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Contributors

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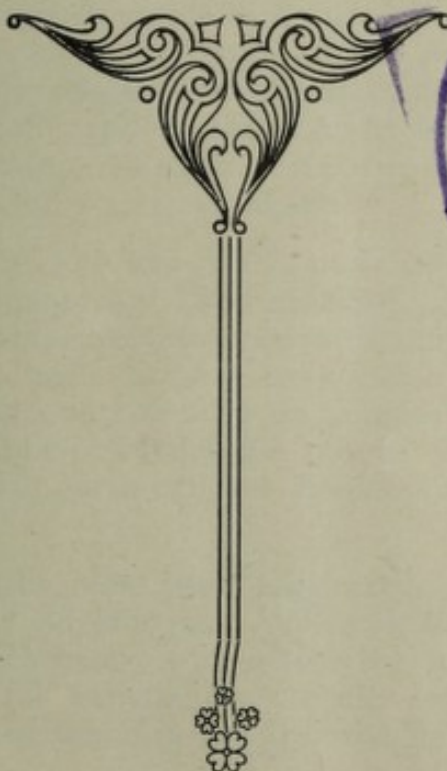


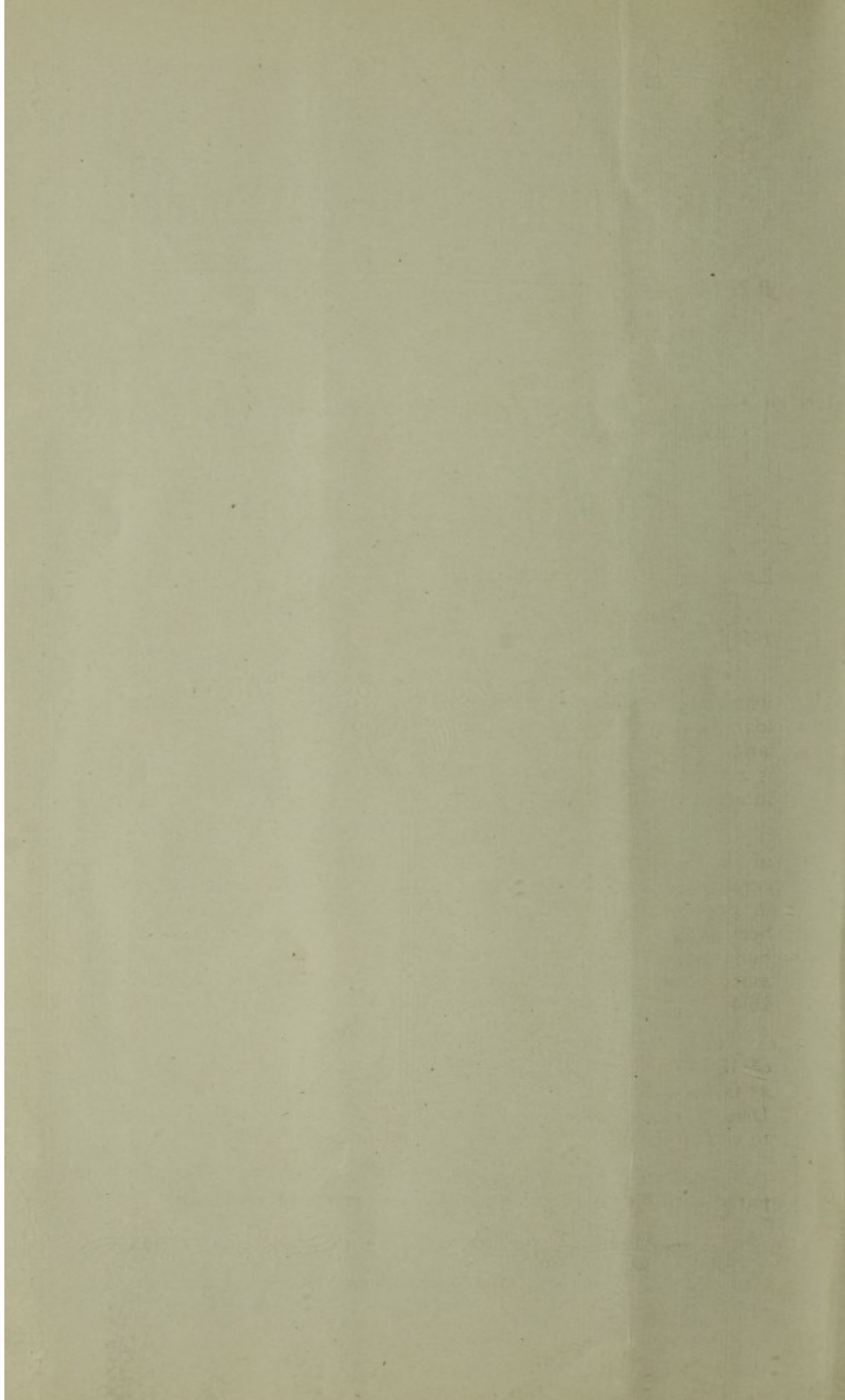
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THE
Hatfield Rural District Council.



**REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1920.**





Hatfield Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1920.

HATFIELD, 16/3/21.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1920.

The District is entirely agricultural, and possesses a soil which in the south is chiefly clay, and in other parts is either loam or gravel, with occasional outcrops of chalk. The population therefore is chiefly agricultural, but in Hatfield there is a considerable railway population. The area of the District in acres (land and inland water) is 23,486.

The population in 1911 was 8,592, and for the purpose of this Report is estimated for 1920 at 8,301. The coming census will give us accurate information of the true decline in population. Two hundred and twenty-five births have been registered, giving a rate of 27·1 as compared with one hundred and twenty-four in 1919 and a rate of 14·8. This is most satisfactory. The birth-rate for England and Wales is 25·4.

Eighty-eight deaths have been registered, giving a rate of 10·6. The rate for England and Wales is 12·4, so that, as far as births and deaths are concerned, the health of the District gives cause for satisfaction. Fuller information as to vital statistics will be found in the annexed Tables.

The rate of infantile mortality works out at 57·7 as compared with 80 for England and Wales per thousand births.

Water Supply.—Hatfield itself is supplied from the Hatfield Estate Waterworks. The supply is good and sufficient. North Mymms receives its supply partly from the Barnet Waterworks and partly from deep and shallow wells.

Northaw is supplied from Barnet Waterworks and from a deep well. Cuffley has a similar supply. Essendon has a supply derived from deep wells in the Lea Valley, the water being pumped into a tower in the village. Roestock is supplied by wells only.

Rivers and Streams.—Two watersheds—those of the Lea and Colne—exist. No complaints have been received of pollution by sewage.

Drainage.—The sewage farms for Hatfield, Little Heath, and North Mymms are in a satisfactory condition, and are sufficient for their purpose. The new sewerage scheme for Welham Green has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health and should be in operation during the coming year.

The other parts of the District are provided for either by earth closets or by private septic tanks or cesspools.

Closet Accommodation.—

	Houses.	Earth Closets.	Closets.
Hatfield ...	1289	653	627
North Mymms ...	431	291	140
Essendon ...	147	93	54
Northaw ...	147	95	52

Scavenging.—Hatfield and Little Heath are scavenged by contract, and it has now been arranged that this should be carried out similarly in North Mymms.

In other parts of the District this work is performed either by the occupiers or by arrangements made by the owners of property. The proper performance of this work is extremely important in the prevention of infectious disease, and if ever I find this work being inefficiently performed I shall not fail to bring it to your notice.

Schools.—These are regularly inspected by the School Medical Officer. Far too many children are still found to be infected with vermin—a state of affairs which is a disgrace to our District. I hope during the coming year to see a great improvement in this direction.

St. Mary's School, Ponsbourne, was closed in February for measles and in July for scarlet fever.

Cuffley school was closed in February for measles and again in May for the same disease. Northaw was closed in March for measles, North Mymms (Boys and Girls) for scarlet fever in July, and Woolmer Green for chicken pox in December. The objectionable midden system at North Mymms Girls' School has been replaced by earth closets.

Milk. — The milk supply of the District is good. All samples taken for bacteriological examination proved free of tuberculosis germs.

Twenty-one expectant and nursing mothers have received free or extra milk, under the Mothers and Children Order, 1919.

Meat.—The Sanitary Inspector visits all slaughter-houses once a month, and more often where necessary. Four carcasses were condemned for tuberculosis during the year. The number of slaughter-houses is three, and has not varied since 1914. There is no public abattoir.

All bakehouses in the district have been inspected. I have visited several of these myself and in each case have found the sanitary conditions good.

