

**[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Bedford Borough.**

**Contributors**

Bedford (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1925

**Persistent URL**

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BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

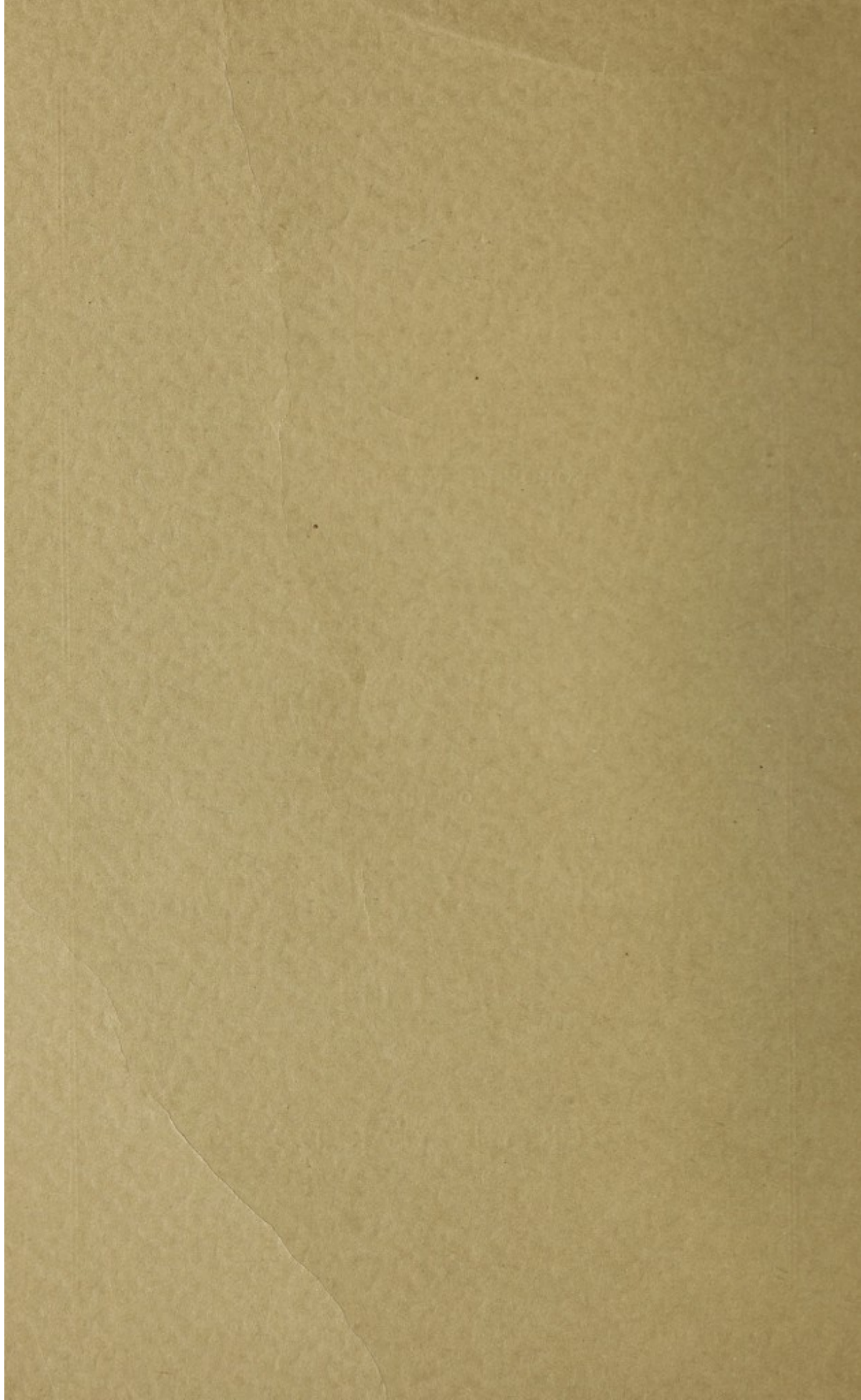
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# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1925.







BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

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# REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1925.



MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE  
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

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*Chairman* - - - Ald. F. R. HOCKLIFFE, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman* - Ald. J. P. KIRKMAN, M.A., J.P.

THE MAYOR (Ald. G. H. BARFORD, J.P.)

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Coun. Lt.-Col. W. N. HAY, C.I.E., D.S.O.

Coun. Lt.-Col. H. L. JAMES, C.B.

Coun. A. MASTIN.

Coun. A. PARROTT.

Coun. M. J. STAPLETON.

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MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE  
COMMITTEE.

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*Vice-Chairman* - Coun. A. MITCHELL INNES.

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Ald. W. NICHOLLS, J.P.

Coun. M. W. LAMB.

Coun. M. J. STAPLETON.

Coun. A. STRANGE.

Coun. E. H. TICKNER.

*Co-opted Members.*

Mrs. CHANDLER.

Mrs. MYERS-DAWES.

Mrs. NASH.

To the  
Bedford Urban Sanitary  
Authority.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925, which, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as defined in Circular 540 of December 18, 1924, is a Survey Report dealing with the general health conditions of the Borough during the last five years, as well as with the particular circumstances of the past year.

As in some previous years, I have incorporated therein portions of earlier reports relating to the general conditions of the Borough, not for the use of your Authority, to whom, of course, the facts are well known, but in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, and for the benefit of any persons living elsewhere who may desire to obtain information as to the advantages of Bedford as a place of residence, or for other purposes.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Borough of Bedford lies on the Ouse at a short distance from the spot where the river, leaving the narrow valley in which it is confined by the Oolitic limestones in its course through the north-western parts of Bedfordshire as far as Oakley, enters the softer tracts of Oxford clay, its deposits of gravel being traceable over a width of from two to four miles. The Ouse seems to have cut itself down through the drift, and near Bedford it has also cut through the Oxford clay to the underlying Cornbrash. The material of the gravel appears to have been in the main washed out of the boulder clay and it occurs in terraces at considerable heights above the present river bed, notably near Biddenham where the gravel pits have yielded valuable finds of palæolithic implements. The Ouse has also deposited much alluvium which forms rich pasturage ground.

The river runs from west to east through the town, the larger portion of which is situated on the northern bank. From the river the ground rises very gently towards the low range of hills which form the northern boundary of the valley and at this point are closely approached by the river, to the south of which extends the plain of the valley. The normal level of the river at Bedford is 82.6 feet above Ordnance datum; the level during the flood of April 30th, 1908, was 87.79 above Ordnance datum.



The higher part of the town attains to 124 feet above Ordnance datum, and is built over clay, chiefly boulder clay. In dry seasons serious inconvenience is sometimes caused by fissures in the clay, causing damage to the foundations of houses. The lower portions are built on gravel and alluvium. In some spots rock approaches close to the surface, and is locally known as "pendle," which is really cornbrash; there are also patches of Kellaways sands.

In times of heavy rain the Ouse is subject to floods, which formerly caused much inconvenience by extending to portions of the town situated close to the river. The evil has, however, been greatly lessened by the construction some years ago of an overflow below the Old Bridge.

There are probably few towns in England more pleasantly situated and affording better opportunities for social amenities than Bedford. As a county town with a weekly market, in the centre of an agricultural district, it is naturally the site of many varied occupations connected with the land, but it may be broadly classed as a residential town, mainly devoted to education. This is due to the existence of the Harpur Charity, bequeathed to his native town by Sir William Harpur, a Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Elizabeth. The Harpur Estates, chiefly situated in Holborn, were in 1873 placed under the care of Trustees, and the revenues are now mainly devoted to the upkeep of the various Harpur Schools. These comprise Bedford School with approximately 850 boys: a High School for Girls with 590 pupils: a Modern School for Boys (600): and a Modern School for Girls (340).

The Harpur Elementary Schools for Boys, Girls and Infants are also in large part maintained from the funds of the endowment.

Till the year 1897, the whole of the Elementary Education was provided by the Harpur Trust, but the growth of the town necessitated the formation that year of a School Board, now superseded by the Statutory Education Committee of the Town Council.

The Harpur Trust also maintains almshouses, the buildings of which form a characteristic feature in the centre of the town.

The great expansion of the town in the last forty or fifty years is in the main attributable to the re-modelling of the Harpur Charity; the throwing open of the Schools having attracted large numbers of new settlers, who came for the sake of the educational advantages.

Though not essentially a manufacturing town, Bedford yet possesses several factories (three or four being of considerable size), for the manufacture of agricultural implements, of electrical and other engineering plant, cranes, etc., which give employment to over 3,000 men. There is also a large chocolate factory, situated, as is also one of the electrical engineering firms, on the Elstow Road, in a growing neighbourhood which is also the site of the Municipal Housing Scheme.

The fact that the town lies on the main line of the Midland (L.M. & S.) Railway, and is also served by a branch of the London and North Western (L.M. & S.) railway system, together with the fact that suitable land for manufacturing purposes lies close to these lines, makes the town a suitable centre for the establishment of engineering and other works, which need not interfere with the amenities of the residential quarter at its opposite extremity.



The table beneath, condensed from the Census Returns for 1921, gives a general idea of the occupations of the inhabitants. There are none which can have a prejudicial effect either on the workers or on the general public health.

