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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1937

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# Hitchin Urban District Council, 1937

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A. PERCY RUSCOE

*Council Offices :*

OLD TOWN HALL, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1937.

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*Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer (part time) :*

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Sanitary Inspector, Cleansing Superintendent and  
Inspector under Petroleum Acts :*

WILLIAM H. BATES, M.S.I.A., CERTS. R. SAN. INST.

*Offices :*

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

123, NORTON WAY, LETCHWORTH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:—

NEW TOWN HALL, BRAND STREET, HITCHIN.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Council :—*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of your district for the year 1937. The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1561, dated the 10th October, 1937.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres) .. .. .	3,850
Residential Population (Registrar General's figure)..	16,830
Average number of inhabitants per house .. ..	3.3
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	5,080
Rateable value (end of 1937) .. .. .	£124,231
Average rateable value per house .. .. .	£17
Sum represented by a penny rate .. .. .	£465

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTHS:—

				<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .				131	137	268
Illegitimate .. .. .				3	7	10
						<hr/> 278

Birth-Rate .. .. . 16.5

DEATHS .. .. .	92	102	194
Death-Rate .. .. .	11.5		

### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:—

Legitimate .. .. .	3	10	13
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
			<hr/> 13

Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand births) 43.1.

## STILL-BIRTHS:—

Legitimate	..	..	..	6	4	10
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
						10

Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) 0.59.

The comparative figures for the small towns of England and Wales are as follows:—

	<i>Small Towns.</i>			<i>Hitchin.</i>
Birth-Rate	..	..	..	15.3
Death-Rate	..	..	..	11.9
Infant Mortality Rate	..	..	..	55
Still-birth Rate	..	..	..	0.64
				0.59

The comparison is in every case slightly favourable to Hitchin and the figures are quite good. The population figure is probably an under-estimate, but we have to accept that estimate.

The principal causes of death are as follows:—

Congenital diseases and Prematurity	..	..	..	8
Senility	..	..	..	11
Diseases of the circulatory system	..	..	..	60
Diseases of the pulmonary system	..	..	..	12
Influenza	..	..	..	10
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	2
Malignant Disease	..	..	..	47

There was one death from puerperal disease other than sepsis, No death from puerperal sepsis, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria was recorded. One death from infantile diarrhoea was recorded. This is a satisfactory record, but the infant mortality rate is not as good as it might be.

## NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following notifications were received during 1937:—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Undulant Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

There was an increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, but the disease was not epidemic and on the whole was of a mild type.



## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This Hospital now serves Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Stevenage Urban Districts, and Hitchin and Welwyn Rural Districts. Up to now, the record of the Hospital has been a good one.

The Hospital was opened in 1915 and since then 2,636 patients have been admitted and 55 deaths have occurred. This gives a percentage of 2.09 deaths.

Of these deaths, 24 were from Diphtheria, 8 from Scarlet Fever and 19 were from the deadly Cerebro-spinal Meningitis which occurred during and after the war.

This good result was largely due to the co-operation of Medical Practitioners in sending in cases quickly, even sometimes before the diagnosis was confirmed. Much can be done in treating these infectious diseases in their early stages, and the Board is anxious to encourage the early admission of patients.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### NOTIFICATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ... ..	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
5—10 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20 ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25 ... ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55—65 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	4	4	—	6	—	1	—	—



## MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Number of children examined .. .. .	516
Enlarged tonsils and adenoids .. .. .	187
Defective vision .. .. .	72
Defective teeth .. .. .	59

The improvement in the condition of the children continues and the real unhealthy unclean child is now rarely met with. Some of the children now shew excellent sets of teeth and work in this department goes steadily on. The nutrition of the boys and girls improves, and parents seem anxious to get advice about the health and feeding of their children.

It is to be hoped that the schools will take every advantage of the excellent swimming bath now available for them, one of the healthiest exercises they can go in for is swimming and bathing in the open air.

### GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The sudden death of Mr. Kemp was a great blow to his many friends. He was the first to take up the position of full-time Sanitary Inspector and he was very conscientious and did his work thoroughly. The work grew all the time during his appointment but he kept pace with it as best he could.

Mr. Bates, who was appointed to succeed Mr. Kemp, has shewn a thorough grasp of his work, and is proving a very congenial colleague to work with.

I wish to thank Mr. Ruscoe and Mr. Bates for their co-operation in the Public Health work.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1937.

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Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1937, in accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926. The report deals with the administration of the Public Health and Housing Acts, Orders and Regulations made under these Acts, also the Shops Act, 1934, and the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in the district.

The year was marked by the illness and subsequent death on the 25th July of Mr. T. L. Kemp, who had served your Authority as Sanitary Inspector for the last twelve years. By the death of Mr. Kemp, the Council lost a valued and loyal servant and at a meeting of the Council held on the 28th July tributes were paid to the excellent work carried out by him during that period.

During Mr. Kemp's illness and the interim between his death and my taking over duties on the 1st November, much extra work and responsibility devolved on Mr. Summerfield (foreman) and Mr. R. W. Knape (clerk). These duties were carried out in a very praiseworthy manner and the work of the Department was, to a great extent, kept up to date. Mr. S. T. Gunning, Senior Sanitary Inspector to the Hitchin Rural District Council, kindly offered his services and acted in a consultant capacity.

I took over duties on the 1st November, 1937, and the greater part of my time during November and December was spent in becoming acquainted with the District.