Infectious Disease.—The year has been remarkable for the large increase in the number of scarlet fever cases. There were no less than 55 cases, whereas in 1919 there were only 9. On the other hand there are only 9 cases of diphtheria to record as against 16 in 1919. Fortunately, for the most part the disease ran a mild course, and in a few cases only were there serious complications. It is sad to have to record that one child lost the sight of both eyes, a very rare sequela of scarlet fever.

This increase in the incidence of scarlet fever is common to the whole of England. The greatest number of cases occurred in August. There occurred this year so many cases that it was not always possible to find a vacant bed at the Hertford and Ware Isolation Hospital. Arrangements were therefore made to send cases that could not be taken in there to St. Albans Isolation Hospital. This arrangement proved satisfactory, and all cases were able to be moved.

The Hertford and Ware Isolation Hospital provides the District with eight beds. This number should be sufficient

for a normal year. Bacteriological examination is made in the case of diphtheria and free anti-toxin is supplied by the Local Authority.

Vaccination.—I regret to say that the number of unvaccinated persons in the District is large. Roughly, about as many refusals as acceptances are now received by the public vaccinators. If smallpox ever visits the District it will be found very difficult to cope with. It is a matter for regret that exemption can be obtained so easily.

Accommodation for two smallpox patients has been provided by arrangement with the Hitchin Rural Authority.

Tuberculosis.—Nine cases of tuberculosis of the lung have been reported and five deaths. Thirteen cases of tubercular disease other than of the lung have been notified and three deaths.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary carries out a most important work in following up and treating notified cases of this disease.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Baby Clinic is held weekly at Hatfield and is extremely popular. The average attendance is sixty, but on occasions over a hundred babies have been seen. There are in attendance a lady doctor, the district nurse, and a number of voluntary workers. There is also a dental, an ophthalmological, a massage and electrical and a minor ailment clinic for attending to the various defects and ailments of school children.

The two latter clinics have been opened during the year. The former is of the greatest value, enabling fractures to be treated by the modern method of massage and mobilisation, instead of the old way of splinting and immobilisation. It also enables the paralyses of childhood to be efficiently dealt with.

There is a district nurse and a midwife, and without the self-sacrificing labours of these two it would be impossible to run the various clinics satisfactorily. Their work, which becomes heavier every year as new clinics are opened, has been performed quietly and efficiently.

No cases of puerperal fever or ophthalmia neonatorum have been reported during the year.

Sanitation.—The report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended. His work has been done thoroughly and well.

Housing.—There is a considerable shortage of houses in the District. To relieve this, 129 houses were proposed to be built: of these 84 are building. None is yet complete. There is in consequence some overcrowding, but it is not easy to see that this will decrease in proportion to the number of new houses built. The rents of these are so high (15/-) that those who one would most like to see benefited by better housing conditions are unlikely to be able to pay the higher rent. I should like to see all the yards closed down and various houses in the District also, but until building becomes cheaper and, in consequence, rents of new houses also, the problem of damp, ill-ventilated, and ill-lighted houses will remain with us.

Prevention is better than cure and, personally, I am convinced that the fight against that great scourge, Tuberculosis, will not be won until housing conditions are very much different from what they are at present.

In conclusion, I have to thank you for your courtesy to me during the past year, and for re-electing me your Medical Officer of Health.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ALARIC C. BALLANCE, M.A.M.B.B.CH.(OXON),
Medical Officer of Health.



Table I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1919 and 1920.

Name of District . . . HATFIELD RURAL.

YEAR	Popu- lation estim- ated to middle of year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un- corrected Num- ber.	Nett.		Num- ber.	Rate.*	of Non- Residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.*					Num- ber.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1919	8316	124	124	14.8	88	11.2	...	9	6	48.3	97	12.01
1920	8301	225	225	27.1	88	10.6	...	7	13	57.7	95	11.4

*Rates in Columns 3, 7 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Table II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1920.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Total Cases Notified in each Locality.						Total Cases removed to Hospital
		Hatfield.	North Mims.	Essendon.	Roestock.	Newgate Street	Little Heath	Northaw.
Scarlet Fever	55	24	15	4	4	7	1	...
Diphtheria.....	9	1	6	1	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Lung.....	9	8	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	13	9	...	...	3	1	...	...
Totals.....	88	43	22	5	8	9	1	...
								52

Isolation Hospital—HERTFORD AND WARE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1920.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents in or beyond the District.								Total Deaths in Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards
Measles ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	4	...
Cancer ...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
Bronchitis ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...

Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy other than Puerperal Fever	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth...	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Death, excluding Suicide	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	31	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	95	13	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	18	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE IV.
Infant Mortality during the Year 1920.

Nett deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under one Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Debility	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	2
Totals.....		5	...	1	3	9	1	2	1	...	13

Nett Births in the year	{ Legitimate, 211. Illegitimate, 14.
Nett Deaths in the year	{ Legitimate, 12. Illegitimate, 1.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces & Homework

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	11	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	50	...	...
Workplaces	...	...	...
Total	61	...	...

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

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	...	...
Want of Ventilation	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	1	1	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Total	6	6	...	...

Workshops on the Register ... 20

Report of Sanitary Inspector

For the District of Hatfield for the Year 1920.

Population (1914), 9540.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1914), 1908.

	INSPECTIONS.						Number of	
							Premises. Inspected.	Visits. Paid.
HOUSES—								
Houses inspected in routine	...	...	...	...	...	...		981
Do. re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...		417
Do. inspected on complaint	...	...	...	...	...	...		35
Do. inspected for special inquiry	...	...	...	...	...	...		9
Do. after infectious disease, visits to...	...	...	...	...	...	...		53
Common Lodging-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...		1
Common Yards, Courts, and Alleys inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...		981
SCHOOLS—								
Visits to	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
TRADE PREMISES—								
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...		40
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...		21
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...		50
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...		110
Other Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...		31
Visits after serving Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...		4
Do. to works in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...		4

NEW OR REMEDIAL WORKS.

HOUSES—

Houses erected, 29 ; Rebuilt, 2 ; Placed in habitable repair, many ; Disinfected, 53 ; Cleansed, 86 ; Closed, 2 ; Overcrowding abated, 12 ; Walls, damp and defective, remedied, 29 ; Roof, guttering or spouting, repaired, 61 ; Windows made to open, 6 ; Lighting improved, 6 ; Ventilation improved, 6.

DRAINAGE—

Privies abolished, 6 ; Repaired, 6 ; Cleansed, 17 ; Changed to pail-closets, 6 ; Pail-closets, new, 14 ; Repaired, 9 ; Cleansed, 21 ; Water-closets to new houses, 26 ; Cleansed, many ; supplied with water, 26 ; Cisterns and flushing apparatus repaired, 7 ; Pipes disconnected, sink, 11 ; Urinals repaired, 3 ; Drains, newly constructed, 11 ; Repaired, 62 ; Unstopped, 219 ; Tested by water, 29 ; By smoke, 4 ; Houses connected to sewers, new houses, 29 ; Old, 3 ; Cesspools emptied, 67.

WATER—

Wells sunk, 2 ; Cleansed or repaired, 8 ; Closed, 1 ; Samples of water taken for analysis, 7 ; Houses connected with water mains, new, 29 ; Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered, many.

YARDS—

Yards paved, 9 ; Repaired, many ; Ashpits removed, 3 ; Sanitary dustbins provided, many ; Accumulations of manure, etc., removed, 9 ; Erections in yards removed, 2.

SCHOOLS—

Disinfected, 3.

TRADE PREMISES—

Factories, supplied with proper closet accommodation, 1 ; Work shops cleansed or limewashed, 8 ; Bakehouses ditto, 23.

FOOD—

Carcases inspected, 211 ; Condemned or partly so, 9 ; Samples of milk taken, 12.

VARIOUS—

Temporary or moveable dwellings inspected, 5 ; Birds and animals improperly kept removed, cases, 3 ; Samples of effluent from sewage farms, etc., 120.

H. T. SIDWELL, M.I.Mun.E., F.I.S.E., &c.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Appendices.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

- (1) Estimated population, 8301 ; (2) General death-rate, 11·4 ; (3) Death-rate from tuberculosis, ·96 ; (4) Infantile mortality, 57·7 ; (5) Number of Dwelling-houses of all classes, 1953 ; (6), Number of working-class dwelling-houses, 1464 ; (7) Number of new working-class houses erected, 45.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION—

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 981; (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 981; (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 2; (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, 86.

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, 86.

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS—

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 86; (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit by owners, 86; (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close, 2.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of Dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 86; (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners, 86.

Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, 8.

Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer :
—Architect, Quantity Surveyor, Clerk of Works, Clerk to District Council, Surveyor.