OCCUPATION	MALES	FEMALES
TOTAL POPULATION ... ..	17,921	22,321
Under 12 years of age ... ..	3,747	3,627
Aged 12 years or over ... ..	14,174	18,694
Total Occupied, aged 12 years and over ... ..	11,569	6,122
Total Unoccupied, aged 12 years and over ... ..	2,605	12,572
Agricultural Occupations ... ..	347	10
Mining and Quarrying Occupations ... ..	16	—
Workers in the Treatment of Non-Metalliferous Mine and Quarry Products (excluding Workers in Gas Works)	6	4
Makers of Bricks, Pottery and Glass ... ..	23	2
Workers in Chemical Processes: Makers of Paints, Oils, &c. ... ..	11	—
Metal Workers (not Electro Plate and Precious Metals)	2,411	22
Workers in Precious Metals and Electro Plate ... ..	7	1
Electrical Apparatus Makers and Electricians .. ..	329	37
Makers of Watches, Clocks and Scientific Instruments	34	—
Workers in Skins and Leathers ... ..	28	4
Textile Workers ... ..	20	16
Makers of Textile Goods and Articles of Dress ... ..	237	563
Makers of Foods, Drinks and Tobacco... ..	304	165
Workers in Wood and Furniture ... ..	614	45
Makers and Workers in Paper: Printers, Bookbinders, Photographers, &c. ... ..	172	104
Builders, Bricklayers and Stone Workers: Contractors	406	1
Painters and Decorators (not Pottery) ... ..	307	2
Workers in other Materials ... ..	3	1
Workers in Mixed or Undefined Materials ... ..	91	15
Persons employed in Gas, Water and Electricity Undertakings ... ..	72	2
Persons employed in Transport and Communication ..	1,284	61
Commercial, Finance and Insurance Occupations (excluding Clerks) ... ..	1,511	778
Persons employed in Public Administration and Defence (excluding Professional Men and Typists) ... ..	458	64
Professional Occupations (excluding Clerical Staff) ...	503	613
Persons employed in Entertainments and Sport .. ..	71	28
Persons engaged in Personal Service (including Institutions, Clubs, Hotels, &c.) ... ..	359	2,866
Clerks and Draughtsmen (not Civil Service or Local Authorities); Typists ... ..	637	539
Warehousemen ... ..	157	142
Stationary Engine Drivers, Dynamo & Motor Attendants	112	—
Other and Undefined Workers ... ..	1,039	37
Retired or not Gainfully Occupied... ..	2,605	12,072



The climate of Bedford is healthy, though new comers to the town are apt at first to find it relaxing, as is usually the case in river valleys. The rainfall, like that of eastern England generally, is moderate. Fogs are rare. There are no local conditions which might prove prejudicial to the health of the town. The surrounding country is well wooded and pleasantly diversified. The town itself, though of great antiquity, possesses very little in the way of ancient remains, and consists mostly of districts built within the last half century surrounding a nucleus of older streets and buildings, which themselves are of no great age. It is to the Ouse that Bedford owes its beauty and attraction. Below the Old Bridge, the banks are bordered on one side by a handsome promenade, on the other by pleasant meadows, the property of the town: in the latter is a large piece of water, recently provided at the cost of a generous townsman, specially designed as a boating lake for children; above the Bridge on the south side a broad riverside walk has lately been opened. On the north side, higher up the river in the industrial area known as Queen's Park, is a large space for recreation with a river frontage. Still more recently a riverside walk has been secured, beginning at the eastern extremity of the town at Newnham and extending as far as Cardington Mill. It is now possible to walk for a distance of about five miles along the banks of the river from Kempston to Cardington. In addition to this there are two large open spaces, the Park on the northern border of the town and Russell Park adjoining the river at the east end.

There are two large enclosed open-air swimming baths connected with the river, one at the eastern end of the Borough and the other higher up. There are in addition bathing sheds provided in the Queen's Park Recreation Ground, where bathing is permitted in the river itself. In all these spots facilities are provided for both sexes.

The total area of the public parks and recreation grounds is approximately 120 acres, and of ground let by the Corporation for allotments 296 acres.

#### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough, 2,223 acres.

Population (Census 1921), 40,242.

Population (estimated Reg.-Gen., 1925), 41,440.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 9,592.

Number of inhabited houses (estimated Dec. 31, 1925), 9,958.

Number of families or separate occupiers (estimated, 1921), 9,837.

Assessable value, £225,709.

Sum produced by a Penny Rate (1925), £882.

Number of new houses *rated* during the year:—

- |  |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (a) Total                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 85 |
| (b) As part of the Municipal Housing Scheme, |     |     |     |     |     | 0  |

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

					Total.	Males.	Females.
Births	{ Legitimate	...	...	...	572	287	285
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	...	22	13	9
Total					594	300	294

Birth Rate (Reg. Gen.), 11.93 per 1,000 of population.

Deaths (Reg. Gen.), total, 455 ; males, 226 ; females, 229.

Death Rate (crude rate), 10.74 per 1,000 of population.

„ „ (corrected) 9.44 „ „

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth :

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	3

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

Males.	Females.	Total.	Illegitimate.
23	...	16	...
...	...	39	...
...	...	...	1 (male)

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births 65.66

Death-rate of legitimate Infants under one year of age per  
1,000 legitimate births ... .. 66.43

Death-rate of illegitimate infants under one year of age per  
1,000 illegitimate births ... .. \*45.5

\**Note.*—This figure is deceptive owing to the data being so small.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. 2

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... .. 1

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ... .. 2



DEATHS OF "RESIDENTS" OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD  
REGISTERED IN THE YEAR 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH	MALES	FEMALES
All Causes ... ..	226	229
1. Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...
2. Small Pox ... ..	...	...
3. Measles ... ..	1	1
4. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...
5. Whooping Cough ... ..	1	...
6. Diphtheria ... ..	...	...
7. Influenza ... ..	6	7
8. Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	...
9. Meningococcal Meningitis ... ..	2	...
10. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	14	17
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	4	5
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	28	22
13. Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...
14. Diabetes ... ..	1	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	9	23
16. Heart Disease ... ..	34	54
17. Arterio-Sclerosis ... ..	21	19
18. Bronchitis ... ..	9	15
19. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	8	3
20. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	1
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	2	2
22. Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years) ... ..	2	...
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	3	4
24. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	6	1
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	5	3
26. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...
27. Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	...	3
28. Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth ... ..	15	12
29. Suicide ... ..	3	1
30. Other deaths from Violence ... ..	10	2
31. Other defined diseases ... ..	39	33
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...
Special causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	1
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...
Deaths of Infants (Total ... ..	23	16
under 1 year (Illegitimate ... ..	1	...
Total Births ... ..	300	294
Legitimate ... ..	287	285
Illegitimate ... ..	13	9
Population ... ..	41,440	



The figures in the previous Table are those supplied by the Registrar General, and include deaths of Bedford "residents" which have occurred outside the Borough, whilst all deaths of "non-residents" occurring in public institutions, etc., within the Borough, are excluded. The number of the former class was 28, and the latter 100.

The deaths from Cancer amounted approximately to the rate of 1.2 deaths per 1,000 of population; those for Heart Disease to 2.1 per 1,000 of population, and for Tuberculosis 0.97.

Of the 50 deaths from Cancer no fewer than 31, *i.e.* 62 per cent., were due to growths situated in the alimentary tract. Two deaths were returned as due to Cancer of the breast in women, and six to uterine disease. Four deaths were due to Cancer of the respiratory tract, of which three were in men. There was one case of disease of the male bladder; the liver was given as the seat of disease in four cases, and the two remaining deaths were due to growths in the neck and chest respectively.

The rapid growth of the town which occurred in the latter decades of the past century and the earlier years of the present one has not been maintained. The estimated population for the years 1921 to 1925 was as follows: 40,050—40,247—41,020—41,620, and 41,440. (Reg. Gen.)

It will thus be seen that for the first time there is a slight drop in the *estimated* figures which may or may not correspond to a real though small decrease in the actual population. It is certain, however, that the figures indicate that no rapid increase is to be expected in the near future unless some unexpected development occurs.

Another most important indication is that the birth rate continues to fall. For the same period, 1921—1925, the annual numbers of births recorded were: 680—684—617—582, and 594, giving the following rates per 1,000 of population living: 16.98—16.79—15.04—13.98—14.33.

The estimated population on Dec. 31, 1925, calculated on the basis of 4.27 persons per house was 42,243, but the Rate Collector, Mr. C. E. Craddock, who has kindly supplied the figures, states that in his opinion an average of 4.23 per house giving an estimated population of 41,877 is much nearer the mark, and it will be noticed that even this estimate is above that of the Registrar General, *viz.*, 40,242. The number of inhabited houses on Dec. 31, 1925, Mr. Craddock returns as 9,958, the number in 1921 having been estimated at 9,592.

The infant death rate in the Borough during the last thirty years has shewn a course similar to that in the country at large. Whilst the general death rate for the whole of England and Wales shewed a steady decline from the middle of the last century onwards, the curve of infantile mortality continued high and almost uniform till about the beginning of the present century when it commenced to decline rapidly. The average for the years 1861—65 of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 births was 161; for the years 1901—05 it was 115; in the next five years it sank to 99, and then with minor fluctuations fell in 1922 to 77. A similar phenomenon is shewn in the accompanying Table for Bedford.



Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births	Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	Infant Death Rate per 1,000 births
1897	22.2	128	1912	17.9	84.3
1898	19.2	140	1913	16.9	87.0
1899	21.0	147	1914	16.1	58.2
1900	20.4	129	1915	16.5	87.2
1901	21.7	121	1916	—	84.4
1902	20.1	108	1917	14.8	90.3
1903	19.2	117	1918	14.2	96.0
1904	18.9	124	1919	14.11	86.7
1905	17.2	91.3	1920	18.26	64.2
1906	18.8	116.9	1921	17.0	63.2
1907	17.7	116.9	1922	16.8	54.0
1908	17.1	96.8	1923	15.0	48.6
1909	16.9	83.7	1924	14.0	56.7
1910	16.5	75.5	1925	14.3	67.3
1911	16.0	128.5			

"It should not be assumed, however," remarks the Registrar-General in his Statistical Review for 1922, "that the remarkable absence of all tendency to decline during the nineteenth century as contrasted with the rapidity of the fall since its close is peculiarly an English phenomenon and therefore one to be explained by conditions peculiar to this country. On the contrary, the returns of most other countries for which comparison can be made over a long series of years record a similar experience."

"The fall in the birth rate," he continues, "which has largely coincided in point of time with that in infant mortality, naturally suggests itself as one possible explanation. Child mortality in large families as a whole is very much greater than in small ones--so much so that the 1911 census returns showed that in some cases, the mother's marriage age and the duration of marriage being similar, the proportion of children lost to the largest families was four or five times as great as that to the smallest. It is to be expected, therefore, that the great recent decline of fertility, which is common to most of the civilised world, should be accompanied by a fall in infant mortality."