During the year, two new Acts came into force, viz:—The Housing Act, 1936, and the Public Health Act, 1936. Whilst these are mainly Acts consolidating previous legislation, many new clauses increasing the responsibilities and duties of the Sanitary Inspector have been introduced. Further legislation is pending, and a new Factory Act has been passed and comes into operation in July, 1938. A new Food and Drugs Bill is at the present time under consideration and is likely to become operative during 1938.



In addition to the extra duties assigned to Sanitary Inspectors by these new enactments, it is becoming increasingly difficult to assimilate the many technical and legal problems raised and I would emphasize the enormous help and assistance received by attending the meetings and conferences of the Technical and Professional Associations, e.g., The Sanitary Inspectors' Association and the Royal Sanitary Institute. It is only by a mutual interchange of opinions and the discussion of methods of procedure that a uniform system of administration can be obtained.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 45 cases of Scarlet Fever and 20 cases of Diphtheria notified during the year. 63 of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and the remaining two cases treated at home. The source of infection could not be attributed to any one milk supply or any particular district or circumstances. One case of Diphtheria and two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at the North Herts. & South Beds. Hospital and two cases of Scarlet Fever at Chalkdell House.

Disinfection of all infected rooms and their contents is carried out by spraying disinfectant fluid (to humidify the air) followed by formaldehyde gaseous disinfection. Library books from both public and private libraries are collected and disinfected before being returned into circulation.

During the year, 84 rooms in private houses were disinfected. This figure includes 11 rooms disinfected after Tuberculosis and 12 rooms disinfected after Cancer, etc.

Where necessary, articles of bedding, etc., were taken to the Isolation Hospital and subjected to steam disinfection.



The following table shews the incidence of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and other Infectious Diseases in Hitchin during the past 13 years:—

YEAR	SCARLET FEVER		DIPHTHERIA		ERYSIPELAS		OTHER DISEASES		ALL DISEASES	
	Home	Hosp. Total	Home	Hosp. Total	Home	Hosp. Total	Home	Hosp. Total	Home	Hosp. Total
1925	6	25	—	3	—	1	—	—	6	29
1926	11	13	—	3	—	—	—	—	11	16
1927	2	9	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	11
1928	—	9	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	11
1929	3	13	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	16
1930	3	17	—	2	—	—	—	1	4	19
1931	2	27	—	44	—	—	—	—	2	71
1932	3	6	—	30	1	—	—	—	4	36
1933	2	15	—	7	1	2	—	1	4	23
1934	3	30	—	6	—	—	—	—	3	36
1935	9	25	1	20	—	—	—	—	10	45
1936	1	59	—	8	—	—	—	—	1	67
1937	2	43	—	20	1	1	5	3	8	66
	47	291	2	150	3	2	7	3	59	446
		338		152		5		10		505
Av. p.a.	3.6	22.4	0.15	11.5	0.23	0.15	0.54	0.23	4.54	34.3
		26.0		11.7		0.39		0.77		38.8

# ACTION TAKEN UNDER HOUSING ACTS

1919—1936.

## DEMOLITION OF HOUSES NOT CAPABLE OF REPAIR.

During the year, it was not found necessary to make any new Clearance Orders. Demolition Orders were made in respect of two empty houses. In addition, one house, No. 163, Stevenage Road, for which an undertaking to recondition had been received, was, after further consideration by the owner, demolished.

The following table shows the number of houses demolished or closed from 1923 to 1937.

Year.	Area.	CLEARANCE ORDERS		DEMOLITION ORDERS	
		No. of houses	No. of persons rehoused	No. of houses	No. of persons rehoused
1923.—	St. Andrew's Street	.. 82	250	—	—
1924.—		.. —	—	—	—
1925.—	Queen Street ..	.. 108	387	—	—
1926.—		.. —	—	—	—
1927.—		.. —	—	—	—
1928.—		.. —	—	—	—
1929.—		.. —	—	—	—
1930.—		.. —	—	—	—
1931.—		.. —	—	—	—
1932.—		.. —	—	—	—
1933.—		.. —	—	—	—
1934.—		.. —	—	—	—
1935.—		.. —	—	—	—
1936.—	Parcell's Yard ..	.. 5	8	—	—
	Parcell's Yard ..	.. 2	7	—	—
	Stevenage Road ..	.. 6	17	—	—
	Queen Street ..	.. 5	19	—	—
1937.—	Bancroft ..	.. —	—	2	(empty)
		208	688	2	—



## REPAIR OR RE-CONDITIONING OF UNFIT HOUSES CAPABLE OF REPAIR.

The following table shews the number of houses repaired or reconditioned under the above Acts as a result of action by this Department, from 1925 to 1937:—

### HOUSES MADE FIT.

Year.						Formal Procedure.	Informal Procedure.
1925	..	..	..	..	..	—	7
1926	..	..	..	..	..	—	224
1927	..	..	..	..	..	48	48
1928	..	..	..	..	..	3	42
1929	..	..	..	..	..	1	103
1930	..	..	..	..	..	5	87
1931	..	..	..	..	..	2	119
1932	..	..	..	..	..	5	89
1933	..	..	..	..	..	7	14
1934	..	..	..	..	..	10	14
1935	..	..	..	..	..	5	11
1936	..	..	..	..	..	4	9
1937	..	..	..	..	..	9	106
						99	873

### OVERCROWDING.

The overcrowding survey completed in July, 1936, shewed 17 privately owned houses and 33 Council houses, to be overcrowded and 15 houses which were likely to become overcrowded in 1937/38. No specific action was taken by the Council to re-house these families, but on the 8th November last, the figures had been reduced to:—3 privately owned houses and 20 Council houses overcrowded. The details are shown in the following tables:—



# HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTIONS 57-70.

## SUMMARY OF OVERCROWDING.

8th NOVEMBER, 1937.

