish.</i> | <i>Bloaters.</i> |
| 81 Boxes. | 2 Barrels, 1 Case. | 23 Boxes, 22 Cases. |
| <i>Plaice.</i> | <i>Maigrims.</i> | <i>Whelks.</i> |
| 4 Cases, 13½ Stones. | 7 Cases, 1 Kit. | 15 Bushels. |
| <i>Mackerel.</i> | <i>Chats.</i> | <i>Shrimps.</i> |
| 6 Barrels, 5 Cases, 1 Box, 9½ Stones. | 2 Cases. | 69 Gallons. |
| <i>Turbot.</i> | <i>Whiting.</i> | <i>Haddocks.</i> |
| 31 lbs. | 15 Kits, 16 Cases, 4 Boxes, 24 Stones. | 12 Cases, 8 Boxes, 4 Stones. |

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Skate.</i> | <i>Prawns.</i> | <i>Salmon.</i> |
| 2 Cases. | 1 Tin. | 7 Tins, 12 Stones. |
| <i>Halibuts.</i> | <i>Small Fryers.</i> | <i>Lemon Soles.</i> |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ Case. | 4 Stones. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ Stones. |
| <i>Sardines.</i> | <i>Crab.</i> | <i>Craw Fish.</i> |
| 3 Tins. | 1 Tin. | 2 Tins. |

Total weight of the whole of the fish condemned
for the year 2,760 Stones.

SAMPLES PURCHASED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER,
1920, UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | 74 |
| Butter | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Baking Powder | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Mustard | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pepper | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Self-Raising Flour | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Blanc Mange Powder | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Margarine... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Cheese | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Lard | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Drugs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Syrup | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Bisto (Flavouring) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Cocoa | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Coffee | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Lime Juice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Ground Ginger | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Oils | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Arrowroot | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Condensed Milk | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | | — |
| | Total... | ... | ... | ... | 208 |
| | | | | | — |

1 Milk Prosecution. Vendor fined £5.

1 " " " " £2 and £2 2s. Costs. Total,
£4 2s.

SAMPLES PROCURED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (MILK & CREAM)
REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917, DURING THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

1. Milk ; and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.

| | (a) Number of Samples examined for the Presence of a Preservative. | (b) Number in which Preser- vative was reported to be present, and Percentage of Preservative found in each Sample. |
|--------------|--|--|
| Milk | 74 | Nil. |
| Cream | 3 | Nil. |

Nature of preservative in each case in column (b) and action taken under the Regulations in regard to it.—None.

2. Cream sold as Preserved Cream :

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| (i) Correct statement made | 5 |
| (ii) Statement incorrect | Nil. |
| Total | 5 |

| | |
|---|--|
| (iii) Percentage of preservative found in each sample. | Percentage stated on Statutory label. |
| Below .4%. | .4%. |

(b) Determinations made of Milk fat in cream sold as preserved cream.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| (i) Above 35 per cent. | 5 |
| (ii) Below 35 per cent. | Nil. |
| Total | 5 |

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed.—None.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken.—None.

3.—Thickening substances.—Any evidence of their addition to cream or to preserved cream.—None.

Action taken where found.—None.

4.—Other observations, if any.—None.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the old Notification Act of 1889, the following diseases were notifiable :—

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Small Pox. | Cholera, Plague. |
| Diphtheria & Membranous Croup. | Erysipelas. |
| Scarlet Fever. | Typhus Fever. |
| Typhoid (Enteric) Fever. | Relapsing Fever. |
| Continued Fever. | Puerperal Fever. |

and now under further Orders and Regulations the following diseases have been added :—

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Acute Poliomyelitis. | Cerebro-Spinal Fever. |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis. | Encephalitis Lethargica. |
| Malaria. | Dysentery. |
| Trench Fever. | Acute Primary Pneumonia. |
| Influenzal Pneumonia. | Ophthalmia Neonatorum. |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | Other Forms of Tuberculosis. |

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease was not at all prevalent during the year, there being only 60 notifications compared with 71 in 1919. Cases removed to the Borough Isolation Hospital numbered 49, being 81 per cent. of those notified. There was no death from this disease and no return cases occurred. The proportion of cases amongst adults was unusually high.

DIPHTHERIA.

Notifications of Diphtheria were 102 in number, being ten more than in 1919, but 11 cases were later shown not to be diphtheria. The case-mortality was exceptionally high, 14 cases proving fatal in 1920, compared with only 4 in the preceding year. Six diphtheria deaths were recorded in the first quarter, one death in the second, three deaths in the third, and four in the fourth quarter. Twelve of the deaths occurred in the Isolation Hospital to which 86 of the patients were removed, and two amongst the five patients treated at home. The spread of infection and the excessive number of deaths arose in many cases from delay in calling in medical advice at the beginning of the illness (so that the favourable moment for the use of anti-toxin passed by) and, from want of isolation, secondary cases followed in the household or the school attended by the patients. Several times three or four cases in a family were notified simultaneously. It is to be remembered that diphtheria is sometimes quite a mild disease (though even the mildest case may have very serious

sequelæ) and that the spread of infection is frequently caused by unrecognized and unsuspected cases of genuine diphtheria masquerading in the guise of innocent sore-throat.

Co-operation between the Health Department and the School Medical Officer led to the discovery at the School Clinics of a number of such cases, and contributed greatly to the checking of further extension of disease. Half of the cases occurred in the first quarter of the year.

A supply of anti-toxin is provided at the various police stations in the Borough where it is available at any hour of the day or night for use by medical practitioners in the District. The examination of throat swabs is gratuitously performed by the Borough Pathologist.

Number of Swabs Examined:—992.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Notifications and deaths from Enteric Fever were far more numerous than they had been for many years. The notifications ran up to 18 compared with only four in 1919, and fatal cases to five from none in the earlier year. One of the deaths was, however, that of a patient notified in 1919, and three others were members of one family in which 8 cases were notified, in the month of December. The infection of this family and the occurrence of cases in two other households led to the discovery of a carrier who was probably the original source of the outbreaks. Two other patients were nurses exposed to infection in the course of their work. In one or two instances the infection was imported into the Borough.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Four cases were notified of which three occurred in the Guardians Institution, and the other at home. The last two of the Guardians Cases were very mild and the patients recovered. The third case in the Guardians Institution had progressed satisfactorily for a fortnight when hemorrhage suddenly set in and an operation became necessary, which was followed by septicemia. The mother was confined on the 30th November, and died on the 24th December.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Poliomyelitis no cases occurred, but one notification of Poliomyelitis was received which was afterwards withdrawn.