From the records of eighteen countries it is found that the decline in birth rate and in infant mortality have 'largely coincided,' but that "while the general tendency to parallelism of movement is clearly manifest over a considerable period of time taken as a whole, the two movements within these periods have differed so much, even to the extent of being occasionally in opposite directions, as to suggest that other important factors than decline in fertility have been at work, and have even in certain cases for a time totally masked the influence of the latter upon infant mortality. . . . It would almost seem as if some new factor making for decreased mortality had come into operation in most of the countries studied at or about this period, though earlier in the case of some of them."



The terrible losses of the war called public attention strongly to the subject and gave a great impetus to the movement for Infant Welfare, which resulted in the passage of the Maternity and Child Welfare Act of 1918, and the consequent establishment of 'Centres' throughout the country.

Turning now to the estimated death rates for the quinquennial period under review (1921—1925) we have the following figures per 1,000 of population living : 11.24—10.9—10.41—10.96—10.22.

It must be remembered that in calculating the rate two factors enter, the actual number of deaths and the estimated population figure. A certain amount of uncertainty necessarily attaches to the latter, but the error will not be so great as materially to affect the value of the rate. The above figures may therefore be taken as substantially correct but, except for the first year, as possibly a little under the truth ; the figures for 1921 are probably more nearly correct as they are those of a census year. A quinquennial enumeration of population would be a great improvement on a decennial from the statistical point of view. In any case, however, the figures for Bedford are a satisfactory indication of the health of the Borough, and compare favourably with the corresponding figures given by the Registrar-General of 12.2 for England and Wales and of 11.2 for the "smaller towns" during 1925. On the other hand the birth rates given above for the last five years are much below the 1925 averages given by the Registrar-General ; these being 18.3 for England and Wales generally and for the "smaller towns" also.

The death rate given above for 1925 is the "recorded" or "crude" death rate, and though affording a valuable measure of the health of the same locality from year to year, is not a sufficient guide for judging of the health of the town in comparison with other places. The populations of different towns and districts vary greatly in the relation of the "age-groups" of which they are composed. For statistical purposes the population living at any time is divided into groups as follows : under 5 years, 5—10 years, 10—15 years, 15—20 years, 20—25 years, 25—35 years, 35—45 years, 45—55 years, 55—65 years, 65—75 years, 75—85 years, 85 years and upwards. These groups may again be sub-divided into male and female. Now, as the rate of mortality varies greatly among the groups, being highest at the two extremes, it is clear that the total number of deaths in a given place will depend largely upon the number of individuals in the several age-groups, quite independently of the local health conditions of the place itself. The number of persons of each sex in each "age-group" living in a given place is ascertained at each census. If the death rates for each age-group for the whole country be supposed to hold for the corresponding group of the particular place, the general death rate for the place, calculated on this supposition, is called the Standard Death Rate. The numerical factor by which this last rate must be multiplied in order to equal the rate for the whole country is called the Factor for Correction.

By multiplying the crude death rate of any town by the Factor for Correction we obtain the Corrected Death Rate. This is the death rate which would have been obtained had the composition of the population been identical, as to age and sex distribution, with that of the whole population of England and Wales.



The Corrected Death Rate, therefore, supplies a means of comparing the mortality of different places when the influence of sex and age distribution has been eliminated. The Registrar-General has this year supplied the local Factor for Correction, which is 0.879.

Multiplying the "recorded" or "crude" rate of Bedford of 10.74 by 0.879 we obtain the Corrected Death Rate of 9.44.

**BEDFORD MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.**  
AGE AND SEX CONSTITUTION. (Census 1921.)

	MALES.	FEMALES.	
		All.	Married only.
Total ... ..	17921	22321	8036
<b>Marital Conditions :</b>			
Single ... ..	9545	12211	—
Married ... ..	7762	8036	8036
Widowed ... ..	608	2067	—
Divorced ... ..	6	7	—
<b>Ages (last birthday) :</b>			
0—4 ... ..	1438	1390	—
5—9 ... ..	1608	1579	—
10—14 ... ..	1821	1774	—
15—19 ... ..	1945	2204	18
20—24 ... ..	1315	2081	359
25—29 ... ..	1292	1797	848
30—34 ... ..	1284	1685	1093
35—39 ... ..	1225	1665	1135
40—44 ... ..	1217	1558	1076
45—49 ... ..	1194	1523	1048
50—54 ... ..	998	1336	876
55—59 ... ..	788	1040	581
60—64 ... ..	667	850	446
65—69 ... ..	504	705	293
70—74 ... ..	303	511	157
75—79 ... ..	198	364	87
80—84 ... ..	92	168	18
85—89 ... ..	23	71	1
90—94 ... ..	8	17	—
95 and over ... ..	1	3	—



*Poor Law Relief.*

Owing to the fact that Bedford forms only a portion of the local area for the administration of the Poor Laws it is not possible to give exact figures for the Borough, but Mr. Daniells, the Clerk to the Guardians of the Bedford Union, estimates that the average cost to the Borough for Poor Law Relief was £109 per week during the year 1925.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1) *Tuberculosis.* The County Council has a Sanatorium for Tuberculosis at Mogerhanger, about four miles from Bedford, and also maintains a Tuberculosis Dispensary at 61 Harpur Street, Bedford.

(2) *Maternity.* Though it is not yet in working order, great progress has been made with the proposal alluded to in last year's Report for the provision of a Maternity Home and Ante-Natal Clinic. Under the energetic guidance of the Chairman, Mr. Arnold Whitchurch, J.P., the scheme has been accepted by the Governors of the County Hospital. The plans have been adopted and the old Nurses' Home will shortly be altered to provide for twelve patients with the necessary theatre, labour room, babies' room, and all the other necessary accompaniments. The cost, it is estimated, will be between £5,000 and £6,000. It is proposed also to establish an Ante-Natal Clinic at the Hospital in connection with the Home.

(3) *Children.* There is no Children's Hospital in Bedford, but there is a special Children's Pavilion at the County Hospital.

(4) *Fever.* The Borough Isolation Hospital, situated near the Elstow Road, provides 72 beds for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. It is also possible to take in cases of Enteric Fever if necessary.

The Isolation Hospital is situated within the Borough boundaries between the London and Elstow Roads. The area of 17 acres on which it is built, purchased from the St. John's Hold Trustees, was increased by the purchase during the year 1911 of two portions of land abutting on the Hospital grounds, and measuring 5 acres 3 roods. The acquisition of this extra land was necessary in order to prevent new houses being built close up to the Hospital.

The buildings are of the 'temporary' type, and comprise seven distinct blocks. With the exception of the laundry block, which is entirely of brick, all the blocks are 'iron' buildings, consisting of wooden framework, covered externally with corrugated iron and lined internally with match boarding. The largest and oldest group contains the kitchen, a dining room for the nurses, the Matron's quarters, and two wards containing 12 beds each. There are two annexes to the original building which provide a room used as a dining room for the domestic staff and also sleeping accommodation for some of them. There are three other blocks of somewhat smaller size, each containing two wards and a ward kitchen. In the laundry block, besides the laundry proper,



which is provided with proper machinery and drying closets, there is a disinfecting station, provided with a Washington-Lyons disinfectant of the largest size. Another detached building contains a coach-house, mortuary, etc. An entirely independent and separate block is situated at a distance from the Hospital and in the middle of the grounds. This was originally intended for a Smallpox Hospital, but has been reconstructed and now consists of two quite separate portions, one of which contains two one-bed wards for observation cases: the other, with separate entrance and exit, is used as a discharge block, to which Scarlet Fever patients are transferred the day previous to their discharge. An Army Hut has been adapted and is used for the nurses' quarters.

(5) *Smallpox.* There is a Smallpox Hospital situated on the old (disused) Sewage Farm, which was erected on the outbreak of the disease last Spring, and which is capable of accommodating from 16 to 20 patients. Further accommodation could be provided if necessary in tents, which are kept ready for erection on a plot of ground which has been specially prepared for the purpose and is situated at a little distance from the main hospital.

The Secondary Schools have small Sanatoria of their own. The occasional cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are most of them sent to the Municipal Hospital.

(6) *Others.*

The Bedford County Hospital. Number of beds, 111—in General Wards, 94; Paying, 15; V.D., 2.

The Convalescent Home of the Hospital is situated at Aspley Heath, and contains 20 beds.

#### INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

Besides the statutory provision for the needs of mothers of illegitimate children provided by the Poor Law Institution much good work is done by a voluntary association—The St. Albans Diocesan Union for Preventive and Rescue Work. The Home maintained by this Society has been transferred from its original situation in Brereton Road to large and convenient premises at 97 Ashburnham Road. The Borough Council contributes an annual sum of £125 to the institution (which is now styled the Bedford and County Girls' Home) and has the right of appointing two representatives on the committee of management. There is accommodation for about 10 mothers and their infants, and there is a small Maternity department in the Home itself.

#### OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

The Ely Diocesan Home affords an excellent home for a certain number of children who for whatever reason would be otherwise not properly provided for. The majority of them, however, do not come from the Borough.

There is also a Training Home for Girls situated in Park Road North, where girls between the ages of 14 and 16 are trained in laundry



work and domestic household duties. There is accommodation for 20 girls. The institution is unendowed and self-supporting; there is a laundry in which there is a staff of seven paid laundresses. Some of the children are orphans, but others are in part maintained by small weekly payments.

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) For infectious cases, there has been a horse ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital for the removal thither of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases. At the present moment (April, 1926) a motor ambulance is under construction which will replace the horse ambulance and will soon be ready for use. There is also a horse ambulance for Smallpox.

(b) For uninfected and accident cases. The Corporation have acquired through the British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade a motor ambulance for use in cases of accident and for other purposes. This is kept at the Fire Station and is also available for the use of private patients on payment of a fee.

Bedford Town Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade :

One Ashford litter and 6 stretchers, kept at Police Station.

Personnel : 1 Officer, 3 N.C.O's and 20 Men.

#### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. There are two 'Centres,' each of which holds one Session a week (on Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively) in the afternoon on the premises of the Free Library in Harpur Street.