### COUNCIL HOUSES.

Overcrowded at Survey	..	..	..	..	..	33
Abated before " Number of houses required " agreed upon						5
						—
						28
Added after review	..	..	..	..	..	4
						—
						32
Overcrowding due to lodgers	..	..	..	..	..	6
						—
						26
Since abated	..	..	..	..	..	8
						—
						18
Found since	..	..	..	..	..	2
						—
Number now overcrowded	..					20
						—

### PRIVATELY OWNED HOUSES.

Overcrowded at Survey	..	..	..	..	..	17
Abated before " Number of houses required " agreed upon						3
						—
						14
Added after review	..	..	..	..	..	1
						—
						15
Overcrowding due to lodgers	..	..	..	..	..	2
						—
						13
Abated since	..	..	..	..	..	12
						—
						1
Found since	..	..	..	..	..	2
						—
Number now overcrowded	..					3
						—

# NUMBER OF PERSONS (IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE) IN OVERCROWDED FAMILIES.

8th NOVEMBER, 1937.

	NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS.								TOTAL
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
COUNCIL HOUSES.	—	4	4	6	4	—	1	1	20
PRIVATE HOUSES.	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL	1	6	4	6	4	—	1	1	23

## REHOUSING PROPOSALS.

Three families can be provided for by transfer from privately owned houses to Council houses after providing new houses for Council house tenants, viz:—

One family of six persons:—Small 3 bedroomed house.

Two families of seven persons:—Large 3 bedroomed house.

Net additional accommodation required.

Number.	Type.
4 ..	3 bedroomed (large)
4 ..	4 bedroomed (ordinary)
6 ..	4 bedroomed (large)
6 ..	5 bedroomed
—	
20	
—	

On considering this amended report, the Council decided to prepare a scheme for the erection of houses for re-housing these families. It is hoped that in this way, all overcrowding in the district will be abated during 1938. There is no doubt that this work has been retarded pending the decision of the Ministry of Health regarding the subsidies for re-housing purposes. The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, however, fixes an Exchequer contribution of £5 - 10s - 0d. per house for a period of 40 years, the Local Authority to contribute half an equivalent sum spread over a period of 60 years.



## MINISTRY OF LABOUR TRAINEES.

In close proximity to the town is situated a Ministry of Labour training centre, and large numbers of the trainees are in lodgings in Hitchin. The necessity of ascertaining where these are living and the prevention and abatement of overcrowding caused by them, causes a considerable amount of work. Closer co-operation with the Authorities concerned would considerably help in this direction.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Since coming to Hitchin, I have been conscious of the prevalence of the bed-bug (*cimex lectularius*) in large numbers in both privately-owned and Council houses. Up to the end of 1937, however, no real effort could be made to deal with this problem; it is hoped that a scheme for the satisfactory eradication of this troublesome pest may be put into operation during the ensuing year.

## MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

The Council have erected 639 houses and flats, situate as follows:—

			Minimum Inclusive Rent	Maximum Inclusive Rent
		Number		
Westmill Estate	..	293	6/11	14/6
Sunnyside Estate	..	180	8/5	13/10
Walsworth Estate	..	166	6/11	8/8

The supervision and management of these houses is carried out by the Surveyor's Department.

## PROVISION OF ACCOMMODATION BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

The following table shews the number of houses erected by private enterprise during the last four years:—

Year						Number
1934	..	..	..	..	..	180
1935	..	..	..	..	..	176
1936	..	..	..	..	..	329
1937	..	..	..	..	..	297
TOTAL ..						982



This total includes houses built in the undermentioned Development Areas:—

	Number of houses
Common Rise .. .. .	126
Bury Field, etc. .. .. .	290
Cambridge Road, Hampden Road, etc. .. .. .	192
Purwell Lane .. .. .	16
Cadwell Lane .. .. .	42
Wymondley Road and "The Chilterns" .. .. .	41
Mount Pleasant, High View, West Hill (recent), and Grays Lane (recent) .. .. .	66
Bearton Green .. .. .	54

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

During the year one common lodging-house was re-registered by the Council in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Acts for a period of one year ending on the 31st March, 1938, and may thereafter be re-registered from time to time for a period not exceeding one year.

The premises have been kept in an excellent condition. There has been no occasion to serve any Notices and all the Regulations regarding the premises have been complied with by the Registered Keeper.

The existing Byelaws and Regulations in force were made under the Public Health Acts, 1875, and are dated 21st April, 1925.

## RIVERS POLLUTION.

The district is drained by the Rivers Hiz, Oughton and Purwell. The River Hiz flows past a Tanyard and Distillery but no serious pollution from these sources was noted during the year. It was, however, found that the trade effluent from a flour mill was discharged into a surface water drain which ultimately discharged into an open drain on Walsworth Common.

This effluent gave rise to a serious nuisance owing to its fermenting properties. The owners were approached, and without demur reconstructed their drainage system, and the effluent now finds its way into the foul water sewer.

Oil from motor vehicles, car washings and the residue from a coke washing machine situated at the Gas Works also find their way into the streams. This pollution cannot, however, be regarded as serious as it is common to most districts. Some interference with the flow is caused by various kinds of rubbish being thrown into the River Hiz, which, however, receives the attention of the Department when discovered.