MEASLES.

Measles is no longer compulsorily notifiable and only 42 cases of the disease were reported. Our chief sources of information of the presence of measles are the Education Authorities and the Health Visitors. Only six deaths from measles were registered, all of young children, 4 being in the age period 1 to 2 years. Five departments of Elementary Schools were closed for short periods and the premises were disinfected.

An unusually long interval has now elapsed since any measles epidemic attended by serious mortality has occurred, the last being in 1915 when 28 deaths were recorded. In 1919 there was not a single death. The disease is intensely infectious and tends to recur in epidemic form every 2 or 3 years in large centres of population.

ERYSIPELAS.

Notifications numbered 31 against 39 in 1919 and there was one death from this cause at the age of 76. No notification was received of anyone at, or under, school age.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping cough is probably always present in a town of this description to which children suffering from the disease are frequently sent from inland districts, the seaside being considered beneficial in such cases. There were four deaths of infants under 2 years from this cause in 1920, the same number as in the preceding year.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were 8 cases of this disease notified. In seven of these recovery was complete, but one infant lost the sight of one eye. Nursing of these cases is carried out by the District Nursing Association. The most severe are removed to the East Sussex Hospital.

INFLUENZA.

After the great epidemic of influenza in 1918 and the earlier part of 1919 the prevalence of influenza in 1920 was comparatively slight, but 7 deaths were registered in Hastings in the June Quarter, and 2 deaths of persons belonging to the Borough occurred elsewhere making 9 for this quarter. In the rest of the year there were but 6 influenza deaths in all.

PNEUMONIA.

Notifications of acute primary pneumonia were 38 in number and of influenzal pneumonia 12. Fourteen cases were treated in Hospitals.

MALARIA AND DYSENTERY.

There were only three notifications of malaria against 20 in 1919 and one of dysentery against 2 in the preceding year. In all these cases the disease was acquired abroad. There was one death from malaria and one from Blackwater Fever.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified and of deaths from this disease showed a very marked reduction in 1920 as compared with the preceding year. Notifications fell from 88 to 74 and deaths from 92 to only 66. The phthisis death-rate declined from 1.59 to 1.10. The death-rate in recent years has been artificially raised to a considerable degree owing to the large number of Ex-Service men suffering from tuberculosis who come to reside in Hastings, from other parts of the country where climatic conditions are less favourable, their pensions and allowances enabling them to take this step which would have been beyond their means in pre-war days. It is probable that the decline in the prevalence of tuberculosis locally which was observed in the years previous to the War is still continuing in reality and that the higher figures in 1918 and 1919 were due to the cause here suggested. Many of these Ex-Service men have been advised to leave their former homes and to settle in Hastings with a view to obtaining light employment in a more salubrious air. But there are other points than climatic advantages which need consideration, and in too many instances these semi-invalids find that they have come to a town in which work for men has never been plentiful, even for the able bodied, and where the housing difficulties are such that they are forced to occupy dwellings entirely unsuitable to their condition of health. Others who have derived benefit from their treatment in one of the local Sanatoria on their discharge thence have determined to remain in the locality only to find themselves in a similar plight.

The scheme of the Council for institutional treatment of tuberculosis has been beset with unexpected difficulties and delays. An Institution has been established at Robertsbridge for the treatment of pulmonary consumption in both sexes and at all stages by the East Sussex County Council. Here at "Darvell

Hall" the Borough Council has obtained the use of 30 beds for patients from Hastings. It had been confidently expected that this accommodation would be available at the opening of the current year at the latest. Unfortunately the adaptation of the main building to its new purpose and the erection of the required additional buildings occupied a much longer period of time than had been anticipated, and it became necessary to continue the arrangements previously in force for the provision of beds for consumptives. Beds for male patients continued to be found at the Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonards, and at Benenden Sanatorium, and a few patients requiring training as well as treatment were accommodated at Preston Hall.

In the Block set apart for tuberculosis including 12 patients who were there on January 1st 1920, 56 women and one girl of school age were under treatment during the year.

Most of the patients, several of whom remained for very protracted periods made exceedingly satisfactory progress and no death occurred. The large kitchen garden affords suitable employment for those who are well enough to undergo graduated exercises under the direction of the Medical Attendant. Of the patients discharged all with a few exceptions had greatly improved as the result of their stay. Some were fit to return to work, in other cases active disease had become quiescent and some capacity for suitable work had been restored. Twenty-one of the tuberculous patients belonged to Hastings.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is established in the Out-patients department of the East Sussex Hospital, where two sessions weekly are held on Wednesday evening and Saturday at noon. The Tuberculosis Officer is the Medical Officer of Health and he is assisted there in his work by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. The attendances for the four quarters of 1920 was as follows:—

| | Insured (Including Military). | Non-Insured. | Total. |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| March, Quarter ... | 197 | 147 | 344 |
| June, Quarter ... | 201 | 208 | 409 |
| September, Quarter | 220 | 242 | 462 |
| December, Quarter | 205 | 206 | 411 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | Total 823 | 803 | 1,626 |

The figures given above include attendances of contacts and suspicious cases, 60 in number, with 152 subsequent visits. The total attendances in 1919 were only 1,389 whence it appears that the work of the Dispensary is increasing and that both medical practitioners and the School Medical Officer are more and more

availing themselves of the facilities thereby afforded. In cases where diagnosis is doubtful, patients are advised to attend for re-examination at suitable intervals.

For securing examination and systematic inspection of home contacts the Tuberculosis Visitor is largely responsible, subject to the approval of the patients' own medical attendants.

