

**[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Wycombe R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

High Wycombe (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1925

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Wycombe Rural District.

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

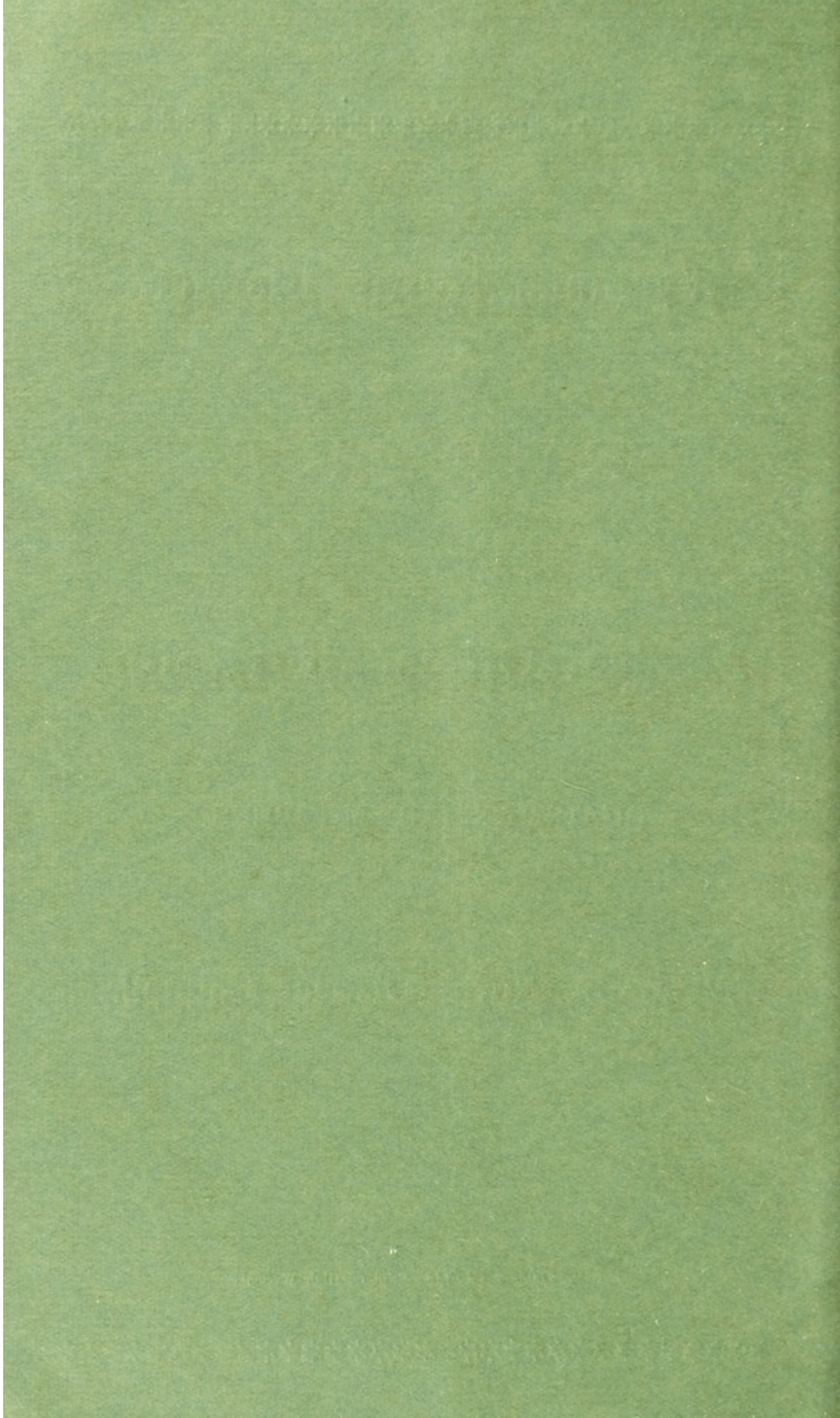
Wycombe Rural District Council.

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# Wycombe Rural District.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
Wycombe Rural District Council.

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THE OLD HOUSE, MARLOW,

*June, 1926.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1925.

The Rural District of Wycombe is situate in the south of the County of Bucks, and comprises some twenty-three parishes.