#### DAY NURSERY.

This is managed by a committee of ladies and others, and is situated at 97 Midland Road. The Borough Council contributes £200 per annum towards the expenses, and is entitled to appoint two representatives on the committee. The attendances during the year were :—

Children under 3 :	Whole day	...	...	1,821
„	„	Half day	...	465
Children over 3 :	Whole day	...	...	1,312
„	„	Half day	...	469
	Total	...	...	<u>4,067</u>

#### SCHOOL CLINICS.

The Education Committee of the Borough maintains four School Clinics; a Nurse's Clinic under the supervision of the School Medical Officer for minor ailments, etc., a Refraction Clinic, and a Dental Clinic. The first is held six days a week in Horne Lane: the two latter weekly in the special rooms provided for the purpose adjoining the Education Offices. A weekly School Inspection Clinic is also held by the School Medical Officer.

An arrangement exists whereby Refraction cases requiring special treatment are referred to Dr. G. H. Goldsmith, Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Bedford County Hospital.



The Clinics for Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease are provided by the County Council. The first is held at the Tuberculosis Dispensary in Harpur Street, the latter at the Bedford County Hospital.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of Isolation Hospital*—F. B. W. Phillips, M.D., D.P.H.\*†

*Chief Sanitary Inspector*—A. W. Merrie, M.R.S.I.\*

*Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector*—E. T. Fell, M.R.S.I.\*

*Sanitary Inspector*—F. C. Haynes, M.R.S.I.\*

*Assistant Sanitary Inspector and Clerk*—Vacant.

*Matron of Isolation Hospital*—Miss McGrouther.

*Health Visitor (Maternity and Infant Welfare)*—Mrs. Hopwood, C.M.B. and H.V. Certif, R.S.I.

*Assistant Health Visitor & Assistant School Nurse*—Miss Rogers, C.M.B.†

Of the above, Messrs. Fell and Wise also hold the Meat Inspectors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Mr. Wise resigned towards the close of the year having been appointed a Sanitary Inspector under another Authority. Miss Kennedy also resigned in July, and Miss Rogers, C.M.B., was elected in her stead.

The Staff of the Isolation Hospital consists of the Matron, three Staff Nurses and six Probationers.

\*Contributions to salary under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

†Salary part paid by Education Committee.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) *General.* The Queen's Jubilee Nurses attend cases among all classes, either gratuitously or for payment. Nurses can also be obtained from two Nursing Homes on payment of the fees.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases, &c.* The Medical Officer of Health is authorised by the Public Health Committee to engage special Nurses if required. The necessity for this, however, has not arisen for several years.

*Midwives.* The number practising in the Borough is 12. The County Council is the supervising Authority. No midwife is subsidised by the Borough.

#### *Chemical Work.*

Samples for analysis are sent to the Borough Analyst, J. Keir Colwell, Esq., F.I.C. The average annual number for the last five years was 93, the Milk samples being roughly three-fourths of the whole.

Chemical analyses of water are made in the Borough Laboratory.

#### SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

Mention should be made of the good work done by the Workers' Hospital Fund, the Guild of Help, the Guild of the Brave Poor Things, the Bedford Society for the Welfare of the Blind, and the 'R.S.P.C.C.'







- “The present Bedford Waterworks were constructed in 1868, commencing with a well, 25 feet deep, sunk into the Great Oolite by the side of the Ouse above Bedford.
- “1871. The first heading, 174 feet long, was driven.
- “1875. The heading increased by 191 feet.
- “1883. Mr. Mansergh called in to advise. He recommended the extension of the headings as an experiment.
- “1884-5. The heading was extended 446 feet.
- “1895. Branch heading, 463 feet long, driven.
- “Portion of the headings deepened.
- “1901. Mr. Deacon called in to advise. He reported that existing filters were insufficient, and under his advice two additional temporary filters were constructed. He proposed that Bedford should turn to an entirely new source for water, viz., to the Greensand. This scheme was unanimously adopted by the Town Council, and an Act of Parliament was obtained in July, 1902, authorizing the borrowing of sums not exceeding £135,000 for carrying out the same. (Bedford Corporation Water Act, 1902.)
- “Soon after a re-action set in.
- “1902. In December, Major H. Tulloch was called in to report on the possibilities of the present source of supply, and in June, 1903, he submitted a printed Report advocating the continued use of the existing works, with various additions and improvements.”

The Report was adopted by the Town Council, and application made to the Board for the loan of £24,000. In consequence of this application, an Inquiry was held by Mr. Hooper and Dr. Buchanan in February, 1904. As the Board withheld its sanction, the Council proceeded with the construction of two circular filters of the ‘sprinkler’ type proposed by Major Tulloch, and of a battery of eight pressure filters. The new filters were, at the instance of the Board, subjected to a series of tests during August and September, 1905, which were carried out by the present writer. The results proved satisfactory, and ultimately a loan of £8,000 was sanctioned for eight years.

Subsequently fresh works were carried out consisting of two wells and a heading. No. 1 Well was sunk by Mr. C. Wells, and by him presented to the town. “It is 125 yards due south from the Old Pumping Station” (Major Tulloch’s Report of March 5th, 1908), “and No. 2 Well is about 107 yards in a south-easterly direction from No. 1. A heading, 52 yards long, was also driven from No. 1 in a direct line towards No. 2.” “A Pumping Station with a set of steam pumps and two Lancashire boilers, each capable of supplying sufficient steam to enable the pumps to raise 1,000,000 gallons a day each” was in 1907 erected over No. 2 Well.

Finally, in 1925, the heading from No. 1 Well was driven through to connect with No. 2 Well.

The Works at the present time therefore comprise :—

- (a) The Old Pumping Station in connection with the original well and the main and branch headings.



- (b) The New Pumping Station over 'No. 2 Well' in connection with 'No. 1 Well' by the recently completed heading. The rising main from this Station joins that from the Old Station.

The water is pumped to the top of the adjoining hill, the lift being 164 feet. There the water passes first into a settling reservoir of 1,400,000 gallons, and thence to two distinct sets of filters--(a) the three original rectangular filters, and (b) four circular 'sprinkler' filters which are automatically regulated by syphons contained in a separate building. The water from the rectangular filters passes into the two original covered service reservoirs; that from the sprinkler filters into the new reservoir constructed in December, 1912.

The total capacity of the service reservoirs is 1,100,000 gallons. From these the water is delivered to the town by gravitation through a couple of mains. The sand used in the filters is obtained from Leighton Buzzard, and is washed in a Greenway's power-driven sand-washer. There is also a building containing a battery of eight 'pressure' filters installed about twenty years ago, but which have not been in use for several years.

"The average daily consumption of water for town and district was 1,188,388 gallons for the year ended March 28, 1925, and the profit on the undertaking for the last financial year was £1,180, after allowing £400 for the reserve fund."

The supply is on the constant system, and distributed to all houses. The few wells that remain are only used for obtaining 'soft water.' The water supplied to the town from these Works is in the main derived from the great oolite formation supplemented when necessary by water taken direct from the river, the whole supply being subjected to filtration before delivery. The water is most carefully filtered and tested and is of excellent quality. In the possible event, however, of the adoption of a scheme for utilizing the river supply on a much larger scale, it will be necessary to adopt still further measures. The water is of great hardness, both 'temporary' and 'permanent,' but is bright and sparkling, and pleasant to drink. A weekly bacteriological examination is made of samples from the rising main, and the old and new service reservoirs. The results have always been satisfactory.

As will have been gathered from the short account given above of the development of the Waterworks, one main question has always been as to the sufficiency of the supply. In 1874, owing to the visit of the Royal Agricultural Show, it became necessary to take a supplemental supply from the river, and afterwards from time to time this proceeding had to be repeated, though apparently not to a great extent. Certain difficulties in this connection arose with certain riparian owners into which it is unnecessary to go. From 1905 to 1911 the supply from the Works sufficed, but in 1911, owing to the hot summer, it was necessary to take river water in some quantity to supplement that coming from the headings and the new well (No. 2), but in 1914, at the outbreak of the War, when the population was suddenly increased by 50 per cent. by the presence of the troops, it was again necessary to have recourse to the river.



In March, 1922, an agreement was entered into with the owners of Kempston Mill whereby as far as they were concerned the Corporation was authorized, on payment of £1,500, to take water from the river for a period of five years. In December, 1921, the late Mr. Kenneth P. Hawksley, the well-known Water Engineer, was appointed "to report on the present sources of water supply of the Borough and to submit a scheme providing for a supply sufficient for the requirements of a population not exceeding 75,000 with a consumption per head per 24 hours of 35 gallons."

Since the death of Mr. Hawksley, the Council has been advised by G. Midgley Taylor, Esq., M.I.C.E. Throughout the whole time the Authority has been in communication with the Ministry of Health, but at the present time it is impossible to make any statement on the subject in this Report.

RAINFALL MEASURED AT THE PARK, BEDFORD, FOR THE  
YEAR 1925.

Amount recorded on 8" Gauge.

	Inches.
January ... ..	1.06
February ... ..	1.52
March ... ..	1.06
April ... ..	1.08
May ... ..	1.97
June ... ..	.01
July ... ..	1.74
August ... ..	1.63
September ... ..	2.02
October ... ..	3.06
November ... ..	1.27 (Snow)
December ... ..	1.39
Total ... ..	17.86

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Borough is now sewered throughout its area, important extensions having been completed during the year along the Kimbolton and Goldington Roads as far as the Borough boundary. The system consists of two portions separated by the river, the southern portion being connected with the northern by a sewer which crosses under the river and joins the main northern sewer which runs along the Embankment to the new Sewage Pumping Station near Newnham.

The following particulars have been kindly supplied by the Borough Engineer, N. Greenshields, Esq., A.M.I.C.E.:—

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Up to 1920 the sewage was treated by broad irrigation on a farm just outside Bedford; but, owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient areas of suitable land not subject to the influence of floods, this method



was abandoned in favour of treatment on percolating filters at Summerhouse Hill, a scheme being prepared and installed by Messrs. Tulloch & Howarth, Consulting Engineers, of Westminster.

The treatment at the Sewage Disposal Works is by means of sedimentation tanks, percolating filters, humus tanks, etc., consisting of:—

- Three detritus tanks, capacity 175,000 gallons.
- Seven sedimentation tanks, capacity 1,066,000 gallons.
- Thirteen coarse filters, 70ft. dia., depth 4ft. 6in.
- Media, top 3in., bottom 6in. Area of each filter 427 sq. yards.
- Thirteen fine filters, 70ft. dia., depth 4ft. 6in.
- Media, top  $\frac{1}{2}$ in., bottom 3in. Area as above.

