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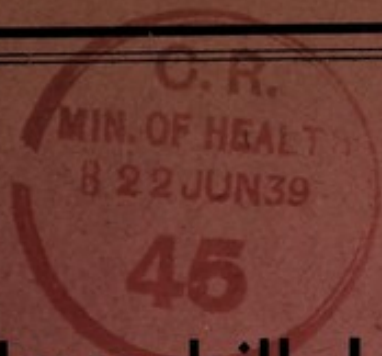
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Haverhill Urban District

IN THE

Administrative County of West Suffolk

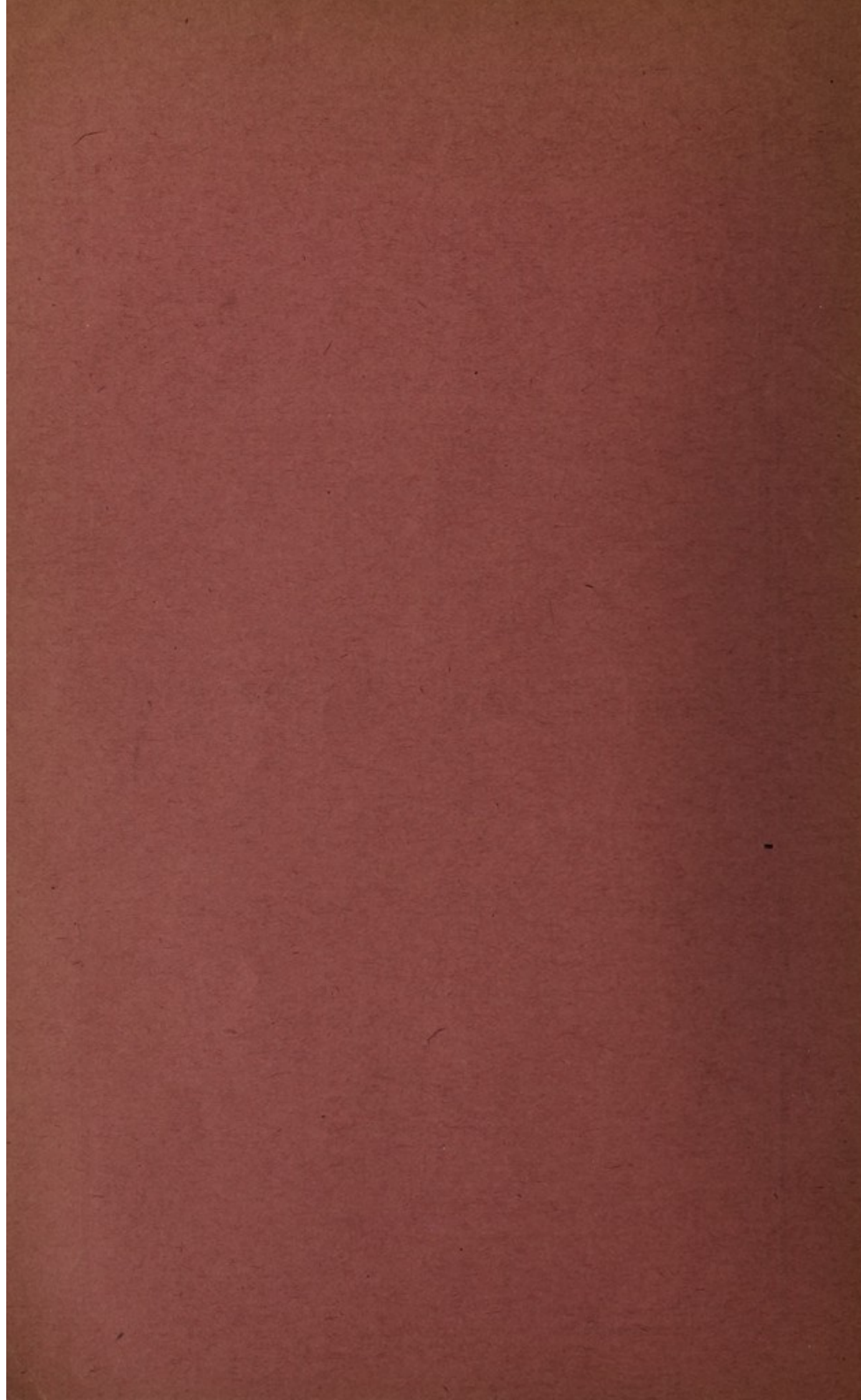
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

-1938-



To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1938 on the Sanitary Conditions, Health, and Vital Statistics of the Haverhill Urban District.