## WATER SUPPLY.

With the exception of a few isolated cases on the outskirts of the district, the whole of Hitchin obtains its water from a piped supply owned by the Council. The Water Engineer is Mr. S. Davey to whom I am indebted for the following information.

The water is obtained from one shallow well (Bath Spring) and two deep wells (Well Head and Temple End) situated at Charlton, a hamlet on the south-west side of the district. The sub-soil of the district is chalk, the supply of water plentiful and even in times of drought has shewn no signs of serious diminution. In addition to the town, the Council also supply water to the areas of Ickleford, Cadwell, St. Ippolyts, Gosmore and Little Almshoe in the Hitchin Rural District.

The water is conveyed to purification and storage tanks situated in Queen Street and Windmill Hill whence it is pumped to various parts of the district.

In September, 1936, a sample of water of doubtful quality was obtained from the Well Head supply. This well was instantly cut off and Messrs. Balfour & Sons, Consulting Engineers, of London, were called in. On their advice, the Council decided to install a chlorinating plant and to treat all water. This plant was installed at Queen Street works in July, 1937, and since that date all water has been chlorinated and de-chlorinated. Samples are taken frequently and shew the water to be of a high bacteriological standard and quite suitable for drinking purposes.

The following are the results of samples taken for analysis during the year:—



No. of Sample	Untreated			After Treatment						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Works	Well Head	Temple End and Well Head Wells	Works	Works	High Level	Low Level	Ickleford Road	Works	Biggin Main
Date Collected.	5/7/37	5/7/37	23/8/37	23/8/37	27/9/37	27/9/37	5/11/37	5/11/37	7/12/37	20/12/37
<b>CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.</b>	Parts per 100,000									
Ammonia Saline	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" Albuminoid	.0012	.0004	.0004	.0002	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004	.0004
Oxygen absorbed at 27' C.	.004	.002	.003	.002	.001	.002	.002	.002	.003	.003
" in 15 mins.	.009	.006	.007	.006	.006	.006	.006	.006	.007	.007
" in 4 hours	38.0	36.8	36.0	38.0	36.9	36.8	36.8	36.3	36.1	36.1
Total Solid Residue	1.35	1.35	1.30	1.35	1.40	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.30	1.30
Chlorine	.30	.33	.20	.30	.33	.30	.30	.28	.20	.30
Nitrogen, as Nitrates	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen, as Nitrites	26.2	25.6	25.6	26.2	25.6	25.6	25.6	25.6	25.6	25.6
Total Hardness	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous Metal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Iron	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Analyst's Remarks										
<b>BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.</b>										
No. of organisms growing at (per c.c.)	5	26	Nil	Nil	2	1	1	1	Nil	Nil
37'C (98.4'F.)	8	215	1	1	7	2	2	4	Nil	2
22'C (71.6'F.)										
Ratio "Blood Heat" to "Cool" Organisms	1:1.6	1:8.3	0:1	Nil	1:3.5	1:2	1:2	1.4	Nil	0:2
Coliform Organisms	Nil	50	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
present in (c.cs)	150	—	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
absent from (c.cs)										
Streptococcal orgs.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
present in (c.cs.)	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
absent from (c.cs.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fluorescence	Fairly Good	Unsatis- factory	Excellent	Excellent	Satis- factory	Excellent	Excellent	Satis- factory	Excel- ent	Excellent
Analyst's Remarks										



The following table shews the consumption of water for the past six years:—

YEAR	CONSUMPTION OF WATER (in thousands of gallons)					STORAGE ACCOMMODATION		NEW SERVICES CON- NECTED	TOTAL NO. OF SERVICES	
	Unmea- sured Supplies	Measured Supplies		TOTAL	DAILY CONSUMPTION					
		General	H.R.D.C.		Average	Max.				
1932-33	171,832	8,396	6,625	186,853	512	742	98,000	1,000,000	240	4213
1933-34	173,859	8,411	8,715	190,985	523	777	98,000	1,643,000	192	4405
1934-35	156,124	12,975	8,012	177,111	485	770	98,000	1,643,000	105	4510
1935-36	169,935	17,641	9,103	196,679	537	782	98,000	1,643,000	277	4787
1936-37	182,757	19,045	9,973	211,775	580	804	98,000	1,643,000	271	5058

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The collection and disposal of house refuse is under the control and supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

In the district there are approximately 5,500 portable ashbins which are emptied weekly (in the case of certain flats and premises in the centre of the town, collections are made twice weekly), Trade and market refuse is also collected and disposed of by this Department.

Collection is carried out by three low-loading motor freighters of seven cubic yards capacity, each vehicle being served by a driver and three or four loaders. No collection is made on Saturday mornings (except after holidays), the drivers being engaged in cleaning, oiling and carrying out minor running repairs to the freighters, whilst the other men are absorbed by other Departments and carry out such works as street sweeping, labouring on highways, etc.

The absence of a centrally situated public weighing machine makes it impossible to weigh every load of refuse. No loads were weighed prior to November 4th, 1937, since when 27 loads taken at random and from varying localities have been weighed. Whilst still carrying out random weighings, it is hoped in future that a more accurate estimate of the quantity of town's refuse collected may be obtained by weighing every load removed during the second weeks of April and October. This method may cause some slight disorganisation, but in the circumstances, it would appear to be the only practicable method of obtaining this very necessary information, for it is useless to give comparative costs per ton unless the weights are reliable.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping at St. John's Road tip. Three men are engaged on this work and although it is in close proximity to dwelling-houses, no serious complaints of smell or rats have been received during the year.