The surface is on the whole undulating, and the highest part is the chalk range of the Chiltern Hills, 852 feet, at Coombe Hill, in the parish of Ellesborough.

The Chilterns are well wooded, especially with beeches, and supports one of the chief industries of the district, *i.e.*, chairmaking.

For some miles the River Thames forms the southern boundary. Through the southern portion of the district, too, there flows the Wye, a feeder of the Thames. It begins with two branches, each having its source in the Chiltern Hills, in the immediate neighbourhood of High Wycombe. The sub-soil is principally chalk. The air is relaxing in the valleys, but is bracing on the hills, where houses of all classes are being erected. The rainfall is small, and the winters are remarkable for their mildness.

Agriculture, chairmaking, and the manufacture of paper and millboards are the principal industries. The factories for paper and millboards are situated in the valley of the Wye.

Area: The district has an area of 71,716 acres.

Population (Census 1921) ..... 25,839.

„ (estimated 1925) ..... 27,211.

Number of inhabited houses ..... 5,918.

„ families or separate occupiers (1921) 6,086.

Rateable value, £114,469. Sum represented by a penny rate, £476:19:1.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

**Birth-Rate.**—Four hundred and fifty-five (236 males and 219 females) were registered. Of these, 4 males and 10 females were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 10.0, as compared with the rate of England and Wales of 18.8.

**Deaths.**—Two hundred and ninety-two deaths occurred, of which 148 were males and 144 females.

The death-rate was 11.16, as compared with that of England and Wales of 12.2 per 1,000.

There was one death of women dying in consequence of child-birth, but not puerperal sepsis.

**Infantile Mortality.**—Legitimate: Male, 16; Female, 10. Illegitimate: Male, 1; Female, 1; total, 28.

Rate per 1,000, 38.0.

England and Wales, 69.0.

TABLE OF DEATHS (All Ages).

	Males.	Females.
Measles .....	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	1	1
Diarrhœa (under two years) .....	—	—
Influenza .....	9	6
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	5	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases .....	2	1
Cancer and Malignant Disease .....	18	15
Diabetes .....	2	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage .....	9	13
Heart Disease .....	14	22
Arterio Sclerosis .....	3	3
Bronchitis .....	11	13
Pneumonia, all forms .....	7	8
Other Respiratory Diseases .....	2	4
Appendicitis and Typhlitis .....	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	—	4
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Child-birth .....	—	1
Congenital Debility, Malformation, and Premature Birth .....	15	4
Suicide .....	2	0
Other Deaths from Violence .....	3	3
Other defined Diseases .....	34	31
Ill-defined and unknown .....	1	1

## NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria .....	11	11	—
Scarlet Fever .....	38	35	1
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—
Other Diseases generally notifiable—			
Pneumonia, all forms .....	13	—	15
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	3	—	—
Tuberculosis—			
Pulmonary—Male .....	3	—	5
Female .....	7	—	8
Non-Pulmonary—Male .....	—	—	2
Female .....	4	—	1
Totals .....	83	46	32

## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	Admitted to Hospital, 1925.	Deaths.
Small-pox .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup .....	43	37	48	34	11	11	—
Erysipelas .....	8	4	4	4	3	2	—
Scarlet Fever .....	51	123	87	53	38	35	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) .....	7	3	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis—							
Males .....	8	4	4	5	3	—	5
Females .....	1	4	7	10	7	—	8
Non-Pulmonary—							
Males .....	2	—	2	3	—	—	2
Females .....	7	1	—	1	4	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
German Measles .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, all forms .....	7	37	23	15	13	—	15
Malaria .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ....	1	1	—	5	—	—	—
Chicken-pox .....	—	—	41	69	—*	—	—

\* Chicken-pox is not now compulsorily notifiable.



**Scarlet Fever.**—The number of notifications was the lowest reported during the last five years.

The cases were generally of a mild variety. Of the 38 cases reported, 27 arose in the Wycombe Sub-Registration District. Careful investigations have been made into all cases reported, and close watch taken on children with sore throats.

In cases where patients cannot be properly isolated at home the cases have been removed to hospital and their homes disinfected.

The control of Scarlet Fever is most difficult: the parents do not appear to heed the importance of slight sore throat when the disease is prevalent.