The report is an ordinary one drawn up in accordance with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 1728 dated October 25th, 1938.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

May, 1939.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	...	..	2,530 Acres.
Estimated Resident Population 1938	...	...	3,728
Census Population 1921	...	...	4,083
1931	...	...	3,828
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to the Rate			
Books	...	...	1,245
Rateable Value	...	...	£15,916
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£59
Rates	...	...	14/4

(County Rate : 11/9. U.D.C. Rate : 2/6. Assessment Committee 1d.)

The principal industry is the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats, textile fabrics, etc. There are no industries or occupations that are likely to exert a prejudicial effect upon the public health. A market is held weekly, the town being a centre for the surrounding villages.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
FOR THE YEAR.*Live Births :*

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	33	13	20
Illegitimate	4	2	2
Totals	37	15	22

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population	...	9.9
Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	...	15.1

Still Births :

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per thousand live and still births	...	...	51.2

Deaths :

Total.	Male.	Female.
49	22	27

(a) Crude Death Rate per thousand estimated resident population	13.1
(b) Death Rate corrected for age and sex distribution (factor .76)	9.9
Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales)	11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil
(b) Other puerperal causes	...	Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	2	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Death Rate of infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	...	...	54.0
Death Rate of infants per thousand legitimate live births ... ..	...	...	60.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	...	...	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ... ..	...	...	Nil

The 49 deaths took place at the following age periods:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	2	—	2
1 and under 2	—	—	—
2 „ 5	1	—	1
5 „ 15	—	—	—
15 „ 25	—	—	—
25 „ 35	—	—	—
35 „ 45	2	—	2
45 „ 55	1	2	3
55 „ 65	5	5	10
65 „ 75	7	8	15
75 and upwards	4	12	16
Totals	22	27	49

Since 1929 the number of deaths has exceeded the number of births as shewn in the following table:—

Years.	Deaths.	Births.	Excess of Deaths over Birth.
1930	47	41	6
1931	46	37	9
1932	56	41	15
1933	58	48	10
1934	56	40	16
1935	54	41	13
1936	58	39	19
1937	55	54	1
1938	49	37	12
Totals	479	378	101

**Table Classifying Deaths according to
Cause and Sex.**

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Influenza... ..	—	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	—	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc.	—	—	—
Cancer	5	6	11
Diabetes	—	—	—
Cerebral hæmorrhage	1	—	1
Heart Disease	2	8	10
Aneurysm	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	5	11
Bronchitis	—	1	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—
Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—
Other Diseases of Liver... ..	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—
Nephritis	1	2	3
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	—	—	—
Congenital Causes, etc.... ..	2	—	2
Senility	1	2	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Other Violence	—	1	1
Other Defined Causes	2	1	3
Ill-Defined Causes	—	—	—
Totals	22	27	49

Deaths from certain special diseases during the last seven years as compared with the present year —

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cancer	12	11	16	5	10	11	11
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3	—	1	3	2	1	1
Influenza... ..	—	1	1	2	1	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1	—	2	—	1	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health, who also acts for other districts in West Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.
- (b) Mr. J. H. Clarke, of Haverhill, is Housing Officer, Surveyor, and Sanitary Inspector. The appointment is a whole time one. Mr. Clarke holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers and the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

There are no alterations to record so far as the public health services, including hospital accommodation for infectious disease, are concerned.

A small isolation hospital of ten beds is maintained by the Urban District Council. The accommodation, however, is such that only cases of one disease at a time can be admitted. No permanent nursing staff is kept, and practitioners attend their own cases. In practice the admissions are limited to cases of scarlet fever. Other diseases, such as diphtheria, are usually sent to the Newmarket Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital near Newmarket. The charges are £2 12s. 6d. a week per patient. The question of providing a central isolation hospital for the County of West Suffolk is still under consideration.

General Hospitals:

There are no general hospitals in the area. Patients requiring hospital treatment are sent either to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, or to the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's.