When I took over duties, the weight per load of refuse was estimated at two tons. This estimate seemed high and random loads weighed shewed the average weights to be as follows:—

HOUSE REFUSE—I ton, 8 cwts. 0 qrs.

TRADE REFUSE—17 cwts., 0 qrs.

MARKET REFUSE—15 cwts., 1 qr.



and it is on these figures that the following statistics are based:—

	House Refuse.			Trade Refuse.			Market Refuse.		
Number of loads weighed..	23			2			2		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Average weight per load ..	1	8	0		17	0	15	1	
Number of loads collected..	3144			300			124		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Weight of refuse collected	440	12	0	255	0	0	94	11	0
TOTAL WEIGHT—4751 tons, 3 cwts., 0 qrs.									

### COST OF COLLECTION.

	Total.			Cost per ton.	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wages and insurance contributions ..	148	1	5	6	2.83
Freighters:—					
Petrol and oil .. .. .	146	12	8		7.41
Maintenance .. .. .	21	13	0		1.09
Tax .. .. .	115	0	0		5.81
Insurance .. .. .	18	8	6		0.95
Loan Charges .. .. .	93	18	0		4.95
Sundries .. .. .	17	14	2		0.87
TOTAL COST .. .. .	1894	11	9	8	0.75
Less income for collection of trade refuse .. .. .	84	10	0		4.27
Less income for collection of Market refuse .. .. .	132	0	0		6.67
Net cost of collection ..	£1678	1	9	7	1.18

### COST OF DISPOSAL.

				Cost per ton.	
	£	s.	d.	s.	d.
Wages and insurance contributions ..	533	17	2	2	2.93
Highways Department .. .. .	9	4	3		0.45
Highways Plant .. .. .	55	1	4		2.67
Sundries .. .. .	40	14	7		2.06
	£638	17	4	2	8.11

Number of men employed:—Collection 11, Disposal 3.



# STATEMENT OF COMPARATIVE COSTS, etc.

	Urban Districts throughout England and Wales.*				Hitchin
Weight per 1000 population per day	17.9 cwts.				15.8 cwts.
	s. d.				7. d.
<i>Net expenditure per ton.</i>					
Collection	..	..	..	7 9	7 2
Disposal	..	..	..	2 2	2 8
Total	..	..	..	9 3	9 10
<i>Total net expenditure per ton ex- cluding loan charges and expendi- ture for new plant out of revenue</i>				8 7	9 1
<i>Net expenditure per 1000 population per annum—</i>					
Collection	..	..	..	£118	£100
Disposal	..	..	..	£33	£38
Total	..	..	..	£149	£138
<i>Net expenditure per 1000 houses per annum—</i>					
Collection	..	..	..	£432	£336
Disposal	..	..	..	£120	£128
Total	..	..	..	£547	£464

These tables shew that whereas the cost per ton is slightly in excess, the costs per thousand population and per thousand houses are considerably below the England and Wales figures. This can be explained by the fact that a number of towns base their costs on estimated weights which, upon examination, would appear to be unduly high.

The weight of 15.8 cwts. per thousand population per day for Hitchin compares very favourably with the weight of 14.9 cwts. per thousand population per day for districts throughout the country in which 80% or more of refuse was actually weighed. The cost per ton for collection and disposal in these districts appears to be 16s. 10d.†

\*As per Table VIII of the Costing Returns of the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st March, 1936.

†As per Preface to the Costing Returns.

In making a comparison with the costs for the year 1936, one cannot take into account the weight removed, and for the basis of comparison, only the costs per thousand population and per thousand houses can be reviewed. These are as follows:—

*Net expenditure per 1000 population per annum—*

					England and Wales.*	Hitchin.	
					1936	1936	1937
Collection	..	..	..	..	£118	£103	£100
Disposal	..	..	..	..	£33	£42	£38
Total	..	..	..	..	£149	£145	£138

*Net expenditure per 1000 houses per annum—*

Collection	..	..	..	..	£432	£346	£336
Disposal	..	..	..	..	£120	£140	£128
Total	..	..	..	..	£547	£486	£464

\*As per Table VIII of the Costing Returns of the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st March, 1936.

### RAINFALL, etc.

No official recordings are kept by this Department, but I am indebted to Mr. E. F. D. Bloom, M.A., Secretary of the Regional Survey Association, for the following data:—

The total rainfall in 1937 recorded by Mr. Bloom at "Crofton," The Avenue, Hitchin, (300 feet O.D.) was 33.62 inches.

This represents an excess of 37.1% above the average (24.52 inches) recorded by Mr. Alfred Latchmore for the fifty years ended 1899.

The monthly totals were:—

January	..	..	..	..	..	3.98
February	..	..	..	..	..	3.13
March	..	..	..	..	..	3.59
April	..	..	..	..	..	2.78
May	..	..	..	..	..	3.45
June	..	..	..	..	..	2.78
July	..	..	..	..	..	2.92
August	..	..	..	..	..	1.30
September	..	..	..	..	..	2.37
October	..	..	..	..	..	2.56
November	..	..	..	..	..	1.60
December	..	..	..	..	..	3.16

In every other month except August, October and November the fall was in excess of normal; and in January, February and March, it was more than double the normal.