**Diphtheria.**—Compared with previous years, the number of Diphtheria cases reported showed a marked decrease. Of the eleven cases, eight came from Cores End and Bourne End, in the parish of Wooburn; these cases were attributable to carriers, two of which were imported cases.

During the past five years the Diphtheria patients have been chiefly children at ages 5 to 15—the School age—and the outbreaks of a mild form—so mild that in several instances the children were found running about; and only by swabbing was the bacillus discovered.

In the control of the disease the following measures are taken:—

1. A free supply of anti-toxin to all practitioners in the district, supplied in large or small doses as required.
2. Bacteriological examination of all throats and noses in doubtful cases, and of all contacts with notified cases, and close touch kept with the children at Schools.
3. The removal to Hospital of all cases notified, and the immediate disinfection of the homes with a formalin spray and formaldehyde gas.

In my Report for 1923, on page 6, with reference to the parish of Wooburn outbreak of Diphtheria, I stated: "Suspicion was directed to the River Wye, which receives the effluent from the Borough of Chepping Wycombe Sewage Works and flows through that portion of the area affected with zymotic disease. Eight samples were submitted to the Analyst for examination, and on the earlier samples he reported:—"The waters are very highly polluted . . . . .

When we get below the Sewage Works area the change is so appalling that no further explanation of the stench arising from the stream need be looked for. In my opinion it is quite clear that the sewage material has received insufficient treatment. . . . In the present circumstances one cannot but feel that the conditions are far from ideal for the health of the inhabitants."

It is to be observed that since the Corporation of Wycombe have produced an improved effluent a marked diminution in the number of Diphtheria cases from Wooburn has been recorded.

No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests.

**Small-pox.**—No cases have been notified in the district since 1903. Should cases arise the Bucks County Council are responsible for their isolation.

**Fever Cases.**—These cases are dealt with by the Joint Hospital Board, with its two Isolation Hospitals at Booker, near High Wycombe, to which cases are removed by motor ambulance.

**Facilities for Bacteriological Diagnosis.**—The Council have an arrangement with the Camberwell Research Laboratories for the free examination of swabs sent up by practitioners from patients resident in the district.

Vidal tests and the examination of spinal fluid are also undertaken.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to all patients, and can be obtained from Mr. R. P. Bristow, Chemist, High Wycombe (Telephone 111).

### **NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, & OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.**

Full particulars relating to the above was given by me on pages 9, 10, and 11 of my Report for 1924.

**Tuberculosis.**—There are three Sanatoria for residents in the District provided under the County Council scheme:—

- The Berks and Bucks Sanatorium, Peppard;
- The Headington Orthopædic Hospital; and
- The Lord Mayor Treloar's Home, Alton, Hants.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries are held at High Wycombe and County Health Office, Aylesbury, where the County Tuberculosis Officer attends.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 & upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	2	7	1	4	...	1	...	...

## WATER SUPPLY.

In the valleys, lower lying localities, and lower hills, tanks or shallow wells are generally met with, or a service is provided by Water Companies.

On the hills householders are dependent on the rainfall collected from roofs and stored in underground tanks.

Pollution of tanks is not often met with, as they are well constructed of cement concrete and covered with hinged wooden covers.

A watchful eye is kept on shallow wells; pollution of these may be suspected, but it is often difficult to demonstrate by analysis owing to the rapid flow of subsoil currents.

The following Water Companies have service mains in the parishes placed after their names:—

Bledlow Ridge—A private company has supplied houses on an estate in the parish of Bledlow, and of late an enquiry has been held in connection with same.

Great Marlow Water Company—Great Marlow, Little Marlow, Wooburn, Hedsor, and a portion of Chepping Wycombe.

The Chiltern Hills Water Company.

Wycombe Corporation Water Works Company—West Wycombe, Hughenden, Chepping Wycombe, and Little Marlow.



Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company—  
Chepping Wycombe.

Princes Risborough Water Company.

At Stokenchurch, in 1924, Messrs. Lucas & Pike, of Queen Victoria Street, London, completed a water scheme for the village of Stokenchurch, which has proved most successful, and a copious supply of water for all purposes is now available. The depth of the boring is 440 feet.