Ambulance Facilities:

A horse ambulance is provided at the isolation hospital for the removal of cases of infectious disease. This is sufficient for the purpose as the distances covered are limited. A motor ambulance has been provided by public subscription for dealing with cases of ordinary illness and accident. This ambulance made 30 journeys during the year. The ambulance services can be regarded as adequate.

Laboratory Work:

Specimens for bacteriological examination are usually sent to Dr. W. H. Harvey, at the Bacteriological Laboratory, Green Street, Cambridge. Five swabs were examined for the presence of Diphtheria Bacilli during the year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:

The supply is obtained from a well sunk 103 feet deep into the chalk with two headings about 25 feet long running North and South, and two boreholes, one 9 inches diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet, and the other 10½ inches in diameter, sunk to a depth of 350 feet through the South heading. The water is raised by deep well three-throw pumps in duplicate, and one borehole pump, each capable of delivering 10,000 gallons per hour, and the power is obtained from 24 B.H.P. Crossley Crude Oil Engines in duplicate. During the year 3 extensions of 3in. c.i. water mains have been carried out.

The water is of good quality, but hard. Four samples were submitted (to the Counties Public Health Laboratories) for Bacteriological Analysis and one for Chemical Analysis, and the following are copies of the reports:—

Chemical results in parts per 100,000

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright
Colour	...	...	...	Normal, Odour Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7.1 Free Carbonic Acid 3.3
Electric Conductivity at 20° C...				820 Total Solids, dried at 180° C 55.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	...		4.4 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 28.0
Hardness: Total	...	...		44.0, Temporary 26.0, Permanent 18.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...		0.06 Nitrites Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0.0000 Ammoniacal Nitrogen
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...		0.0000 Albuminoid Nitrogen
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F				0.000
Metals...	..	...	...	Iron and Zinc Absent

Report:—This sample is clear and bright, of normal colour, neutral in reaction, and free from iron or other metals. The water is very hard in character, although not to such a degree as to be detrimental to health, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, and is of a high degree of organic purity.

In these respects the water is considered wholesome in character, and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

The hardness will, of course, be disadvantageous for certain domestic uses, such as washing, laundry purposes, etc.—(Signed) E. V. Suckling.
For Drs. Beale and Suckling.

Report on the Bacteriological Examination of a sample of Water.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre
of water growing upon Agar at 20° C. in 3 days 4

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre
of water growing upon Agar at 37° C. in 1 day ... 0
in 2 days ... 3

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after 2 days incubation at 37° C.	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes) ...	Absent in 100 c.c.

This sample is clear and bright and of the highest standard of bacterial purity in which respects it is pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purposes of public supply.—(Signed) E. V. Suckling, For Drs. Beale and Suckling.

Number of dwelling-houses connected to the mains :

(a) Within U.D.C. area...	1231
(b) Outside area...	21
Length of mains	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles
Number of houses connected to the mains during the year ...	14
Number of houses not connected to the mains :	
(a) Within reach	3
(b) Not within reach	25

The average daily consumption of water for 1938 was 88,645 gallons, and the total quantity of water pumped was 32,355,500 gallons. The average daily consumption per head of population is 23 gallons.

Variations in height of water in the well:—

1933	{ Maximum level, April ...	208.80ft. above ordnance Datum	
	{ Minimum level, December ...	200.75ft. " "	
1934	{ Maximum level, April ...	201.00ft. " "	
	{ Minimum level, December ...	197.75ft. " "	
1935	{ Maximum level, May ...	206.20ft. " "	
	{ Minimum level, January ...	198.60ft. " "	
1936	{ Maximum level, April ...	210.50ft. " "	
	{ Minimum level, November ...	200.70ft. " "	
1937	{ Maximum level, April ...	213.35ft. " "	
	{ Minimum level, December ...	201.25ft. " "	
1938	{ Maximum level, March ...	205.50ft. " "	
	{ Minimum level, December ...	197.15ft. " "	

Rainfall as registered by the rain gauge at the Waterworks:—

Year	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
1938	2.55	0.59	0.44	0.25	1.46	0.47	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	1.53	1.05	2.29	2.32	2.31	2.72	17.98

Snow or rain was recorded on 132 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. on Sept. 28th, when 0.98 inch. was registered. The total rainfall for the previous year was 26.64 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :

The Swimming Bath which was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the town; the dimensions are 75ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins.