The year has been characterised by floods and the prevalence of thunderstorms and fogs, and the only redeeming feature was the comparative fineness of the holiday season.

An almost rainless period of about a month also occurred from the third week of September to the third week of October.

### **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

There are separate systems for the disposal of sewerage and surface water. The whole of the district, with the exception of the hamlet of Charlton and a few outlying houses on the north-west side of the district, is effectively drained by these means. Surface water is conveyed to the Rivers Hiz and Purwell.

The Council's Sewage Works are situate in Grove Road, north of the developed part of the town, and are under the control of the Surveyor (Mr. W. L. Whittle). Treatment is by means of sedimentation and filtration. The present works have a capacity of 750,000 gallons per day. The effluent, after treatment, is passed into the River Hiz at a point near the district boundary. Sludge is pumped from the sedimentation tanks to drying tanks and the dried sludge sold for manurial purposes.

As already stated, the hamlet of Charlton is, at the present time, without any adequate system of sewerage or drainage. The houses are, in the main, provided with pail closets or connected to cesspools or soak-aways. Sink-waste, etc., finds its way into the river. This arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory and in the near future the question of sewerage for this district will have to be considered.

### **RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.**

The duties of Rat Officer under the above Act are carried out by Mr. J. Dubbin under the direction of the County Council, and a close co-operation exists between him and this Department. I would take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the ready way in which he assists and advises in this branch of the work.

During Rat Week (November 1st to 6th), posters were displayed and numerous complaints and enquiries re the prevalence of rats were received and dealt with.

### **SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS.**

The Council's open air Swimming Bath in Queen Street was the only bath open to the general public, and apart from its unsatisfactory condition, was quite inadequate for the present requirements. The Council have begun the construction of a new open air Swimming Pool in Fishponds Road, (adjoining Butt's Close Common) and this will be ready for use in 1938.



## PETROLEUM ACTS.

The duties under these Acts are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. During the year 1937

- 3 new storage tanks and pumps were installed,
- 3 installations were amended or enlarged,
- 47 licences were renewed.

The licences permit the storage of 89,500 gallons of petrol in tanks and 1,950 gallons of petrol in tins, a total of 91,450 gallons and also 50 cwts. of Carbide of Calcium.

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

At the end of the year, 32 persons held licences under the Act as licensed slaughtermen. All licences are granted for a period of one year.

Two slaughter-houses use electrically operated instruments for stunning pigs. Licensed slaughtermen engaged in the other eight slaughter-houses use mechanically operated instruments in the form of a captive bolt pistol, although electricity is available for lighting in four of these slaughter-houses.

Section 2 of the Act regarding the use of mechanically operated instruments for stunning sheep, etc., has been carefully considered by the Council, but has not yet been adopted in this district

## INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are three licensed slaughter-houses and seven registered slaughter-houses in the district. One of the licensed slaughter-houses is a Bacon Factory, and is also used for the manufacture of pork food products. They have been systematically inspected, and are, on the whole, kept in a satisfactory condition. It has not been necessary, during the year, to serve any notices in respect of them.

The following table shews the number of animals killed and inspected during the year:—

		Aged					
		Cows.	Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.	Total
BACON FACTORY							
Number killed ..	..	—	—	—	—	61800	61800
Number inspected ..	..	—	—	—	—	5024	5024
% inspected ..	..	—	—	—	—	8.1	8.1
OTHER SLAUGHTERHOUSES							
Number killed ..	..	23	783	4212	221	4082	9321
Number inspected ..	..	23	519	3735	124	3448	7849
Total killed ..	..	23	783	4212	221	65882	71121
% inspected ..	..	100.0	66.4	88.7	56.1	80.4	84.2
TOTAL							
Number killed ..	..	23	783	4212	221	65882	71121
Number inspected ..	..	23	519	3735	124	8472	12873
% inspected ..	..	100.0	66.4	88.7	56.1	12.8	18.1



It will be seen from the above table that efforts are made to inspect all animals killed at private slaughter-houses, and when it is realised that slaughtering takes place from Monday to Saturday each week and occasionally on Sundays the percentage inspected viz:—84.2, can be regarded as satisfactory. The pigs killed at the Bacon Factory may be divided into three categories, viz:—

Sows and Boars 827,

Bacon Pigs 56,576,

Porkers 4,397.

This means that an average of 250 pigs are killed daily, and if an examination of every pig was made, it would mean (allowing an average of one and a half minutes per pig) over six hours work per day. It is obvious that with the present staff this is impossible and it has only been practicable to see the sows, boars and porkers. Altogether, only 8.1% of the pigs killed at the Bacon Factory were examined. Even to make this small percentage of inspection in addition to my other duties, or when engaged on other Council business, it was necessary to use the services of Mr. F. Summerfield to make preliminary examinations and detain for further inspection any carcasses which in any way appeared likely to be diseased or unfit for food. This arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory and requires to be considered at an early date.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the way in which all the private butchers and the management of the Bacon Factory endeavour to assist me in carrying out this important branch of Public Health work, and also to pay tribute to the high quality of meat killed in the town.

The following table shews the amount of meat, etc., found to be diseased and/or unfit for food during the year. In all cases the articles were voluntarily surrendered by the owners. Should an animal which before slaughter appears to be perfectly healthy, but when killed turns out to be diseased or unfit for food, it is to be regretted that, in view of the heavy loss which is suffered by the butchers, a system of Mutual Insurance by the Breeders, Auctioneers and Butchers, such as is in force in many parts of the country, could not be put into operation in Hitchin.