The filtration is carried out through both sets of filters, but each tier can be worked separately. The rate of filtration is about 315 galls. per sq. yard per day. There are four storm water tanks with a capacity of 500,000 gallons. The storm water is treated on 37 acres of meadow land adjoining the river. The approximate amount of liquid sludge produced is about 9,000 tons per annum, and is disposed of, together with the humus, by running it on to arable land. There is no difficulty in obtaining suitable land for this purpose, and after it has been treated with sludge for two or three years it can readily be let to Smallholders, etc., at from £8 to £10 per acre for about three years.

The Works have been in operation since their opening in 1920, and the effluents as shewn by the chemical tests made by Mr. Duxbury, the resident Manager, who is provided with the necessary laboratory, have been throughout of a satisfactory character.

#### SEWAGE PUMPING STATION.

The Sewage Pumping Station adjoins the Destructor and contains four steam pumping sets made and erected by Messrs. Tangyes, Ltd., of Birmingham, the engines being vertical compound condensing of 32, 85½, 85½ and 112 h.p., driving 8in., 13in., 13in. and 15in. centrifugal pumps respectively; the pumping capacities being 400 to 1,000, 1,000 to 2,650, 1,000 to 2,650, and 2,650 to 3,500 gallons per minute respectively against a head of 65ft. Sufficient steam is generated by the burning of the house refuse at all times to pump the whole of the D.W.F. of sewage, about 1,600,000 gallons per 24 hours, against a head of 65ft. to the Sewage Disposal Works at Summerhouse Hill. The sewage before reaching the pumps is passed through Smith's revolving screens having a  $\frac{5}{8}$ in. diameter mesh. The sewage screenings are mixed with Destructor flue dust and converted into a manure which is either sold or disposed with on the Corporation farm land.

#### STORM WATER MOTORS AND PUMPS.

On account of the difficulty in obtaining a storm overflow into the river by gravitation for the storm waters in excess of six times the D.W.F. of sewage without the back flooding off the outfall sewers from the river in time of flood, and the risk of flooding certain basements and cellars in the town, four 70-H.P. electric motors with 15in. pumps have been provided for pumping the storm water into the river.



Each motor is capable of pumping up to a capacity of 5,000 gallons per minute. The electric current is supplied from the Corporation Electricity Works. The storm water motors and pumps are also arranged to assist with the pumping of the sewage to the Sewage Disposal Works when required.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Only 51 houses were at the close of the year unconnected with the drainage system, and of these 30 have been since connected in the early part of 1926. For full particulars reference may be made to the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

#### SCAVENGING.

The house refuse is collected twice per week from nearly the whole of the town and once per week from a small area. The total amount in the year was 9,174 tons, of which 1,857 tons was collected by an electric van and 7,317 tons by ten horse vans. The cost of collection was  $10/4\frac{1}{2}$  per ton for the electric vehicle, and  $10/3\frac{1}{3}$  per ton for the horse vans.

Excellent work has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors in securing the replacement by hygienic galvanized iron dustbins of the old unsightly and objectionable receptacles for house refuse formerly in use. Mr. Merrie reports that in the past few years 5,291 proper dustbins have been installed.

#### HOUSE REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

The Refuse Destructor was installed just previously to the War. It contains four cells, each pair having a Babcock & Willcox boiler sandwiched between.

The refuse was and is now tipped from the delivery vans into hoisting trucks, which are raised by steam winches to the top platform in the Destructor building. As originally arranged it was then tipped into eight charging trucks running on tram tracks, from which the refuse was fed into the furnace through special sliding doors. The arrangement of charging trucks, charging doors, etc., was not found to work satisfactorily, and on the recommendation of the Borough Engineer they were abolished, and extensive alterations were carried out to the firegrates, steam blowers, storage arrangements, methods of charging, etc., and these have effected a great improvement.

#### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

It may be said that practically no smoke nuisance exists in the Borough, and it has not been necessary to take any steps for abatement of nuisances beyond the issue of a few cautions. The increasing domestic use of gas and electricity for warming and cooking is no doubt leading to a diminution of the amount of smoke in the atmosphere of the town.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The question of Offensive Trades is dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.



PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY  
BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

See Report of Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements of the Harpur Trust Secondary Schools are thoroughly tested by the Sanitary Inspector's Staff every year during the summer holidays, whilst those of the Boarding Houses in connection with these Schools are tested every term. The old trough closets have been replaced by pedestal closets at all the Secondary Harpur Schools except Bedford School, where it is to be hoped that this highly desirable reform may be soon carried out. In the Elementary Schools there are only trough closets; the replacement of these by pedestal closets is highly desirable both on hygienic and educative grounds.

All cases of notifiable infectious disease are reported to the various Schools, and returns of absence from illness are sent from them to the School Medical Officer. 'Contacts' of school age in the family of the patient are systematically excluded from School for the necessary 'quarantine' period.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR 1925 FOR THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND  
WORKPLACES

*including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.*

PREMISES (1)	Number		
	Inspections (3)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	19	2	—
<b>Workshops</b> ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	158	19	—
<b>Workplaces</b> ... .. (Other than Outworkers' Premises)	23	—	—
Total ... ..	200	21	—



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

PARTICULARS. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (1)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	18	18	—	—
Want of ventilation ... ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ... ..	1	1	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ... ..	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s.101) ... ..				
Other offences† ... ..				
Total ... ..	21	21	—	—

\*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule of the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).



## OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, Sec. 108.

NATURE OF WORK. (1)	Instances. (2)	Notices served. (3)	Prosecu- tions. (4)
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c. ... ..	6	6	—
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen ... ..			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ..			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery ... ..	1	1	—
Electro-plate ... ..			
File making ... ..			
Brass and brass articles ... ..			
Fur pulling ... ..			
Cables and chains ... ..			
Anchors and grapnels ... ..			
Cart gear ... ..			
Locks, latches and keys ... ..	1	1	—
Umbrellas, &c. ... ..			
Artificial flowers ... ..			
Nets, other than wire nets ... ..			
Tents ... ..			
Sacks ... ..			
Racquet and tennis balls ... ..			
Paper, &c., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making ... ..			
Pea picking ... ..			
Feather sorting ... ..			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c. ...			
Stuffed toys ... ..			
Basket making ... ..			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ... ..			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c. ... ..			
Textile weaving ... ..			
Total ... ..	8	8	—

F. B. W. PHILLIPS, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



## REPORT OF SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

MR. A. W. MERRIE, M.R.S.I.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT.

No. of House Drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	...	...	52
No. where defects were found	...	...	...	...	32
No. of Schools and Boarding House Drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	...	...	65
No. where defects were found	...	...	...	...	11
No. of House Drains tested on complaint	...	...	...	...	44
No. where defects were found	...	...	...	...	10
No. of House Drains examined after Notification of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	85
No. where defects were found	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Retests made after Drains Repairs	...	...	...	...	135
No. of Nuisances reported or discovered	...	...	...	...	521
No. of Visits of Inspection <i>re</i> Abatement of Nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	5111
No. of Houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1925	...	...	...	...	155
No. of Houses require Cleansing, etc.	...	...	...	...	136
No. of Houses requiring Repairing, etc.	...	...	...	...	151
No. of Houses and Drains inspected under the Public Health Act, 1875...	...	...	...	...	550
No. of Houses requiring Repairs to Yard Paving	...	...	...	...	34
No. of Houses requiring Cleansing	...	...	...	...	75
No. of Houses requiring Repairing	...	...	...	...	176
No. of Overcrowding investigated	...	...	...	...	109
No. of Houses Overcrowded	...	...	...	...	38
No. of Notifications of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	355
No. of Patients removed to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	...	85
No. of Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	159
No. of Houses requiring Internal Cleansing after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	11
No. of Articles put through the Steam Disinfector	...	...	...	...	1751
No. of Visits to Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	90
No. of Nuisances, etc., found at same	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Visits to Common Lodging Houses...	...	...	...	...	90
No. of Houses without proper Ashbins	...	...	...	...	359
No. of Houses with Rain Water Pipes direct to Drains	...	...	...	...	25
No. of Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	66
No. of Visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	2298
No. of Visits to Cowsheds and Milk Vendors' Premises	...	...	...	...	64
No. of Samples taken under Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	101
No. found Adulterated...	...	...	...	...	12
No. of Preliminary Notices served to abate	...	...	...	...	1094
No. of Statutory served to abate	...	...	...	...	373
No. of Legal Proceedings taken under the Food and Drugs Act...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Legal Proceedings taken under the Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	—
No. of Legal Proceedings under Housing Acts (eviction of tenants)	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Interviews with Owners, Builders and Tenants <i>re</i> Abatement of Nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	360



The following Tables show the number of notices served under the various Acts :—

PRELIMINARY NOTICES, 1925.

Nuisances, 1875. Sec. 91.	Over- crowding	P.H.A., 1875. Sec. 36.	P.H.A.A A., 1907. Sec. 37.	Housing Act 1925.	Total.
405 Verbal 116	38	359	25	151	1094

STATUTORY NOTICES, 1925.

Nuisances, 1875. Sec. 91.	P. H. A., 1875. Sec. 36.	P. H. A. A. A., 1907. Sec. 37.	Housing Act, 1925. Sec. 28.	Total.
58	164	—	151	373

AT PRESENT UNABATED, BUT WORK IN HAND, 1925.

Nuisances, 1875. Sec. 91.	P. H. A., 1875. Sec. 36.	P. H. A. A. A., 1907. Sec. 37.	Housing Act, 1925. Sec. 28.	Total.
11	5	—	25	41

*Note.*—The outstanding notices unabated in 1924 have been complied with.

(P.H.A.) 1875. HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

550 Houses have been inspected.

75 of them required some cleansing.

176 required some repairs, and 34 required the back yard pavings relaid or repaired, which has been done or the work in hand.

*Vide* table showing sanitary work carried out.



## SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

	Public Health Act	Factory and Workshop Act
No. of Workshops cleansed ... ..		18
No. of Outworkers' Premises cleansed ... ..		8
No. of Cowsheds limewashed ... ..		6
No. of Slaughter Houses limewashed ... ..		84
No. of Rooms in Common Lodging Houses limewashed		148
	Public Health Act	Housing Act, 1925
<b>DRAINS.</b>		
No. found blocked and cleared ... ..	75	5
No. flushed ... ..	30	5
No. found defective ... ..	41	4
No. repaired ... ..	35	4
No. wholly relaid ... ..	14	1
No. of intercepting traps fixed ... ..	10	—
No. of intercepting trap stoppers fixed ... ..	14	—
No. of chambers and manholes built ... ..	56	1
No. of new covers to manholes ... ..	61	1
No. of fresh air inlets fixed ... ..	10	1
No. of fresh air inlets repaired ... ..	11	1
No. of soil and vent pipes fixed ... ..	7	1
No. of soil and vent pipes repaired ... ..	17	1
No. of new gullies provided to sinks ... ..	20	4
No. of insanitary traps abolished ... ..	4	2
No. of rain water pipes disconnected ... ..	42	—
No. of rain water tanks cleaned out ... ..	37	1
No. of rain water tanks made to overflow gullies ... ..	8	1
No. of intercepting traps repaired ... ..	3	1
<b>YARDS, &amp;c.</b>		
No. of yards paved... ..	22	35
No. of yard pavings repaired ... ..	41	9
No. of right of ways gravelled and levelled ... ..	9	7
No. of division walls and fences repaired ... ..	7	2
No. of gates repaired ... ..	10	2
No. of ashbins provided ... ..	5	2
No. of animals and fowls improperly kept ... ..	26	11
No. of manure pits rebuilt or repaired ... ..	6	1
Manure and other offensive matter removed ... ..	3	1



				Public Health Act	Housing Act, 1925
<b>HOUSES.</b>					
No. of rooms and staircases cleansed	...	...	...	300	492
No. of inside walls repaired	...	...	...	300	492
No. of verminous rooms fumigated	...	...	...	18	13
No. of damp walls remedied	...	...	...	17	82
No. of house floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	31	174
No. of window cords repaired	...	...	...	59	107
No. of window frames repaired and made to open	...	...	...	69	92
No. of firegrates and fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	18	74
No. of new doors fixed	...	...	...	2	4
No. of doors repaired	...	...	...	23	14
No. of splashboards fixed to doors	...	...	...	3	2
No. of cupboards cleansed	...	...	...	30	144
No. of pantries cleansed	...	...	...	35	147
No. of pantries repaired and ventilated	...	...	...	2	66
No. of coppers repaired	...	...	...	12	43
No. of service water pipes repaired	...	...	...	14	15
No. of sinks provided with water supply	...	...	...	18	5
No. of sinks fixed	...	...	...	18	5
No. of new waste pipes fixed	...	...	...	22	9
No. of waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	6	2
No. of sinks and bath waste pipes trapped	...	...	...	21	3
No. of outside walls repaired	..	...	...	18	26
No. of spoutings repaired	...	...	...	37	29
No. of roofs repaired	...	...	...	40	51
No. of chimney heads repaired	...	...	...	13	15
No. of outside passages limewashed	...	...	...	11	2
No. of staircases repaired	...	...	...	2	27
No. of cupboard doors repaired	...	...	...	3	29
<b>W.C's, Etc.</b>					
No. of defective W.C's repaired	...	...	...	21	9
No. of W.C's rebuilt	...	...	...	12	2
No. of new pedestal pans fixed	...	...	...	16	1
No. of hopper pans fixed	...	...	...	6	3
No. of filthy pans cleansed	...	...	...	34	11
No. of W.C. seats repaired	...	...	...	15	19
No. of W.C. cisterns repaired or fixed	...	...	...	36	27
No. of floors relaid	...	...	...	17	9
No. of W.C. doors repaired	...	...	...	7	14
No. of lights provided to W.C's	...	...	...	33	47
No. of W.C. walls cleansed	...	...	...	38	90
No. of W.C. roofs repaired	...	...	...	20	26
No. of W.C. spoutings provided or repaired	...	...	...	33	46
<b>OUTHOUSES.</b>					
No. of defective ones repaired or built	...	...	...	10	13
No. of floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	14	17
No. of doors repaired	...	...	...	5	7
No. of walls cleansed	...	...	...	29	65
No. of roofs repaired	...	...	...	21	23
No. of spoutings provided or repaired	...	...	...	36	21



It may be thought, on perusal of the above table of sanitary work carried out, that many of the items are of a small or trivial nature, but small sanitary defects have a greater influence upon the health of the community than many persons realise. Bacteriology has shown us what a menace to health small things can be. Broken window cords for instance do not allow of the windows open. This means foul air in the room; foul air may predispose the inhaler to consumption, and repaired window cords may mean fresh air and good health. Complaints are received that there are bad smells arising from defective drains about the house; on investigation the drains are found sound, but the gullies are dirty and the waste pipes foul, and vitiated air passing up untrapped, and the waste pipes in the house may be the primary cause of the disease in those inhaling it. Damp walls, from the surface of the garden being above the damp course, and the air grating covered: result, dry rot and bad smells under the floor. Loose paving around sink gullies, allowing soakage in the earth, a warm day, children playing around the gully, and diarrhoea is the result, and so on. It often requires a deal of proving before the householder is convinced that the smells they have experienced have not been from defective drains but from other sources.

#### OVERCROWDING.

One hundred and nine cases of overcrowding were investigated, but only in 38 instances was it found to be excessive and steps taken to get the nuisances abated, with the result no doubt that the dispossessed persons crowded into other houses. In investigating overcrowded houses it is difficult to get truthful replies to questions as to the number of persons living in the house, as the tenant is quite aware of what it means to him or her if such is the case, as there is the trouble of abating the nuisance, as well as the loss of income derived from the sub-letting, this in some cases being more than the rent of the whole house.

#### HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Thirty-six are on the register containing 90 rooms, but it was not found practicable to maintain the inspection of all the houses let in lodgings as very many houses are now, technically, houses let in lodgings owing to the abnormal housing conditions, and are not registered.

#### HOUSING ACT, 1925.

During the year 155 houses have been inspected under this Act. In all cases more or less work was required to be done to put them in a fit state for human habitation. (*Vide* Table showing sanitary work carried out).

Eighty-seven houses were originally scheduled for demolition or reconstruction and will be dealt with as soon as other suitable accommodation is obtainable for the inmates; in the meantime cleansing and minor repairs have been insisted upon at most of these houses and carried out.



Situation.	Number of Houses.
Butcher's Yard ... ..	6
Bell Court ... ..	12
St. John's Street, Nos. 15, 17, 17a ... ..	3
London Road, Nos. 2, 4 ... ..	2
Ram Yard, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 ... ..	4
St. Cuthbert's Square ... ..	14
Paradine Court ... ..	1
Queen's Row ... ..	7
Tavistock Place, Nos. 32, 33, 34, 35 ... ..	4
Saddler's Court, Nos. 52 to 62 ... ..	6
Chandos Street, Nos. 12 to 26 ... ..	8
Gravel Lane ... ..	4
Allhallows Lane ... ..	16

Of the above

4 houses in Gravel Lane

5 houses in Queen's Row

5 houses in St. Cuthbert's Square

2 houses in Tavistock Street

} Have been voluntarily closed.

1 house in London Road has been demolished.

2 houses in St. Cuthbert's Square have been demolished.

1 house in London Road has been reconstructed.

6 houses in Allhallows Lane, Nos. 37, 39, 41, 43, 45 and 53, have been closed and are in process of demolition.



## THE NUMBER OF HOUSES ALREADY CLOSED IS AS FOLLOWS

DURING THE YEARS 1905 TO 1925.							
LOCALITY						No. Closed	No. Demolished
Bell Court, Nos. 2, 4	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Parish Court	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Chandos Street	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Spring Gardens	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Gravel Lane, Nos. 2 to 28	...	...	...	...	...	14	7
Christie's Court	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
Graham's Yard	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Paradine Court	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Malden's Court	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
Castle Lane, Nos. 13, 15	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Newnham Street, Nos. 24, 6, 32, 4, 21 to 25	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Priory Street, Nos. 9, 11, 7	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Cardington Road, No. 28	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Tavistock Place, 8 to 18	...	...	...	...	...	10	10
Balsall Street, No. 9	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
St. John's Street, No. 30	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Beaconsfield Street	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Midland Road, No. 20, 22	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Hurst Grove	...	...	...	...	...	26	—
Hand Court, Nos. 1 to 13	...	...	...	...	...	13	13
Amphill Street, Nos. 6 to 12	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Tower Court, Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Tower Gardens	...	...	...	...	...	11	11
London Road, No. 2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
St. Andrews Road, No. 4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Bromham Road, No. 124	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Lurke Street, No. 2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Allhallows Lane, No. 37 to 55	...	...	...	...	...	10	*
Tavistock Place, Nos. 34, 35	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Queen's Row, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
St. Cuthbert's Square, Nos. 1 to 8	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
St. Cuthbert's Street, No. 4	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Russell Street, Nos. 13, 15	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Costin Street, No. 27	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Totals						180	121

\* In process of demolition.

Closing orders were made in respect to 6 houses, Nos. 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 53, Allhallows Lane, in 1923. The Authority has now purchased these houses with the addition of Nos. 47, 49, 51, 55, and will shortly demolish them.

NOTE.—The 26 houses in Hurst Grove were during the war converted into offices, but some are now being reconverted into dwelling houses again.



## HOUSES IN THE BOROUGH WITHOUT SEPARATE W.C. ACCOMMODATION.

In 1925 there were 103 houses with 49 W.C.'s.