During the year a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed. The plant which has a 6 hour turnover, has worked very efficiently and the trouble previously experienced with algae growth has been overcome and further the danger of bathing in polluted water has been removed.

Sewage and Sewage Disposal :

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the East side of the Town. The Sewage gravitates to the works through an 18in. outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few of the outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal Works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, two contact and two percolating filters, with final treatment on 5 acres of land, all underdrained, two acres being terraced.

Root crops are grown on the land, and Bat Willows on the grass margins around the land.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the Stour.

The Pumping Plant consists of Crude Oil Engines and centrifugal pumps in duplicate.

	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
No of dwelling-houses connected with sewers ...	1112	1118	1130	1133	1169	1189	1201
„ dwelling-houses not connected with sewers ...	63	61	60	60	60	60	58
„ dwelling-houses with flushing cisterns ...	428	474	540	701	871	959	1113
„ dwelling-houses with waste water flushing	686	648	590	434	298	230	88
„ conversions from waste water flushing to flushing cisterns	23	38	46	149	128	61	141
„ privies ...	12	12	12	12	12	12	10
„ pail closets ...	36	34	33	33	33	33	33
„ cesspools ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

SCAVENGING.

Collections are made weekly from about 1,250 premises. The whole of the refuse from one section of the town, representing about 65 per cent. of the whole, is tipped into a disused brickyard and covered. The remaining 35 per cent. is disposed of in a similar manner during the winter months in another disused brickyard, but during the summer months this refuse is taken to the Sewage Works, sorted and disposed of.

The provision of sanitary dustbins has been made compulsory. This regulation came into force on June 1st, 1938.

The annual cost of collection and disposal is £275.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area :

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2176
Dwelling-houses—Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Structural defects	...	...	...	...	...	51	
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	167	220
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Fried fish shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
General inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	379
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	761
Sundry visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	594
Nuisances or defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	127
" " remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	214
(including 96 from previous year)							
Number of notices served during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
(a) Informal written	...	9	Complied with	...	...	...	47
(including 37 from previous year)							
(b) Statutory	...	45	Complied with	...	...	...	43
(including 1 outstanding from previous year)							

Disinfection :

Number of premises disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	7
" " " " for other reasons	...	...	2
Bedding steam disinfected	...	...	6

Shops Act, 1934 :—There are 89 Shops. The general arrangements are satisfactory and no action has been called for during the year.

Schools :

Two :—(1) A Secondary School with 108 pupils (58 boys, 50 girls).
(2) Council Schools with 427 pupils (209 boys, 218 girls). Water supply and sanitation are satisfactory and there are no alterations to report.

Camping Sites :

There are none within the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :

No action has been necessary during the year.

HOUSING.

The three years' programme under the Housing Act, 1930, was completed by the demolition of six houses in Burton End.

During the year, four A3 houses (833ft. superficial) and eight one bedroom bungalows have been erected under the Housing Act.

The total number of houses erected at the end of 1938 under the various Housing Acts is 151, viz :—

- 10 Parlour-type houses under the 1919 Act, let at 8s. 6d. per week exclusive of rates.
- 81 A3 type houses under the 1924 Act, let at inclusive rents from 6s. 10d. to 9s. 1d. per week.
- 22 A3 type houses under the 1925 Act, let at inclusive rents of 7s. 10d. to 10s. per week.
- 16 A3 type houses under the 1930 Act, let at differential rents up to 5s. 4d. per week.
- 4 A4 houses under the 1930 Act, let at inclusive rents up to 7s. 6d. per week.
- 2 B4 houses under the 1935 Act, let at differential rents up to 8s. 1d. per week.
- 16 One bedroom bungalows let at differential rents up to 5s. 4d. per week.

I. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

- | | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... | 214 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 512 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ... | 38 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 92 |
| (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-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 45 |

II. REMEDY of defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

- | | |
|--|----|
| Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers... | 40 |
|--|----|

III. ACTION under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. *Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owner (outstanding from previous year) ...	1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners... ..	—
(3) Houses demolished under Clearance Orders 1930 Act ...	6

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

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

D. *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :*

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

IV. HOUSING ACT, 1936.—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	7
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
D. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	11
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Number of cowkeepers or purveyors of milk on the Register :—

Wholesale Purveyors	...	...	...	...	None
Retail Purveyors	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Purveyors who are not cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					5
Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	Nil
Inspections	...	...	...	...	Nil
Contraventions	...	...	...	...	Nil

Two samples of milk have been taken for Bacteriological examination, and the results obtained were satisfactory.