The following carcasses, offal, etc., were found to be diseased and unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed during the year 1937:—

EX BACON FACTORY	Tubercular		Other than TB		Total w't in lbs.
	No.	Weight	No.	W'ght	
PORK.					
Carcases or parts.	411	8584	118	7135	15719
Offal.	80	981	90	968	1949
BACON.					
Carcases or parts.	4059	51739	1584	24677	76416
Offal.	4039	48468	3344	37314	85782
TOTAL	8589	109772	5136	70094	179866
EX OTHER SOURCES					
BEASTS.					
Carcases or parts.	11	1141	5	98	1239
Offal.	3	32	—	—	32
SHEEP.					
Carcases or parts.	—	—	—	—	—
Offal.	—	—	—	—	—
PIGS.					
Carcases or parts.	162	1777	3	179	1956
Offal.	28	317	26	204	521
CALVES.					
Carcases or parts.	—	—	—	—	—
Offal.	—	—	—	—	—
OTHER FOODS.					
Corned Beef.	—	—	—	218	218
Ox Tongue.	—	—	—	90	90
Chilled Beef.	—	—	—	108	108
Black Puddings.	—	—	—	32	32
Gammon.	—	—	—	27	27
Jellied Veal.	—	—	—	18	18
Galantine.	—	—	—	6	6
Roast Chicken and Ham.	—	—	—	4	4
Rabbits.	—	—	—	111	111
Grapes.	—	—	—	36	36
TOTAL	204	3267	34	1131	4398
BACON FACTORY „	8589	109772	5136	70094	179866
GRAND TOTAL	8793	113039	5170	71225	184264

Or 82 tons, 5 cwt., 24 lbs.



## FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928

The duties relating to the sampling of foodstuffs under the above Act are carried out by the County's Inspector of Weights and Measures and I am indebted to Mr. G. F. Hart for the number and results of examinations of samples taken during 1937.

Article.	Samples taken.	Number Genuine.	Number Adulterated.
Milk .. ..	19	14	5
Butter .. ..	3	3	0
Lard .. ..	4	2	2
	—	—	—
Totals ..	26	19	7
	—	—	—

Particulars relating to the action taken in reference to the samples reported adulterated, are given in the following Table.

Milk.—No. 40 ..	3.5% added water.	Informal sample.
Milk.—No. 41 ..	1.9% added water.	Informal sample.
Milk.—No. 42 ..	3.0% added water.	} Proceedings instituted against vendor, who was convicted and fined £5 and £1 11 6 costs.
Milk.—No. 43 ..	3.0% added water.	
Milk.—No. 44 ..	5.0% added water.	
Lard.—No. 20 ..	consisted of a compound cooking fat of vegetable origin. Informal sample.	
Lard.—No. 30 ..	consisted of a compound cooking fat of vegetable origin. Informal Sample. Proceedings were instituted against the vendor, but resulted in dismissal	

## DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are four cow-keepers registered in the district as milk producers and twenty-three milk purveyors ; fourteen of the registered milk purveyors have their registered premises in adjoining districts.

Inspections were made under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk and Dairies Act, 1915. Notices have been sent to occupiers of cowsheds and dairies for cleansing and lime-washing, and for the methods of milking, utensils and cleanliness generally.

There are two retail milk purveyors licensed annually for bottling establishments and for retail sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk and two supplementary licences for Accredited Milk. There is now one Registered milk purveyor holding a supplementary licence to sell Pasteurised Milk, having the registered establishment in which the process of Pasteurisation is carried out, in the Letchworth Urban Area.

During the year, eight ordinary samples of milk were submitted for examination for bacteriological content, shewing the following results:—

Number of sample.		Bacteria per c.c.	Presence of B. Coli.
1	..	44,000	.. nil
2	..	97,660	.. present 1/100th c.c.
3	..	265,000	.. present 1/100th, 1/1000th and 1/10000th c.c.
4	..	73,000	.. 1/100th c.c. (present)
5	..	33,000	.. nil
6	..	27,660	.. nil
7	..	24,260	.. nil
8	..	46,330	.. nil

The lowest bacterial count was 24,260 per c.c. and the highest 265,000 per c.c. B. Coli. were present in three samples but were not found in the remaining five.

The examination of the eight samples of ordinary milk included animal (guinea pig) inoculation. Seven of these animals failed to shew any sign of tuberculosis lesions upon post-mortem examination. One guinea pig, however, shewed definite signs of tuberculosis lesions and the County Medical Officer of Health was notified accordingly.

Two samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, shewing the following results.

No.		Bacteria per c.c.	Presence of B. Coli.
1	..	40,000	.. In both of these samples, B. Coli. was
2	..	70,000	.. present in 1/100th c.c. in two out of three tubes.

These results were forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health.



## SHOPS ACT, 1934.

There are about 350 shop premises which come under the administration of this Act. Efforts are being made to deal with these premises, but owing to Mr. Kemp's illness and death, little action was taken during the year.

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

There are six boiler chimneys in the district, and one or two smaller type of chimneys.

There appears to have been a slight improvement during the year with regard to smoke pollution but to assure a steady reduction in the emission of smoke from industrial chimneys, sustained technical development and instruction for manufacturer and employee in the use of fuels and correct furnace management, is necessary.

No recorded observations were taken during the year.