The Radiologist of the East Sussex Hospital willingly lends his assistance in helping to arrive at a diagnosis in exceptional cases of difficulty. In treatment the use of tuberculin for pulmonary cases was not employed during the year at the Dispensary, but in the out-patients and in-patients departments of the East Sussex Hospital it is frequently employed for surgical tuberculosis, chiefly glandular.

Dental treatment for the tuberculous has not been provided by the Council but there is no difficulty in obtaining this at the dental out-patients' department. For Ex-Service men attending the Dispensary dental treatment is provided at the expense of the Ministry of Pensions on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Officer.

Arrangements for the provision of nursing and of extra nourishment, excepting the cases of Ex-Service men, is provided by the Tuberculosis Care Committee.

Arrangements for treating non-pulmonary cases of tuberculosis, especially tuberculosis of bones and joints in adults and children are still under consideration, but it is hoped that the Ministry of Health will approve of the use of the block of buildings at the Borough Sanatorium which has been used for the accommodation of female consumptives, for the treatment of surgical tuberculosis. In the meantime patients with non-pulmonary tuberculosis obtain their treatment in the wards or out-patients departments of the General Hospitals.

There has not been much demand for the use of shelters at patients' homes but two have been provided by the Council and are used under the supervision of the Tuberculosis Officer and Health Visitor.

One of the most serious difficulties encountered in dealing with tuberculosis, especially of pulmonary tuberculosis, is in the provision of satisfactory accommodation for advanced cases. There is locally no compulsory power for the proper isolation and treatment of these cases in Institutions. Home conditions are too frequently unsatisfactory. A great deal is done to better their home circumstances by the Care Committee and the frequent visits of the Tuberculosis

Health Visitor to the Tuberculous. More beds for advanced cases will be provided at "Darvell Bank Sanatorium." In the case of females some have been admitted to the Borough Sanatorium. Others are eventually received into the Guardians Institution, Frederick Road, where special accommodation has been provided.

The number of specimens of sputa examined during the year was 894.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE.

The good work carried out by this voluntary Committee continues, and 58 applications for assistance were considered at the fortnightly meetings, the sum expended in relief amounting to about £332.

The Committee is formed of members from a number of representative bodies dealing with Tuberculosis, and works in conjunction with the Public Health Committee of the Council, Board of Guardians, Insurance Committee and other agencies in the town which have in view the affording of assistance and relief to necessitous persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The Committee undertakes to assist tuberculous persons in a variety of ways, such as:—

- The provision of additional nourishment, where necessary;
- The provision of separate bedrooms, beds and bedding for patients, and of suitable clothing;
- Assisting patients in the expense of removal to more suitable premises;
- Arranging for the part maintenance of the home and family whilst a patient is in a sanatorium;
- Friendly visiting and advice;
- Finding suitable employment for the tuberculous;
- General supervision of patients.

Most of the visiting is carried out by the Health Visitor for Tuberculosis appointed by the Council, and general supervision is under the Tuberculosis Officer of the Council.

The administration of the Committee's weekly allowance is generally performed by voluntary visitors, who, at the request of the Committee undertake the care of specific cases.

So far as may be, the Health Department through the Dispensary and the Health Visitor keeps in touch with consumptives, and effects disinfection of houses or rooms when they change their address. Many doctors also, in the case of consumptives not notified here as tuberculous, report to the Department when they consider the disinfection of premises to be called for.

Rooms to the number of 150 when vacated by tuberculous patients were sprayed and disinfected during 1920 by the disinfecting staff. Many were also stripped, cleansed, and white-washed privately. Bedding, carpets, and articles of clothing also were removed and disinfected at the Disinfecting Station. At the various Hospitals, Nursing Homes, and Sanatoria for the disinfection of wards and their contents, after tuberculosis, the services of the disinfecting staff were frequently engaged.

Appended to this Report will be found a Table showing the causes of deaths, and age at death, of all persons dying at Hastings in 1920, amongst these will be found the record of deaths from tuberculosis, pulmonary and non-pulmonary, for that year.

For purposes of comparison I here insert in tabular form the records of mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis in recent years.

The following table shows the Phthisis death-rate in this District in each year since 1906 :—

| Year. | Phthisis Deaths. | Phthisis Death Rate. |
|-------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1906. | 80 | 1.26 |
| 1907 | 93 | 1.48 |
| 1908 | 80 | 1.28 |
| 1909 | 76 | 1.23 |
| 1910 | 63 | 1.02 |
| 1911 | 67 | 1.09 |
| 1912 | 65 | 1.07 |
| 1913 | 55 | 0.91 |
| 1914 | 59 | 0.99 |
| 1915 | 56 | 1.07 |
| 1916 | 69 | 1.38 |
| 1917 | 60 | 1.20 |
| 1918 | 88 | 1.69 |
| 1919 | 92 | 1.59 |
| 1920 | 66 | 1.10 |

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1912.

Summary of Notifications during the year 1920.

| Age Periods. | Number of Notifications on Form A. | | | | | | | | | | | Number of Notifications on Form B. | | | | Number of Notifications on Form C. | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | Number of Primary Notifications. | | | | | | | | | | | Number of Primary Notifications. | | | | Total Notifications on Form B. | Poor Law Institutions. | Sanatoria | |
| | Total Notifications on Form A. | | | | | | | | | | | Total Primary Notifications. | | | | | | | |
| | 0 to 1 | 1 to 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | 15 to 20 | 20 to 25 | 25 to 35 | 35 to 45 | 45 to 55 | 55 to 65 | 65 and upwards | Total Primary Notifications. | Under 5 | 5 to 10 | 10 to 15 | | | | Total Primary Notifications. |
| Pulmonary Males ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 8 | 8 | ... | 4 | 42 | 47 | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 44 | |
| " Females ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 14 | 6 | 1 | ... | 1 | 32 | 37 | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 21 | |
| Non-Pulmonary Males ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| " Females ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The number of deaths which were directly attributed to Venereal Diseases in 1920 was 5, 4 being deaths of infants in the first year of life. One was that of a woman at the age of 29. These were all attributed to Syphilis.