The rainfall during the past five years is as follows:—

1921	.....	15.80 inches.
1922	.....	32.18 ,,
1923	.....	30.78 ,,
1924	.....	36.36 ,,
1925	.....	29.04 ,,

Below average (1901-20) by 0.75. Average, 29.79.

In dry summers serious inconvenience is caused by the lack of adequate water supply in areas where springs or water mains are not available. This has to be supplemented by water carted from a distance.

The rain water storage is generally sufficient for a six-weeks drought in cases where animals are not kept and the roofs are of slate. Rural Areas are in an unenviable position through being faced with legal limitations as to cost. In many of the hilly districts a proper supply by means of underground tanks cannot be constructed for £13, the stipulated maximum amount for constructional work in providing a supply under Sec. 3 of the 1878 (P.H.(N)A., thus this section is largely inoperative, and low rateable value of many parishes impedes the carrying out of a general scheme.

Bungalows are becoming popular in many of the hilly districts, and with larger roof catchment area and large underground cemented tanks the fear of drought will not be so much felt.

**RAINFALL IN 1925.**

I am indebted to Mr. T. G. Lannon for the following figures taken at Hedsor, 170 feet above sea level:—

Month.	Greatest fall		Date.	No. of days in which rain fell.
	Amount. Inches.	in 24 hours. Inches.		
January .....	1.93	3.55	1st	11
February .....	2.98	0.62	25th	15
March .....	0.49	0.14	13th	10
April .....	1.84	0.34	5th	15
May .....	2.74	0.38	3rd	18
June .....	—	—	—	—
July .....	5.05	1.80	22nd	13
August .....	3.61	1.05	23rd	16
September .....	3.22	0.70	20th	16
October .....	3.80	0.88	19th	14
November .....	1.21	0.68	2nd	9
December .....	2.17	0.45	22nd	15
Totals .....	29.04			152

Below average (1901-1920) by 0.75. Average, 29.79.

Absolute droughts—June 1-July 2 ..... 32 days.

Sept. 27-Oct. 11 ..... 15 ,,

Nov. 10-Nov. 24 ..... 14 ,,

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

With the exception of the River Wye—which receives the effluent from the Wycombe Borough Sewage Works—the rivers and streams are practically free from pollution.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.**

With the transfer of Wendover to the Rural District of Aylesbury, there is now only one Sewage Farm, which is situate at Princes Risborough.

With a view of carrying out further works relating to Drainage and Sewerage at Princes Risborough, a Consulting Engineer has been instructed to submit a report to the Council.

West Wycombe Village has a small sewerage scheme, with outfall works in West Wycombe Park. These works are managed by the West Wycombe Park Estate, and during the past year a portion of the land drains were taken up and renewed, since which no further trouble has been reported.



The parish of Wooburn has given considerable anxiety with regard to improving the sanitation of the Parish, which is four miles long by two miles across, with hills on either side, the more thickly populated and congested areas being in the valley, where its natural site is not conducive to the best of health. The natural site of Wooburn, Cores End, and Bourne End is low lying, subject to damp fogs, and the ground is water-logged.

In November, 1919, the late Medical Officer of Health, John Dunbar Dickson, in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, reported on the methods of refuse and excrement disposal in this parish.

In 1920 the Committee undertook the removal of house waste, and late in 1923 the Sanitary Inspector was asked to prepare a Scavenging Scheme for the whole of the Parish, but difficulty was experienced in finding a suitable place for sewage disposal.

In 1924 a possible site was found, and the Committee requested the Ministry of Health to permit one of their Inspectors to visit the locality with a view of later acquiring the site by compulsory powers.

I accompanied Mr. Dawes (the Inspector sent down by the Ministry) and the Committee in making an inspection of the site; but the same did not meet with the approval of the Ministry.

It is realised by the Committee that the question of a Drainage and Sewerage Scheme for the parish will be a very expensive one owing to the water-logged condition of the valley through which the main sewer must pass and the after-treatment of the sewage on the hills.

In order to ascertain the possible cost of a scheme that would meet with the approval of the Ministry of Health, the Committee have decided to engage a Consulting Engineer for a general report.