## BAKEHOUSES.

Number of Bakehouses .. .. .	12
„ „ Factory Bakehouses .. .. .	4
„ „ Workshop Bakehouses .. .. .	8
„ „ Inspections of Bakehouses .. .. .	30
„ „ Notices for Limewashing .. .. .	24
„ „ Statutory Notices regarding Bakehouses ..	Nil
„ „ Certified underground Bakehouses .. ..	Nil

## LEGISLATION AND ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Baths and Wash-houses Act, 1846.

Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Parts 2, 3 and 4.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Parts 2 and 3 (Sections 34 to 38, 43 to 51) and Part 4 (Sections 52 to 66 inclusive, Part 5 (Sections 69 to 75 inclusive) whole of Part 6, Part 10 (Sections 92, 93 and 95).

Public Health Act, 1925. Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926.

Public Libraries Acts, 1892 to 1919.

Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935.

## BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

	When made by the Council.
Byelaws for nuisances under Public Health Acts, 1875	1875
Markets Byelaws .. .. .	1884
Byelaws for Slaughter-houses .. .. .	1885
Byelaws for Water Supply .. .. .	1924
Public Health (Meat) Regulations .. .. .	1924
Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 .. .. .	1926
Byelaws for New Streets and Buildings .. .. .	1929
Milk (Special Designations) Order .. .. .	1936

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives in detail the work done under this heading for the year 1937:—

Informal (Intimation) Notices and Letters regarding Notices .. .. .	637
Statutory Notices served under the Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .	21
Complaints received and investigated under the Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .	92
Work carried out as a result of Housing and Public Health Notices:—	
Defective drains repaired .. .. .	15
Defective drains reconstructed .. .. .	5
Defective soil pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	3
Defective ventilating pipes repaired or renewed.. .. .	15
Cages for ventilating pipes provided .. .. .	20
Choked intercepting traps cleared.. .. .	11
Defective W.C. pans and traps repaired or renewed .. .. .	33
Defective W.C. flushings repaired or renewed .. .. .	19
Insanitary old stone sinks renewed .. .. .	38
Defective sink-waste pipes repaired or renewed .. .. .	38
Defective drain-manhole covers renewed .. .. .	3
Defective rain-water pipes and gutterings repaired or renewed .. .. .	135
Dampness of walls remedied .. .. .	32
Efficient damp-proof courses provided .. .. .	1
Chimneys and flues repaired .. .. .	2



Dirty walls and ceilings of dwelling-houses cleansed ..	66
Defective fire-places and cooking stoves repaired or renewed .. .. .	5
Defective roofs repaired or renewed .. ..	53
Defective plaster of walls and ceilings renewed .. ..	20
Defective washing coppers and boilers repaired and renewed .. .. .	8
Defective dustbins (new dustbins provided) .. ..	298
Defective yard paving relayed and yard paving provided	51
Defective fillets and reveals repaired .. ..	29
Defective window frames repaired or renewed .. ..	42
Broken sash cords renewed.. .. .	33
Defective door frames and posts repaired or renewed ..	66
Defective rain-water receptacles repaired or renewed ..	44
Defective gullies and gully traps repaired or renewed ..	36
Defective plinths repaired or renewed .. ..	10
Defective floor boarding repaired or renewed .. ..	37
Adequate water supply provided .. .. .	18
Defective fascia boards repaired or renewed .. ..	1
Shoes for rain-water pipes provided .. ..	2
Glass lights provided in W.C. apartments .. ..	12
Pointing of walls, etc., renewed .. .. .	46
Unclassified brickwork repaired or renewed .. ..	61
Verminous rooms of dwelling-houses disinfested.. ..	16
Absence of name and address of owner from Rent Book (Housing Act, 1925) .. .. .	63
Visits made on complaint of rats with the County Council's officer under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919	87
Offensive accumulations removed .. .. .	39
Inspections of bakehouses and other workshops .. ..	59
Inspections of Fish Frying Premises .. .. .	22
Number of Fish Frying Premises .. .. .	6
(Three of the occupiers obtain annual permission from the Council to carry on the trade of fish frying).	
Inspections made at the premises of a common lodging-house	6

# FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

## 1.—FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

PREMISES (1)	NUMBER OF		Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
	Inspection (2)	Written Notices (3)	
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	14	2	Nil
WORKSHOPS (incl. Workshop Laundries)	29	1	Nil
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' Premises)	8	1	Nil
TOTAL ... ..	51	4	Nil

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

PARTICULARS (1)	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			No. of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Inspection (2)	Remedied (3)	Ref. to H.M.I. (4)	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—				
Want of Cleanliness	8	8	Nil	Nil
Want of Ventilation	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of Drainage of Floors	3	3	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances	1	1	Nil	Nil
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION				
Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unsuitable or Defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not Separate for Sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
OFFENCES UNDER THE FAC- AND WORKSHOPS ACTS :—				
Illegal Occupation of Un- derground Bakehouses (Section 101)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other Offences	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ... ..	12	12	Nil	Nil



## HOUSING.

### 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) .. .. .	176
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	441
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	38
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	38
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	1
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to above under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	175

### 2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	71
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### 3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.. .. .	5
(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 owners ..	3
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices .. .. .	
(a) by owners .. .. .	16
(b) by local authority in default of owners ..	Nil

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

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made .. .. . Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. . Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made .. Nil

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

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1935.—OVERCROWDING:—

(a) (1) Number dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. . 23

(2) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. 27

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. 199

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. . 9

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. . 36

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. 273

(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

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .. .. Nil

I am,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM H. BATES,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*



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