The work of the Clinic in the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Diseases showed a further increase as compared with the reports of 1919. Clinics are held twice weekly and the doctor is in attendance almost daily for the treatment of cases by appointment. To meet the convenience, particularly of women, arrangements should be made to hold a third session every week.

A trained orderly and a nurse are in practically constant attendance at the Clinic for the administration of the intermediate treatment by irrigations, etc., which is essential for the cure. The accommodation for this purpose has also been improved. It is hoped thereby to secure the continued attendance of a larger number of female patients.

The facilities now provided are in the opinion of the medical attendant not entirely adequate. In addition to the Medical practitioners who are on the staffs of the hospitals, two others who are qualified by their experience were supplied with Salvarsan substitutes from the Clinic for use in cases of Syphilis. No ill effects following the use of Salvarsan substitutes have been reported.

STATISTICS OF THE VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC IN 1920.

| | Syphilis. | | Gonorrhœa. | | Conditions other than Venereal. | | Total. | |
|---|-----------|-----|------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1. Number of persons who, on the 1st January, 1920, were under treatment or observation for ... | 18 | 14 | 10 | 3 | ... | ... | 28 | 17 |
| 2. Number of persons dealt with during the year at or in connection with the out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from | | | | | | | | |
| Syphilis only ... | 88 | 84 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 88 | 84 |
| Gonorrhœa only ... | ... | ... | 55 | 11 | ... | ... | 55 | 11 |
| Syphilis and Gonorrhœa ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 6 | 4 |
| Conditions other than Venereal ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 6 | 9 | 6 |
| Total—Item 2 ... | 91 | 86 | 58 | 13 | 9 | 6 | 158 | 105 |
| Total—Items 1 & 2... | 109 | 100 | 68 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 186 | 122 |
| 3. Number of persons who ceased to attend the out-patient Clinic | | | | | | | | |
| (a) before completing a course of treatment for ... | 32 | 20 | 20 | 3 | ... | ... | 52 | 23 |
| (b) after completion of a course, but before final tests as to cure of ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 4. Number of persons transferred to other treatment Centres after treatment for... | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 5 | 3 |
| 5. Number of persons discharged from the out-patient Clinic after completion of treatment and observation for ... | 25 | 30 | 11 | 5 | ... | ... | 36 | 35 |
| 6. Number of persons who on the 1st January, 1921, were under treatment or observation for ... | 49 | 49 | 35 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 93 | 61 |
| Total—Items 3, 4, 5 & 6 | 109 | 100 | 68 | 16 | 9 | 6 | 186 | 122 |
| 7. Total attendances of all persons at the out-patient Clinic who were suffering from | 451 | 370 | 459 | 203 | 23 | 15 | 933 | 588 |
| 8. Aggregate number of "in-patient days" of treatment given to persons who were suffering from ... | 297 | 337 | 155 | 95 | 12 | 8 | 464 | 440 |

EXAMINATIONS OF PATHOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

| | |
|--|-----|
| At treatment Centre for Gonococci | 251 |
| At Brighton Laboratory for Wassermann Re-action... | 432 |

| | County Borough of Hastings. | County of East Sussex. |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :— | | |
| Syphilis | 149 | 33 |
| Gonorrhœa | 45 | 21 |
| Conditions other than Venereal... .. | 12 | 3 |
| Total | 206 | 57 |
| Total number of attendances at the out-patients' Clinic of all patients residing in each area... .. | 1,236 | 285 |
| Aggregate number of "In-patient days" of all patients residing in each area | 620 | 284 |
| Number of doses of Salvarsan } 1. Out-patient Clinic substitutes given in the :— } 2. In-patient Dept. to patients residing in each area. | 446 231 | 328 157 |

The Salvarsan substitutes used in treatment were Galyl, Novarseno billon Neokharsivan and Neodiarsenol, the usual full course given being 8 doses, and the results of the treatment being systematically controlled by means of the Wassermann re-action.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

MIDWIVES.

The Inspector of Midwives in the Borough was Miss Stone, who has since resigned. She is the Superintendent of the District Nursing Association to which belong 8 of the 17 Midwives practising in the Borough. Of the remainder 3 Midwives practice independently and 6 were on the staff of the Guardians Institution. With one exception all Midwives hold the necessary certificates. The only uncertificated Midwife has an extensive practice which she carries on satisfactorily. Miss Stone supervises the work of the Midwives, examines the books, bags and equipment, and reports quarterly to the local Midwives Committee, making special reports when necessary and at other times as well. The number of Midwives is adequate for the needs of the District. The Midwives, other than those at the Guardians Institution, attended 591 births during the year.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Four Infant Welfare Centres have been established in the Borough by the Hastings and St. Leonards Service of Help for Motherhood and Infancy. Each of these Centres is open on one afternoon in each week and at every session one or other of the Health Visitors appointed by the Council is in attendance.

1. At the Halton Centre now installed at the Hope Clinic at which there is also a School Clinic, Dr. Farnfield attends all sessions on Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. At this address an Ante-Natal Clinic is now held on Mondays, but this was not in operation in 1920.

2. At Park View House, Upper Park Road, there is also a School Clinic. Dr. Stanley attends all sessions which are held every Thursday afternoon at 2.45.

3. At No. 39a Tackleway, in the Old Town, Dr. Farnfield attends every Friday for the weekly sessions which are held at 2.30 p.m.

4. At the West St. Leonards Council Schools the sessions are held every Tuesday at 3 p.m., under the supervision of Dr. Gerald Ticehurst, who attends weekly.

The salaries of the Medical Officers are now paid by the Borough Council. At all the sessions Ante-Natal consultations are held, and medical advice, and prescriptions for medicine, or other treatment are given. Children attend up to the age of 5 years, after which they pass into the Elementary Schools. Voluntary members of the Service of Help Committee attend all sessions and assist at the Centres where tea and light refreshments are provided. The babies are weighed under the supervision of the Health Visitors. Glaxo is supplied usually at cost price, but occasionally on the authority of the Medical Officers at less than cost price or free. Class instruction is given to mothers on various subjects connected with infant welfare such as the value of breast feeding, artificial food, diseases of infancy, diet of nursing mothers, baby comforters, etc. The number of expectant mothers who attended was 52, and of individual children 866, with total attendances of 368 and 7,040 respectively. The average attendance per week of expectant mothers was 7, of children 139.