#### **SCAVENGING, &c.**

The system of excrement disposal varies. Houses which are not connected to any main drainage system make use of W.C.'s and cesspool drainage, midden privies, earth closets, and privies with movable receptacles: the latter predominate.

The scavenging of E.C.'s and privies is only undertaken at Loudwater. At West Wycombe the Park Estate carry out the village scavenging. The removal and disposal of house refuse is under the control of the Parochial Committees at



Princes Risborough and Wooburn, and recently the Chepping Wycombe Parochial Committee have formulated a scheme for the parish of Chepping Wycombe.

General Scavenging Schemes for the emptying of cesspools, removal of house waste and the contents of pail closets have been submitted to the Council for the whole of the parishes of Wooburn, West Wycombe, and Chepping Wycombe.

### DRAINAGE.

With the exception of Princes Risborough and West Wycombe village, cesspools are in general use through the district.

The house drains are trapped, ventilated and discharge into cesspools. In the strictly rural areas the slops and waste water is thrown on gardens. The whole question of the scavenging of semi-urban parts of the district is one of some difficulty. Householders have ever-increasing difficulties in finding men to undertake the work, and suitable sites for the reception of cesspool drainage and excrement disposal is even more difficult to acquire.

I am not an engineer, but consider the time is not far distant when it will become necessary to go into the question of a combined drainage scheme for certain portions of the more urban portions of the district.

Nuisances from cesspools are of frequent occurrence, and great difficulty is experienced in effectually dealing with same.

### SANITARY INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

GENERAL:—	No. 1.	No. 2.
Number of Inspections .....		
„ Complaints received .....	28	13
„ Notices served .....	—	205
„ Nuisances detected without complaint ....	—	225
„ Nuisances abated by persons responsible	—	263
HOUSE NUISANCES:—		
Roofs repaired .....	11	16
Eaves guttering repaired .....	6	3
Pavements repaired .....	—	4
Overcrowding abated .....	3	1
Dirty rooms cleansed .....	54	48
Other house defects remedied .....	64	49
Drains cleansed, repaired, ventilated, etc. ....	10	17
New drains laid .....	16	10
Sinks provided .....	6	2

W.C.'s constructed .....	—	...	11
W.C.'s repaired .....	—	...	—
E.C.'s, Privies, etc., repaired .....	22	...	9
E.C.'s converted into W.C.'s .....	—	...	—
Privies converted into W.C.'s .....	—	...	—
WATER SUPPLY:—			
Houses supplied with water formerly without .....	—	...	—
R.W.T.'s, Cisterns, etc., cleansed and repaired .....	19	...	—
Wells cleansed and repaired .....	—	...	3
Samples of water analysed .....	4	...	6
Samples of water good .....	3	...	3
Samples of water bad .....	1	...	3

## FOOD.

### SURRENDERS OF UNSOUND FOOD.

#### OX, BULLOCK, COW:—

Carcase or portion of carcase—	lbs.	...	lbs.
Tuberculosis, Pleurisy, bruised and septic .....	1,808	...	953½
Visceral—Liver, heart, lungs, viscera .....	790	...	694¾
Other parts .....	120	...	381

#### PIG:—

Carcase or portion of carcase—		...	
Tuberculosis .....	859½	...	517½
Erysipelas .....	358	...	—
Putrefaction .....	58¾	...	—

#### BACON—

Pig—Heart, lungs, liver, and viscera .....	191¼	...	60
--	------	-----	----

#### MUTTON:—

Emaciated .....	70	...	60
Visceral .....	—	...	96

Totals .....	4,255½	...	2,775¼
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#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES:—

	No. 1.	...	No. 2.
Number on the Register .....	7	...	17
,, registered during year .....	—	...	—
,, licensed during year .....	1	...	2
,, defects found .....	2	...	2
,, defects remedied .....	2	...	2
,, Inspections .....	864	...	611

#### BAKEHOUSES:—

Number on Register .....	17	...	10
,, of Inspections .....	26	...	15
,, of defects found .....	—	...	1
,, of defects remedied .....	—	...	1

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS:—

Number of Cowkeepers on Register .....	147	...	126
„ Milk Traders, Wholesale and Retail .....	51	...	9
„ „ „ Wholesale .....	54	...	65
„ „ „ Retail .....	62	...	52
„ Inspections .....	184	...	139
„ defects found .....	64	...	56
„ defects remedied .....	59	...	50