There are no cowkeepers in the Council's area. The largest retailers produce their milk on premises just outside the district. There are two retailers who purchase their milk, in each case from producers in an adjoining area.

Meat Supply :

Number of registered slaughterhouses	...	...	...	2
Number of licensed slaughterhouses	...	...	...	4
				—
Total	...	...	...	6

Inspections 62. At time of killing 24. No meat stalls.

Shops :—No. of inspections 25. Other foods 53 inspections.

There is no difficulty either as regards water supply or drainage, and the premises generally are kept in a satisfactory condition. Twenty-eight notices were received relating to slaughtering taking place at other than the registered times. The meat sold is, as a rule, of good quality and the amount found to be unfit for food comparatively small. During the year $3\frac{1}{2}$ carcasses of pigs and sows and 41 parts of pigs' carcasses were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption.

There are eight shops from which meat is sold. All have glass windows and reasonable precautions are taken in order to ensure cleanliness and to protect the meat exposed for sale from contamination. One of the shops sells frozen or chilled meat, two frozen and fresh meat, and five fresh meat only.

Bakehouses :

There are five bakehouses, one of which is underground. There is little to comment upon as they are kept in a cleanly condition, water supply and drainage are satisfactory.

Premises where Ice-Cream is Manufactured :

Hamlet Road	...	...	...	...	1
Queen Street	...	...	...	...	1
High Street	...	...	...	...	1
Withersfield Road...	...	...	...	...	2
Burton End	...	...	...	...	1
Downs Place	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 7

These premises are suitable for the purpose, and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Fried Fish Shops :

Queen Street	...	...	...	...	2
High Street	...	...	...	...	1
					<hr/> 3

No complaints have been received as to any nuisance caused by this particular trade.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases has continued to be low and has remained so for a number of years. The cases notified were five of scarlet fever, all of which were removed to the Council's Isolation Hospital, and one of pneumonia. Only one case of diphtheria has occurred since 1930 in which year there were five. Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge to practitioners whenever required, but up to the present no action has been taken as regards artificial immunisation against this disease.

The following table shews the number of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, and pneumonia during the last ten years as compared with the year under review :—

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Scarlet Fever ...	23	22	5	5	28	8	11	1	—	5
Diphtheria ...	1	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pnenmonia ...	1	—	1	—	2	—	8	4	2	1

Notifiable Diseases During the Year, Analysis under Age Groups.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	AT AGES—YEARS.											Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	
Scarlet Fever	5				1		1	2		1			5	—
Pneumonia	1										1		—	—
Totals	6	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	—	5	—

There is little to comment upon in relation to the non-notifiable infectious diseases. There has been the usual seasonal prevalence of influenza, which did not assume a severe type and only one death has been attributed to this disease.

The comparative table of deaths at the commencement of this report shews the number of deaths from this and other special diseases during the last eight years. Notifications were also received from schools relating to 65 children excluded on account of illness or house infection. Chicken pox and measles accounted for the majority.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			1					
5								
10								
15								
20								
25								
35					1			
45								
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—

There were no deaths of non-notified cases of Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from tuberculosis and employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

FACTORIES.

Number of Factories with Mechanical Power, 16—Builders 1, Gasworks 1, Laundry 1, Printing Works 1, Foundries 2, Millers 3, Baker 1, Ropeworks 1, Textile 2, Saw Mills 1, Motor Engineers 2.

Factories without Mechanical Power, 31—Builders 1, Bootmakers 5, Basket Makers 1, Bakers 4, Bottling Stores 1, Cycle Repairers 2, Dress-makers 1, Milliners 2, Saddlers 2, Shoeing Smiths 2, Stonemasons 2, Tailors 4, Motor Engineers 3.

						Inspections.	Notices.
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	108	2

Outworkers Lists:

Received from employers ... 4
 Outworkers, actual number ... 111
 Infected premises—Nil.
 Nature of outwork—Wearing apparel.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