HOME VISITING.

The chief duty of the Health Visitors appointed by the Council, namely Miss Grant, and Miss Andrew, who succeeded Miss Myers in October, is the home visiting of mothers and young children. Their visits during the year were as follows:—

To Expectant Mothers (1) 1st Visits, 197 (2) Total Visits, 382.
 To Infants under 1 (1) 1st Visits, 982 (2) Total Visits, 4,635.
 To Children 1-5 Total Visits, 1,612.

With few exceptions mothers under the encouragement of the Health Visitors, breast feed their infants at least for the first few months of life.

INFANT FEEDING.

Babies born in 1920 and regularly visited by the Health Visitors.

| District. | No. of Cases regularly visited. | Breast Fed (6 Months) | Mixed. | Reasons. | | | Bottle Fed. | Reasons. | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|----------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------|-------|-------------|
| | | | | Health. | Work. | Un-willing. | | Health. | Work. | Un-willing. |
| Hastings .. | 435 | 275 | 130 | 118 | 8 | 4 | 30 | 26 | 3 | 1 |
| St. Leonards | 340 | 197 | 91 | 85 | 5 | 1 | 52 | 39 | 6 | 7 |
| Totals ... | 775 | 472 | 221 | 203 | 13 | 5 | 82 | 65 | 9 | 8 |

These figures may be considered quite satisfactory.

It is satisfactory to report that the ill-devised bottle with the rubber tube has practically vanished from the District.

SUPPLY OF MILK.

Owing to the high price of milk, and to the extent of unemployment, extra milk, chiefly fresh but sometimes dried, was supplied in necessitous cases to nursing and expectant mothers and to infants and children under 5 years of age by the Health Visitors on the written authority in each case of the Medical Officer of Health, after careful enquiry as to the circumstances of the persons receiving relief. The making of these enquiries added greatly to the work of the Health Visitors.

The nett expenditure of the Council in the provision of milk and glaxo in 1920 was £471, as compared with £46 in 1919.

HOME HELPS.

A valuable step was taken by the Council when they appointed in October the Home Help to carry on domestic duties in the homes of mothers during their confinements. Her work has been greatly appreciated both by the mothers and medical attendants.

HOSTEL.

For unmarried mothers going out to work and for their infants in the first year of life a Hostel established under the auspices of the Ghichester Diocesan Purity Association was available during the year. This has since been closed, as the number of inmates became so small that it did not warrant the keeping open of a local establishment. Arrangements are now made to send such cases when necessary to a similar Hostel at Eastbourne.

MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The scheme for the establishment of a maternity hospital in the Old Town of Hastings has unfortunately fallen through. A lady had generously made over to the District Nursing Association a house for the purpose, but the cost of adapting it to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health was so excessive that the idea has been abandoned.

For maternity cases no special hospital is now available, but complicated cases are eligible for admission to the East Sussex Hospital, where infants and young children suffering from wasting diseases are also received.

Still-births of Infants are inquired into by the Health Visitors in the course of their duties.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

There are four Inspectors, each of whom is in charge of a district or division of the Borough in which he performs the duties and exercises the usual powers of an Inspector of Nuisances. All the Inspectors have been many years in the service of the Council and are properly qualified; two of their number, in addition to the ordinary Certificates held by Sanitary Inspectors, possess also diplomas in Meat Inspection.

HEALTH VISITORS.

Of Health Visitors there are three, two of whom devote the whole of their time to Maternity and Child Welfare work, visiting the homes of notified babies and of young children up to five years of age, and attending the Sessions of the Clinics. They also report to the Medical Officer of Health on all cases of mothers and infants who are in need of milk under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

The duties of the third Health Visitor are chiefly in connection with Tuberculosis. She visits the homes of the tuberculous giving advice to the patients and obtaining information for the Tuberculosis Officer and for the Care Committee of the circumstances and needs of the various cases of consumption. She attends the Sessions held twice weekly at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and is a member of the Care Committee. She also performs other duties under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health such as visiting cases of pneumonia, malaria, measles and other diseases. All the Health Visitors are properly qualified. The Inspector of Midwives is the Superintendent of the District Nursing Association. The Clerical Staff consists of two, a Senior Clerk, and a lady assistant Clerk of whom the latter is chiefly concerned with records and work of the Health Visitors, and with Infectious Disease Records.

There is also a Disinfector in charge of the Steam Disinfecting and Cleansing Station. Other help needed in connection with drain testing, etc., is available from the Borough Surveyor's Department when required.

CLEANSING STATION.

A Cleansing Station for verminous persons has been established near the disinfecting station at the East end of the Borough. The majority of those cleansed during the year were children sent from the Elementary Schools. At the same time that a cleansing bath is administered the clothing and often also the bedding of the patient is stoved, and disinfected. There is unfortunately no power compelling adults to submit themselves to this treatment, the result being that in a certain percentage of cases the children of the household become re-infested by those not of school age, and the process has to be repeated time after time. In bad cases the homes themselves are sprayed or fumigated, white-washed and cleansed under the supervision of the sanitary staff but all these

efforts are rendered nugatory if a single member of the household remains untreated. Cleansing of verminous persons of any age should be compulsory not permissive; especially now when it is known that certain acute infectious diseases are spread by the agency of vermin.

To children from the Elementary Schools of the Borough 1,245 baths were given at the Cleansing Station. The clothing of the children was stoved at the same time.

The adults availing themselves of the cleansing facilities were not numerous.

DISINFECTION IN 1920.

The work of the Disinfecting Staff included the following:—

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Rooms fumigated | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 636 |
| Sets of Bedding removed and disinfected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,458 |
| Army Blankets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 982 |

A large number of carpets, hangings, clothing, etc., were removed and disinfected.