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:—

Number on Register .....	121	...	39
„ of Imperfections .....	52	...	31
„ of defects found .....	8	...	7
„ of defects remedied .....	8	...	6

## VARIOUS:—

Infected houses visited .....	38	...	12
Infected houses disinfected .....	38	...	12
Manure accumulations removed .....	3	...	5
Animals improperly kept .....	2	...	3
Cesspools abolished .....	1	...	—
Inspection Chambers built .....	6	...	9
Scavenging Bye-laws contraventions .....	142	...	—

## SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served	No. of Notices.	Complied with.	Work in progress at end of year.	Notices not complied with.	Prosecutions.
P.H.A., 1875, Sec 91 .....	26	20	2	4	—
„ „ „ 23.....	5	—	5	—	—
„ „ „ 36.....	7	2	3	2	—
„ „ „ 46.....	6	6	—	—	—
P.H.A.A., 1907:—					
Sec 25 .....	3	—	3	—	—
„ 35 .....	3	1	2	—	—
„ 35 (1) .....	2	2	—	—	—
„ 46 .....	1	1	—	—	—
„ 49 .....	8	8	—	—	—
P.H.(W.)A., 1878, Sec. 6 ..	7	5	2	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, and Regulations.....	12	6	3	3	—
Housing Acts, 1925:—					
Sec. 3 .....	1	1	—	—	—
„ 11 .....	2	—	2	—	—
„ 14 .....	—	—	—	—	—
„ 15 .....	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>83</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>



Article 19 (12). Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.  
SUMMARY OF INFORMAL NOTICES OR LETTERS  
AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served.		No. of Informal Notices and Letters.	Complied with.	Not complied with.
P.H.A., 1875	Sec. 91.....	273	242	31
"	" 23 .....	52	47	5
"	" 36.....	61	57	4
P.H.A.A., 1907	" 25 (1) ...	4	1	3
"	" 35 (1) ...	7	5	2
"	" 35 (2) ...	18	7	11
"	" 46.....	6	—	6
"	" 49.....	9	2	7
P.H.(W.)A. 1878	" 6.....	12	10	2
Housing Acts and Regulations... Dairies and Cowsbeds Order, and The Milk and Dairies (Amend- ment) Act, 1922.....		125	114	11
		266	249	17
Totals .....		833	734	99

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

One Medical Officer of Health, who is part-time official and in general practice. He was appointed in March, 1923, after acting as Deputy to the late John Dunbar Dickson, M.D.

Two Sanitary Inspectors—Mr. Rowland H. Herring for No. 1 District, and Mr. R. Russell Richards for No. 2 District. Both are Certificated Inspectors, and are Associates of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Each Inspector has means of motor locomotion and telephonic communication.

**LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND  
REGULATIONS IN FORCE  
IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF WYCOMBE.**

**ADOPTIVE ACTS.**

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.  
Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.  
Public Health Amendment Act, 1907.

**BYE-LAWS.**

New Streets and Buildings (adopted 1898).  
With respect to Slaughter-houses (adopted 1915).  
With respect to cleansing Footways and Pavements, the removal of House Refuse, and cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits, and Cesspools (adopted 1921).

### REGULATIONS.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Regulations were revised and came into force on May 1st, 1923.

### HOUSING.

The general move by the Council in 1920 towards the erection of houses for the working classes has, with the work accomplished by the Housing Committee under the 1923 Housing Act, done much towards relieving the housing situation. There is, however, still much to be done for those who are not in a position to pay a larger rent for a larger house. The cases of overcrowding that are discovered are generally quite unavoidable, and are caused through insufficient income to pay the extra rent.

It is to be regretted the Housing Committee were unable to proceed with the erection of 8 houses at Bledlow, 6 at Kingshill, 6 at Monks Risborough, 34 at Stokenchurch, 42 at Bourne End, 12 at Hazlemere, 36 at West Wycombe, and 8 at Lane End, which were abandoned in June, 1921, on instructions of the Ministry of Health.

In the above parishes and places the older dwellings are badly designed, lighted and ventilated, and the arrangements of the sleeping accommodation leaves much to be desired. The cost of remedying by structural alterations many of the bad conditions is prohibitive to the small landlords.