Allhallows Lane, Nos. 24 to 30	...	...	2 W.C.'s	to	4 Houses
"    "    Nos. 27, 29	...	...	1 "	"	2 "
Beauchamp Row	...	...	3 "	"	6 "
Bell Court	...	...	4 "	"	8 "
Butcher's Yard	...	...	2 "	"	6 "
Chandos Street, Nos. 35 to 39	...	...	2 "	"	3 "
Chandos Street, Nos. 16 to 26	...	...	3 "	"	6 "
Chandos Street, Nos. 28 to 30	...	...	1 "	"	2 "
Greenhill Street, Nos. 22 to 30	...	...	2 "	"	5 "
Hassett Street, Nos. 1 to 9	...	...	3 "	"	5 "
Ram Yard, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4	...	...	2 "	"	4 "
Richbell Court	...	...	3 "	"	7 "
Rose Cottages	...	...	3 "	"	7 "
Saddler's Court	...	...	3 "	"	6 "
St. Cuthbert's Square, Nos. 9 to 14	...	...	2 "	"	6 "
St. John's Place	...	...	5 "	"	10 "
Thurlow Street, Nos. 2 to 10	...	...	3 "	"	5 "
Tavistock Place	...	...	2 "	"	4 "
"    "    "    "    "    "	...	...	1 "	"	2 "
"    "    "    "    "    "	...	...	1 "	"	3 "
Union Street, Nos. 43, 45	...	...	1 "	"	2 "
			49 "	"	103 "

The accommodation for the above houses is sufficient for the need of the occupiers, although they would prefer to have separate ones, but this cannot be enforced.

## HOUSES NOT CONNECTED TO THE SEWAGE SYSTEM.

Pail or Earth Closets		Cesspools		Midden		Septic Tank		Total	
1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925
10	13	25	34	3	3	1	1	39	51

These are situated as follows:—

*Pail or Earth Closets—*

1. Waterworks.
1. Angler's Rest.
- Chemical Factory, Cauldwell Walk.
1. Anstee's " " "
1. Clark's " " "
3. Nos. 62, 64, 66, Cauldwell Walk.
1. Laughton's Yard, Midland Railway Land.



*Pail or Earth Closets*—continued.

No. 2, London Road.

1. Rope Works, St. John's Street.

1. Cottage, Cox's Pits.

1. Caves, Goldington Road.

*Cesspools*—

28 new houses in Goldington Road.

2 new houses in Kimbolton Road.

Brickhill Farm.

The Moat, Woburn Road.

Cauldwell House, Kempston Road.

Pumping Station, Clapham Road.

*Note.*—with respect to the new houses in Goldington Road and Kimbolton Road, a new sewer has been laid and drains of each house will shortly be connected to it.

*Middens*—

3 at the Railway Goods Yard.

*Septic Tank*—

1 at Cauldwell Priory.

I would point out that it would now be possible to connect with the sewer the houses numbered 64 and 66 Cauldwell Walk, Kempston Road, and Laughton's Yard, Midland Road.

## NUISANCES.

The 521 nuisances discovered or reported at the office (including those found at the house-to-house inspection) were of a varied nature, and with the exception of the number shown in the table have been abated.

In 116 instances verbal intimation to persons responsible for minor nuisances was sufficient to procure abatement thereof.

16 complaints were received at the office in respect to bad smells emanating from street sewers. These complaints were at once handed to the Borough Surveyor, who had the matter investigated.

In 30 instances complaints were received from householders relative to the non-removal of house refuse. These were at once communicated to the Borough Surveyor, who had them attended to.

## DRAIN TESTING.

52 houses were tested by request, and the sanitary fittings reported upon, for which £39 was received and paid into the District Fund. At 32, defects of more or less serious nature were found. In 10 instances new 4" drains were laid under modern conditions, and 9 intercepting traps were fixed. The defects at the other houses were remedied and passed after retesting.

44 drains were tested on complaint and in 10 instances were found defective. 7 of them were relaid, 3 repaired, and 2 new traps fixed.



85 drains were examined after notification of infectious disease in the house, and in three instances were found defective and remedied. The defects were not of such a serious nature as to be the cause of the disease in the house.

#### PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

65 drains of the schools and boarding houses in connection with the schools were tested and reported on. A report of each was sent to the Governors and Boarding House Masters. Defective drains were found in 9 instances. At the Girls' High School most of the drains have been laid on a more modern system; the remaining portion is to be relaid in 1926.

At the Boys' Modern School plans are being prepared for the relaying of the greater portion of the drains found defective.

Slight defects were found in the drains of the Bedford School as well as the drains of the Headmaster's House.

At the School Boarding House, 28 Linden Road, the whole of the drains on the south side, which were found defective, have been relaid on modern lines.

The same inspection was made of the drains of the Kindergarten and other private schools; 2 defects were found and same were at once remedied. £54 15s. 0d. was received for these inspections and paid into the District Funds.

In connection with the repairs or relaying of the drains at the schools entailed many visits and retesting during the summer holidays.

#### SANITARY DUST BINS.

359 notices to provide proper galvanised iron dust bins have been served upon owners of the houses, and at 326 houses bins have been provided. During the past few years 5,291 dust bins have replaced the old boxes, etc., formerly used for the storage of house refuse.

#### COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of 1925 the Register contained the names of 3 persons keeping cowsheds and 79 purveyors of milk; 36 of the latter resided outside the town, but retail milk in the Borough. 43 retail milk in the Borough.

The Food Inspector has made 64 visits to the various premises in which milk is kept, and the same were found in a cleanly condition.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The slaughter houses in the Borough number 22, yearly licences being granted to 17 of them by the Authority, whilst the remaining 5 are old registered premises. The Food Inspector has made 2,298 visits to them, and inspected the carcasses of 791 beasts, 2,225 sheep and 1,947 pigs. During the year 1 slaughter house was demolished.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 355 notifications of infectious disease were received by the Medical Officer of Health. The houses were visited and circumstances surrounding the cases entered in the register for his information.

159 rooms were disinfected and 1,751 articles were put through the steam disinfecter. £1 10s. 0d. has been received for disinfection of rooms on request, and the same has been paid into the District Fund.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

85 patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year; 10 patients paid for medical attendance, etc., the sum of £54 10s. 2d., which was paid into the District Fund.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 3 offensive trades carried on in the Borough, viz.: Frying of Fish, Rag and Bone Dealing, and Storing of Hides, Skins and Fat. The following are the situations where "offensive trades" are carried on in the Borough:—

*Fish Frying (19).*

26 Ford End Road	1 Great Butt Street
66 Iddesleigh Road	34 Denmark Street
2 Harpur Street	22 The Broadway
59 St. John's Street	2 Althorpe Street
37 Park Road East	95 Ford End Road
62 Tavistock Street	38 Newnham Street
108 Greyfriars Walk	19 Canning Street
and 5 travelling vans for fish frying are also registered.	

*Rag and Bone (6).*

Gwyn Street (2)	Hassett Street
Beckett Street	Midland Road
Tower Court.	

*Hides and Skins (3).*

Gwyn Street (2)	Roise Street.
-----------------	---------------

Many visits were made to these premises.

The Bye-Laws regulating them have been observed, and with reference to Rag and Bone Stores very few complaints have been received. These have been as a rule complaints of smells generally in the Summer time and on Sundays, when butchers have brought bones to the place on Saturday night, so as not to have the smells in their own slaughter houses or shops during Sundays.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses on the Register number 3, with 74 beds, and are licensed yearly.



Numerous visits of inspection have been made by myself and in company with the Medical Officer of Health, and no fault could be found in the manner in which we found them conducted.

The rooms and bedding, etc., were kept in a clean condition and the statutory limewashing of the premises observed. No cases of Infectious Disease occurred in the Houses during the year. The following are the names of the houses, the number of beds occupied in each house, and the number of beds occupied during the year 1925, as shown by the weekly returns.

	THE ROYAL OAK 4 Rooms. 17 Beds.			THE WHITE HART 2 Rooms. 7 Beds.		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1st Quarter.....	604	—	604	506	—	506
2nd Quarter .....	573	—	573	598	—	598
3rd Quarter .....	755	—	755	468	—	468
4th Quarter .....	704	—	704	524	—	524
Totals .....	2636	—	2636	1996	—	1996

Average per night 7.22.

Average per night 5.46.

	8A TAVISTOCK PLACE 6 Rooms. 50 Beds.			TOTALS 12 Rooms. 74 Beds.		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1st Quarter.....	2897	—	2897	4007	—	4007
2nd Quarter .....	3013	—	3013	4084	—	4084
3rd Quarter .....	2892	—	2892	4115	—	4115
4th Quarter .....	3133	—	3133	4361	—	4361
Total.....	11935	—	11935	16567	—	16567

Average per night 32.69.

Average per night 45.39.

Being a total increase from the numbers of the previous year of 2507 males.

#### SANITARY CONDITION OF THEATRES.

During the year, six visits of Inspection have been made to the Theatre and Cinema Houses. On the whole the conditions were found to be satisfactory.

#### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS—Caravans.

The living vans used by the showmen attending the Statute Fairs in the Borough in April and October were visited. No case of sickness was discovered among the occupiers. The condition of the vans was satisfactory, although they may be overcrowded at night.



## CARAVANS.

There were two caravans in the Borough situated in a field off the Goldington Road. In one a man, wife and 2 children, in the other a man and wife. As these people could not obtain houses they purchased these vans to live in; one has been in use for 2 years the other for 6 months. They have been visited many times and kept in a very clean condition. Water supply is town water and 2 pail closets are in use.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

At the end of the year there were 615 Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Domestic Workrooms on the Register.

## HOME WORK.

Occupiers of Factories and Workshops are compelled to keep lists of the names and addresses of persons employed by them to execute work at their own homes, and to forward copies of such lists to the Local Authority in February and August of each year.

Prescribed forms of lists are forwarded to the various tradespeople who employ persons, so there is no excuse for the non-delivery of lists.

48 notices were served on occupiers of Factories and Workshops as to keeping and sending the lists. 38 lists containing the names of 90 persons have been received. These lists are of great assistance, as when a case of infectious disease is notified a glance at the list will show at once whether there is any home work being at the house infected.

Each worker's residence is visited, and in 8 cases the cleansing of the rooms used as workrooms was ordered and carried out.

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are 56 Bakehouses on the Register, of which 14 are at present unoccupied; none of these come under the definition of "Underground Bakehouses" as laid down by Sec. 101 of the Factory Act. 2 have been demolished during the year. 66 visits of inspection were made. In 8 instances the periodical limewashing was found to be overdue, and on the necessary orders being served this was remedied. The other cases of complaint found on the many visits of inspection made were for dirty floors and utensils.