The Local Hospitals are visited daily for the collection of soiled dressings to be destroyed, and from Public Institutions, Hospitals and Homes 840 Mattresses, 2,321 pillows, 1,204 blankets were removed and disinfected. These number are exclusive of work carried out by the staff in dealing with Tuberculosis, and of much work done for upholsterers in the cleansing and disinfection of various articles of furniture. For the Police, cells were fumigated and blankets were cleansed.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is satisfactory and consists of the Borough Isolation Hospital, Frederick Road, for fever cases in general, and of the Hospital at Brede for Small Pox. The latter is kept always in readiness for the reception of patients but its accommodation was not required in 1920. A number of beds are retained by neighbouring Sanitary Authorities so that the Brede Hospital is practically the Small Pox Hospital for the Eastern portion of East Sussex.

BOROUGH SANATORIUM.

The Isolation Hospital is in the St. Helen's District. It provides accommodation for 36 fever patients in three blocks, and for 17 female patients suffering from tuberculosis in a special block separated by a double fence from the isolation buildings. The majority of fever patients belong to the Borough, but by agreements with neighbouring rural authorities in East Sussex patients are admitted from their districts as well.

From these areas fever patients were newly admitted in 1920 to the number of 183, of whom 156 belonged to Hastings. Adding 35 patients in the fever wards at the opening of the year the total number of such patients under treatment was 218, against 189 in 1919.

SCARLET FEVER.

Among 62 patients admitted for Scarlet Fever three children were found to be suffering from measles and were 'successfully isolated. Most of the cases were of mild type and no deaths occurred.

DIPHTHERIA.

Of 106 persons admitted for diphtheria 12 were found to be suffering from sore throat which was non-diphtheritic. As they were at once treated with anti-toxin none of them developed the more serious disease. The mortality from diphtheria was exceptionally high, there being 12 deaths amongst 125 cases treated, half of the deaths occurring within 24 hours after admission. Several of the patients were moribund when admitted. The gravity of many of the cases arose from the fact that the patients had been ill for days before medical advice was sought, and thus no anti-toxin had been administered during the early stages of the disease. The severity of these cases threw a great strain on the matron and her nursing staff, to whose efforts it is largely due that the mortality was not greater than it was.

ENTERIC FEVER.

A larger number of cases of Enteric Fever were admitted to the Hospital than for many years past. Of 14 new patients no fewer than 8 were members of one family of whom 3, the father the mother and the eldest daughter succumbed to the disease.

A fourth death from Enteric Fever occurred in the Sanatorium early in the year. It was that of a patient who had been admitted in 1919, so that 4 deaths were recorded in all against none in the preceding year.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One child suffering from this disease was sent in from a neighbouring district, she died almost immediately after admission.

YEAR'S WORK IN THE BOROUGH SANATORIUM, 1920.

| Disease. | Number in Hospital Jan. 1st, 1920. | Admitted during Year. | Died. | Discharged | Remaining in Hospital Dec. 31st, 1920. |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|------------|--|
| Scarlatina ... | 13 | 59 | — | 64 | 8 |
| Diphtheria ... | 19 | 106 | 12 | 109 | 4 |
| Enteric ... | 3 | 14 | 4 | 5 | 8 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Measles ... | — | 3 | — | 3 | — |
| Total of Fever Cases | 35 | 183 | 17 | 181 | 20 |
| Tuberculosis ... | 12 | 45 | — | 43 | 14 |
| Grand Total ... | 47 | 228 | 17 | 224 | 34 |

Of the Tuberculosis cases, 19 were Borough patients, 17 East Sussex insured, and 9 East Sussex County Council, uninsured.

*Local Acts and Provisional Orders in force in the Borough,
obtained by or immediately affecting the Corporation.*

Certain Sections of Hastings Paving Act, 1832. (2 Wm. iv., Ch. xci.).

Hastings Improvement Act, 1885 (48 and 49 Vic., ch. cxcvi.) as amended, etc., by Hastings Corporation Act, 1900, and Hastings Corporation (Water and Finance) Act, 1911.

The Hastings Corporation Act, 1900 (63 and 64 Vic., cap. cclxvi.) as amended by Hastings Corporation (Water and Finance) Act, 1911 (1 and 2 Geo. V., cap. xxxix.).

Adoptive Acts in force in the Borough.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (53 and 54 Vic., ch. lix.)—The whole Act came into operation on 5th May, 1891).

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889 (52 and 53 Vic., cap. lxxii.)—came into operation on 7th July, 1891.

Certain Sections of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, under Orders made by the Home Secretary on the 11th January, 1909, and the Local Government Board on the 14th September, 1909.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907 (7 Edw. VII., ch. 40)—came into operation on the 20th June, 1914.

PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

Pathological specimens examined at the Laboratory included the following :—

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Throat Swabs for Diphtheria | ... | ... | 992 |
| Sputa for Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 894 |
| Blood for Widal re-action | ... | ... | 18 |
| Pus and Urine for Gonococci | ... | ... | 240 |
| Stools for Enteric | ... | ... | 15 |
| Total | ... | ... | 2,159 |

The Pathological work which was formerly carried out at the Borough Sanatorium has been transferred to the East Sussex Hospital.

REPORT OF PUBLIC ANALYST FOR YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1920,

Hastings,

1st April, 1921.

To the Mayor and Corporation, Hastings.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 40th annual report as Public Analyst, having been appointed by you on Friday, April 1st, 1881.

During the year, 203 samples have been submitted to me, and of these 7 have been specially reported against, all milks; and a sample of syrup was objected to as being of very poor quality. There has, however, been again a welcome absence of flagrant adulteration, perhaps somewhat owing to the rise in prices and the absence of the keen competition of normal times.

The adulterated milk samples were partly informal ones and partly formal and were referable really to two cases. In one of these, the vendor was fined £5 inclusive, and in the other £2, and £2 2s. costs.

The following is a summary of the articles submitted showing a considerable variety.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) H. F. CHESHIRE,

Public Analyst.

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| Milk | 73 | Brought forward ... | 176 |
| Cream | 8 | Flavouring | 1 |
| Butter | 29 | Drugs | 8 |
| Margarine | 7 | Cocoa | 1 |
| Lard | 6 | Coffee | 6 |
| Cheese | 1 | Ground Ginger ... | 2 |
| Mustard | 2 | Olive Oil | 3 |
| Pepper | 12 | Arrowroot | 3 |
| Self Raising Flour ... | 17 | Cordials (Lime-Juice) | 3 |
| Baking Powders .. | 20 | | |
| Syrup | 1 | Total (Samples) ... | 203 |
| Carried forward ... | 176 | | |

HOUSING.