Dampness of walls, defective roofs and gutters, general internal defects of walls, ceilings and floors are the chief defects found under the Housing Regulations, and in connection with the carrying out of repairs your officers experience many difficulties owing to the building strength of the district being fully employed with work under the Housing Acts, 1923, relating to houses erected under subsidy grant.

The Housing Committee have given every incentive to the erection of houses under the subsidy grant, and during the year ended May, 1925, 26 meetings were held.

From the following figures it will be seen that good work has been accomplished since the Housing Act, 1923, came into operation:—Total number of houses approved for Grant: 30th December, 1924, 229; 30th December, 1925, 446; ditto commenced, 185, 394; ditto completed, 109, 311. In 1925 approximately £30,000 was advanced in order to assist persons to build houses.



**UNHEALTHY DWELLINGS, &c.**

Your Housing Committee have also had under consideration a preliminary report presented to them by their Sub-Committee with regard to housing conditions in the parishes of Wooburn and Stokenchurch containing the following suggestions:—

**STOKENCHURCH.**—That the block of houses in the Square, with three adjacent cottages situate in the Bowling Green, be dealt with as an improvement scheme, and that houses be built to re-house the tenants of certain houses which will be demolished.

**WOOBURN.**—That six houses be built at Bourne End to house tenants living in houses in respect of which the Council have issued closing orders, and that half-an-acre of land be purchased for the purpose.

The Housing Committee have agreed with their Special Committee's recommendation, and desire the Council to approve of a detailed scheme being prepared and submitted to them for consideration.

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**HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.**

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total .....	312
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme (Subsidy Houses) .....	202

**1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES—**

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	208
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .....	149
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	4
(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: .....	109

2. 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 .....	191
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS:—	
A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners .....	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of O	
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners to close .....	—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	28
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners .....	26
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:—	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders .....	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit .....	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	—



### MILK SUPPLY.

The milk produced in the district is of a rich quality, and is obtained from dairy cows kept by local farmers who turn the cows out to graze and bring them home for milking. The dairies, cow sheds and milk shops have received periodical inspections, and as a rule the premises have been found clean and well kept. Improvements to the older cow sheds, to be of much benefit, would necessitate re-building, in some cases re-roofing, or other very serious outlay in others. It is to be regretted that the cowkeepers and not the owner of these structures is required to carry out the needful sanitary amendments.

Milk Samples are regularly taken by the County Council Inspectors under the Food and Drugs Acts.

No provision is made by the Council for a systematic inspection of the cattle by a Veterinary Inspector, but the Sanitary Officials have power to call in a Veterinary Surgeon in case of a suspicious cow being noticed.

### MEAT.

Slaughter-houses, butchers' shops and other premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale receive frequent inspections. The visits to slaughter-houses are timed, as far as possible, when slaughtering is taking place, so that the carcasses and organs can be examined *in situ*.

The installation of the telephone to your Inspectors has greatly facilitated the work of inspection and the carrying out of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations Act, 1924.

Previous to the Regulations coming into force all persons affected were acquainted by printed circular of the requirements of the 1924 Meat Regulations.

The establishment of a satisfactory scheme of cattle insurance and compensation by the Vale of Aylesbury Cattle Insurance Society has been extended to your district, whereby the butchers can now claim compensation should the animal on slaughter be found to be suffering from disease and certified by your Inspectors to be unfit for human consumption, has greatly assisted in preventing traffic in unsound food. It is gratifying to know that, with very few exceptions, the butchers have become members of the above Society, and take an active part in the work of the same.

Diseased meat, etc., whenever possible, is taken for "salvage" by the Secretary of the Vale of Aylesbury Cattle Insurance Society.

Several lots of diseased meat, etc., were submitted for inspection. In each case the same were carefully examined, the diseased or unsound food being in all cases voluntarily surrendered by the tradesmen for destruction.

**PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES IN USE.**

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered .....	23	23	24
Licensed .....	—	1	3
	—	—	—
Totals .....	23	24	27
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

I am much indebted to both of the Sanitary Inspectors for their valuable aid and the keenness they display.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

**FRANCIS H. P. WILLS,**

Medical Officer of Health.