Although none of the projected houses were actually completed during the year a considerable advance has been made in some of the 100 houses, the erection of which is contemplated on the two sites at the East end of the Borough, which are known as the Barley Lane Site and the Rectory Site. The Council have selected an additional site in Silverhill where it is proposed to build a number of houses to meet the demand in that locality. The manner in which the Old Town Area will be dealt with, where a number of worn out houses are to be found, has not yet been decided on; but many visits of inspection to this area have been made by Members of the Special Housing Committee. Until new houses are completed and occupied not much can be done to improve the housing condition in this part of the Borough. Eventually no doubt the worst houses will be demolished and others less unhealthy will be improved and brought up to a higher standard of sanitation. As has been pointed out before there is great need in this part of the town for the opening up of the district by the construction of a wider road, for the two existing main roads are both too narrow to allow of free vehicular traffic.

In the appendices of this Report will be found a tabular statement showing what was done during 1920 in dealing with unhealthy dwelling houses.

APPENDICES.

Section 17, Housing Act, 1909 :—

Number of houses inspected and action taken.

| Houses Inspected. | Houses considered unfit for Habitation. | Representations made by Medical Officer of Health. | Closing Orders made. | Dwellings in which defects were remedied without Closing Order. | Dwellings repaired etc., after Closing Order (informal). | Dwellings closed (formal). |
|-------------------|---|--|----------------------|---|--|----------------------------|
| 301 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 185 | — | — |

The above table omits reference to the work of inspection of the district generally, and records nothing of the many inspections of property in the condemned areas which were carried out by the Officials either alone or accompanied by members of the Housing Committee, Public Health Committee, or representatives of the Ministry of Health.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

1. GENERAL.

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| (1) | Estimated Population | { For Birth Rates (Total) ... 60,168 | |
| | | { For Death Rates (Civilian) ... 59,972 | |
| (2) | General Death Rate | 14·2 | |
| | | } Corrected 11·9 | |
| (3) | Death Rate from Tuberculosis | 1·10 | |
| (4) | Infantile mortality | 51 | |
| (5) | Number of dwelling houses of all classes | 12,000 | |
| (6) | Number of working-class dwelling houses | 4,000 | |
| (7) | Number of new working-class houses erected | 4 | |

2. UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I. INSPECTION.

| | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 2,091 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | 301 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 5 |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 345 |

II. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 295 |
|--|-----|

III. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 116 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :— | | | | | |
| | (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 77 |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | | | | Nil. |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

| | | | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | ... | 226 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :— | | | | | |
| | (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 218 |
| | (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | | | | | Nil. |

C. Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 :—

| | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|-----|------|
| (1) | Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | ... | ... | 5 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | 3 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | Nil. |
| (5) | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | ... | Nil. |

TABLE I.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table).

| | Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population. | Annual Death- rate per 1,000 Civilian Population from all Causes. | Rate per 1,000 Births. | | Percentage of Total Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years). | Total Deaths under One Year. | Deaths in Public Insti- tutions. | Certified Causes of Death. | Inquest Cases. | Uncertified Causes of Death. |
| England and Wales | 25.4 | 12.4 | 8.3 | 80 | 24.3 | 92.2 | 6.6 | 1.2 |
| 96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) | 26.2 | 12.5 | 10.4 | 85 | 31.3 | 92.2 | 7.1 | 0.7 |
| 148 Smaller Towns (Census Popu- lations, 20,000—50,000) | 24.9 | 11.3 | 7.8 | 89 | 16.5 | 93.2 | 5.2 | 1.5 |
| London... .. | 26.5 | 12.4 | 9.5 | 75 | 46.8 | 91.2 | 8.6 | 0.2 |
| Hastings (Corrected) | 19.1 | 11.9 | 7.9 | 51 | 26.6 | 94 | 6.0 | 0.0 |

TABLE II.
 CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1920.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. | NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED. | | | | | | | | Total Cases removed to Hospital. |
|---|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| | At all ages. | AT AGES—YEARS. | | | | | | 65 and upwards | |
| | | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 45. | 45 and under 65. | | |
| Small Pox ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cholera, Plague ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) | 91 | 8 | 68 | 12 | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 86 |
| Erysipelas ... | 31 | ... | ... | 2 | 7 | 13 | 9 | ... | 4 |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 60 | ... | 38 | 9 | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | 49 |
| Typhus Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteric Fever ... | 18 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Relapsing Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Continued Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Puerperal Fever ... | 4 | ... | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Poliomyelitis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | 74 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 45 | 9 | 5 | ... | 23 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Measles and German Measles | 42 | 15 | 24 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Acute Polio-encephalitis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Encephalitis Lethargica ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Acute Primary Pneumonia... | 38 | 4 | 7 | ... | 9 | 9 | 8 | ... | 11 |
| Influenzal Pneumonia ... | 12 | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | ... | 3 |
| Malaria ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Dysentery ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Trench Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Totals ... | 392 | 39 | 151 | 42 | 88 | 37 | 25 | ... | 195 |

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1920.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District. | | | | | | | | | Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District. |
|---|---|---------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| | All ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 2. | 2 and under 5 years. | 5 and under 15 years. | 15 and under 25 years. | 25 and under 45 years. | 45 and under 65 years. | 65 and upwards. | |
| All Causes | 849 | 58 | 12 | 14 | 28 | 24 | 82 | 204 | 427 | 241 |
| (Certified ...) | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| (Uncertified ...) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Enteric Fever ... | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | 4 |
| Small Pox ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles ... | 6 | ... | 4 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping Cough ... | 4 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Diphtheria and Croup ... | 14 | ... | 1 | 3 | 9 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Influenza ... | 15 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 66 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 6 | 33 | 21 | 4 | 18 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | 6 | ... | 1 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ... | 17 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| Cancer, malignant disease | 121 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 51 | 66 | 22 |
| Heart Disease ... | 131 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | 6 | 28 | 93 | 31 |
| Rheumatic Fever ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Meningitis (Septic) ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Bronchitis ... | 33 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 26 | 5 |
| Broncho-Pneumonia ... | 20 | 4 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| Pneumonia ... | 31 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 3 | 2 | 8 | 17 | 8 |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Diarrhœa and Enteritis... | 13 | 9 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 5 |
| Appendicitis & Typhlitis | 6 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 5 | ... | 4 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... |
| Alcoholism ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... | 31 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 3 | 14 | 12 | 8 |
| Malaria ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Syphilis ... | 5 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Puerperal Fever ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ... | 31 | 31 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Violent Deaths (excluding Suicide)... | 19 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 3 | 6 | 8 | 10 |
| Suicide ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 2 | ... |
| Other defined Diseases | 246 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 | 4 | 15 | 45 | 177 | 70 |
| Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... | 5 | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Totals ... | 850 | 59 | 12 | 14 | 28 | 24 | 82 | 204 | 427 | 241 |

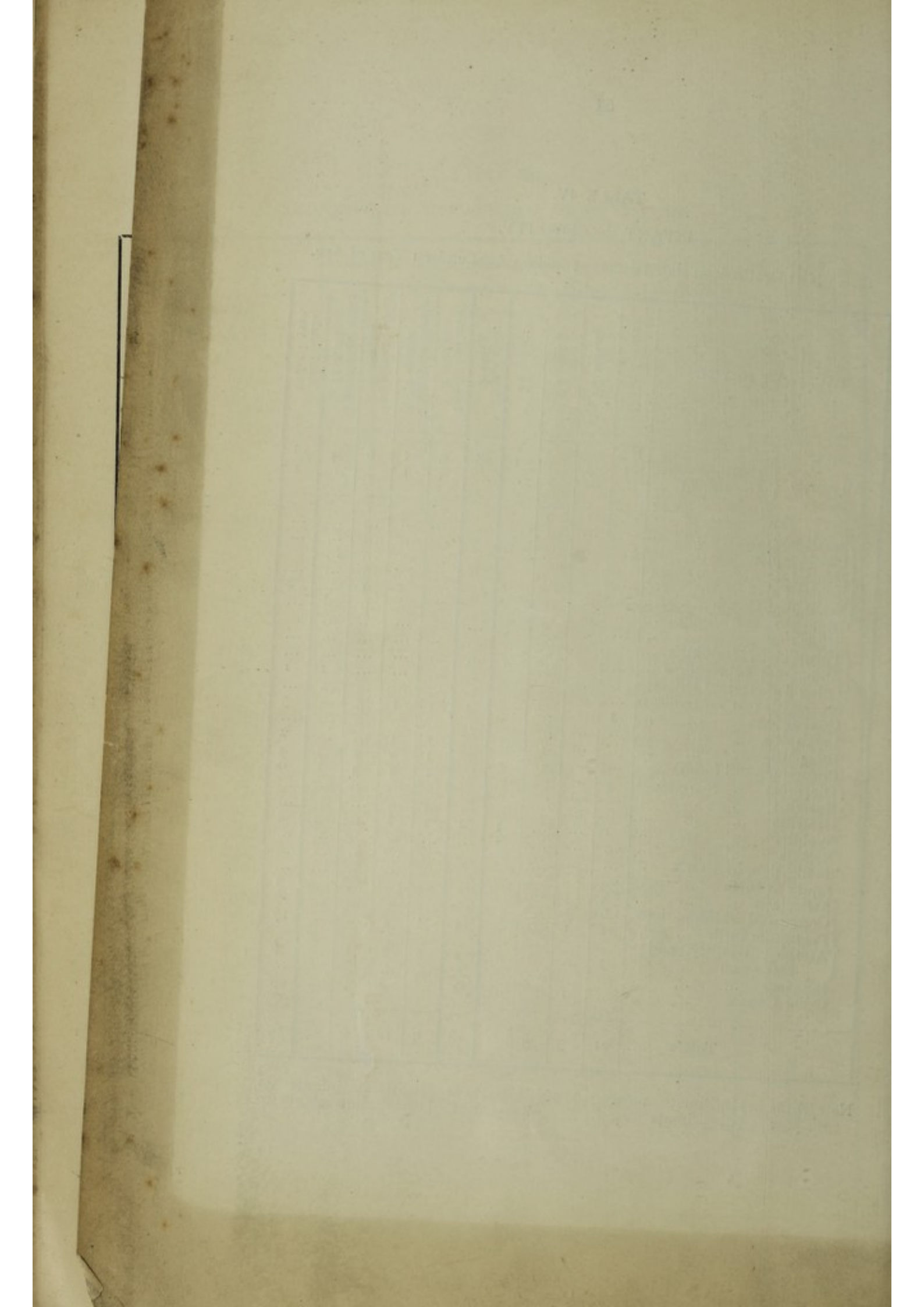
TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1920. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | Under 1 week. | 1-2 weeks. | 2-3 weeks. | 3-4 weeks. | Total under 4 weeks. | 4 weeks and under 3 months. | 3 months and under 6 months. | 6 months and under 9 months. | 9 months and under 12 months. | Total deaths under 1 year. |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| All causes | Certified | 21 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 4 | 58 |
| | Uncertified | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 |
| Small-pox | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Chicken-pox | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Measles | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Scarlet Fever | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Whooping-Cough | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Diphtheria and Croup | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Erysipelas | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Abdominal Tuberculosis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Convulsions | | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 3 |
| Laryngitis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bronchitis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Diarrhoea | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 9 |
| Enteritis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Gastritis | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Syphilis | | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | 4 |
| Rickets | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Suffocation, overlying | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Injury at Birth | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Atelectasis | | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Congenital Malformations | | 6 | 1 | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Premature Birth | | 11 | 1 | 2 | ... | 14 | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | 17 |
| Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus | | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | ... | 6 |
| Influenza | | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Other Causes | | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 3 |
| Totals | | 21 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 9 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 59 |

Nett Births in legitimate 1064.
the year (illegitimate 84.

Nett deaths in legitimate infants 49.
the year of (illegitimate infants 10.



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