## REPORT OF H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

During the year 5 notices of contravention of this Act and remediable under the Public Health Act, *viz.*:—1 insufficient and not a separate accommodation for two sexes, 2 not intervening ventilated space between W.C. and Workroom, 1 limewashing overdue, 1 walls of Workrooms dirty and dilapidated, were received from H.M. Inspector and the necessary action taken to remedy them. In addition to the above 7 notices of occupation of workshops were received and were entered on the register.

A. W. MERRIE

(Senior Sanitary Inspector).



## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (rated) .. .. .	85
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme .. .. .	—

## 1. Unfit dwelling houses.

Inspection :—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	709
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 .. .. .	159
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. .	5
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	373

## 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 ... .. .

—

## 3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A—Proceedings under Section 3, Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	151
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a) by owners .. .. .	136
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... .. .	4

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. .	222
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) by owners .. .. .	206
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ..	—



c—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	..	...	4
(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	...	...	...	..	—

Before the War the estimated shortage of houses in Bedford was 300, the greatest need being for cottages suitable for letting at rents within the means of the labouring classes. These rents had ranged from 2/- to 3/6 per week.

On November 27th, 1918, a Housing Committee was appointed to prepare a scheme for the housing of the working classes, and on June 18th, 1919, reported to the Council that they recommended for acquisition a piece of land lying on the east side of London Road of approximately 27 acres, and another piece of 43 acres at Honey Hills to the west of the town and bounded on the south side by the river; of these it was considered that only 12½ acres of the first and 21 acres of the second would be immediately required. The scheme suggested would provide 400 houses, 150 on the first site and 250 on the second. The appointment of an architect was also advised. The report of the Committee was adopted and an architect subsequently appointed.

In addition to the sites suggested other smaller ones in various parts of the town were also considered, and in the result the erection of 8 houses in the Goldington Road district was sanctioned by the Minister on April 19th, 1920, as the first instalment of a Housing Scheme.

Difficulties arose however with regard to the larger scheme for the Queen's Park and London Road sites, and the Housing Committee recommended to the Council on March 24th, 1920, that, in lieu of building on these sites, 147 working-class houses should be provided to the east of Elstow Road and 32 better-class houses on the London Road. This suggested alteration of the Scheme did not however commend itself to the Ministry of Health, between whom and the Council an acute controversy now arose.

Finally an agreement was come to on the basis of the Housing Act, 1919, Section 7, whereby it was arranged that about 380 houses should be built under the direction of His Majesty's Office of Works in consultation with the Town Council, and that the Town Council should make all reasonable efforts to raise the requisite sums for the Scheme by Housing Bonds, whilst the Minister promised his sanction to a loan for £40,000 for housing purposes. The number of houses to be erected was at first fixed at 460, of which 296 were to be of the parlour type.



On the approval of the Scheme work was at once commenced on the first portion comprising 218 houses, and it was agreed that the second portion should not be commenced until the housing requirements of the Borough had been more definitely ascertained; subsequently the number of houses to be built was reduced to 192, making with the 8 houses in the Goldington Road scheme a total of 200. By a subsequent arrangement 2 more houses was added to the Elstow Road scheme, thus making a total of 202.

The Scheme was finally completed and handed over to the Council in October, 1922.

#### SUBSIDY HOUSES.

On the passing of the Housing Act of 1923 steps were taken to bring it into operation in the Borough. On Oct. 5th, 1923, Conferences were held with the builders and others interested, who were invited to submit plans. As a result it was decided by the Council on Jan. 28th, 1924, subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, to assist in the provision in the Borough of 50 houses within the prescribed limits of size by undertaking to make a grant of £125 per houses on the conditions specified in the Act; the houses were to be ready for occupation by Dec. 31st, 1924. By Aug. 8th 50 certificates for commencement had been issued, and on Sept. 24th, on the report of the Housing and Town Planning Committee, the Council decided, subject to the approval of the Minister, to subsidize a further 50 houses at the same rate as before, viz., £125. Subsequently in the case of the 100 houses to be erected by private enterprise without 'the special conditions' the subsidy was reduced to a £100 for the first 50 and to £75 for the remaining 50.

As a result of the Housing Act, 1924, the Committee on Oct. 2nd submitted a further report and a draft programme for the two years ending Dec. 31st, 1926. In this it was estimated that 240 working-class houses would be required to be ultimately built, the estimate being made up as follows:—

Number of houses required to abate existing overcrowding	130
Number of houses required to replace unfit houses and houses below a reasonable standard of fitness	70
Number of houses required to meet the natural growth of population during the period in question	40
	240

Of these it was suggested that 140 might be erected by the Council, subject to the 'special conditions' as to letting, and 100 by private enterprise, not subject to the 'special conditions.' The last mentioned figure included the 50 subsidy houses which it was anticipated would be erected by Sept. 29th, 1925.

According to the figures supplied me by the Rate Collector, Mr. C. E. Craddock, the number of new houses rated from June 30th, 1919, to December 31st, 1925, was 375.



I have already stated my opinion that there is not likely to be any great change in the numbers of the population of Bedford: before the War, the yearly estimates of the number of inhabitants were based upon the supposition that the increase was in a geometrical ratio and that this could be calculated from the numbers of the population at the beginning and end of the preceding decennium. This method is now discredited; it certainly led to excessive estimates in the case of this town. For the year 1921, the population was estimated by the Registrar General as 40,050, and for 1925 as 41,440. It would therefore appear from the above statement, that when the proposed houses are erected, the housing difficulty will be at any rate in large part overcome. The difficulty lies in the provision of cottages for the less well-paid portion of the working classes.

In the case of the Elstow Road Housing Estate it is necessary for the Authority to charge rents which are sometimes above the capacity of the tenants to pay; they therefore in order to pay their rents have in some instances been obliged to take in lodgers, and the Housing Committee have been reluctantly compelled to waive their objection (as expressed in their rules) owing to the force of circumstances.

There is still a good deal of overcrowding and much of this is due to the fact that as families of children grow up more room is required for sleeping accomodation. Again, during the War many young couples got married earlier than they would have done in normal times: in the shortage of houses the new married couples remained in their parents' houses, and as their children have been growing up the houses have become overcrowded. A distinction must be, and has been drawn in practice between overcrowding by the members of one family inhabiting a single house, and that due to the taking in of lodgers. In the latter class of cases only has pressure been brought to bear upon the tenant of the house to abate the nuisance.

As for the general standard of housing in the Borough, and the character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses, I may quote as follows from my report for the year 1920.

"Though the demand for new houses exists in Bedford as elsewhere, the needs of the town are not so urgent as those of many other places. The greater part of the houses in the Borough have been built within the last forty years, many of them within the last fifteen. But for the War there is no doubt the demand for middle class and superior artizan dwellings would have been adequately and satisfactorily met by the local builders. The great want of the town was, and is, that of cottages for the labouring class that could be let at rents within the power of those classes to pay. No scheme can be satisfactory that does not provide for their needs. The houses in the older part of the town vary in character according to the date of the building, and many possess gardens of considerable size. Even in the case of cottage property there is, as a rule, a sufficiency of open space about the houses; on the other hand, some of the business premises in the main streets are unduly cramped for room. In the newer parts of the town the streets are straight and wide, and many of them have been planted with trees, which add greatly to their appearance. The more highly rated houses



are mainly of the villa or semi-detached villa type ; they are well planned and modern in character. Besides these there are a great many streets consisting of houses suitable for families of moderate means ; they generally consist of a ground floor and upper storey, and have no basements. Except in the central part of the town there are no houses with basements. The accommodation for the working classes is good ; the houses contain, as a rule, a front parlour, a 'living room' furnished with a kitchen range, a wash-house or scullery, and outside offices : and upstairs two, or generally three, bedrooms. Passages run at intervals between the houses to give access to the backyards ; the space behind the houses is wide, and the drains are so laid that they run to the back, and are taken out to the street beneath the side passages. In all streets built within the last twenty years inspection chambers have been systematically introduced at all points where a change in the direction of the drain occurs. In the newer streets there has been an increasing tendency to provide the better houses of this class with bathrooms.

The condemned houses are old, and many of them indifferently built. The rooms are small and low ceiled ; the staircases narrow and steep ; there is no proper storage place for food ; there is want of proper washing accommodation ; there are often only two bedrooms. The roofs and gutterings are defective ; the walls are often damp from want of a damp course, causing the plaster to rot and drop ; the window frames are generally very old, and in many cases the windows will only open at the bottom, and in a very few instances there is no indoor water supply, but several houses depend on a common tap. A few of the houses are also 'back to back,' or have no through ventilation."

Since the above was written, in most cases the worst defects have been remedied and the houses rendered more or less habitable.

No serious difficulty has been experienced in the carrying out of the provisions of the Public Health and the Housing Acts : the details are given in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the supply comes from the surrounding country, and is delivered twice daily in most instances. The various Milkshops have been regularly inspected.

There is one licensee (with two sets of premises) for the sale of Grade A. Milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. Five samples were sent to the Reading National Dairies' Research Institute and were all found free from *bac. coli*. No applications to sell Milk as 'Pasteurized' have been received so far.

Three cows from milking herds were sent into the Borough for slaughter by order of a Veterinary Surgeon under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925, due notice being given to the Local Authority. One carcass was wholly condemned and destroyed ; of the other two, one was passed as wholly and the other as partially fit for human use.



There are three Cowsheds in the Borough, containing some 36 milch cows.

No necessity arose for taking action under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops or other Orders.

In eight cases the Analyst reported that the samples shewed abstraction of fat to the following amounts: 5%, 6%, 8.3%, 11%, 11%, 12%, 15%, 23.6%. Enquiries were made and explanations obtained, whilst further samples were taken in each instance; as the latter proved satisfactory no proceedings were taken. In the case of high deficiency of fat it was found that the sample was taken from the bottom of a nearly empty can, and subsequent samples were genuine.

(b) MEAT.

*Slaughter Houses.*

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered ... ..	5	5	5
Licensed ... ..	18	17	16
	—	—	—
	23	22	21
	—	—	—

The inspection of slaughter houses and meat is in the hands of the Food Inspector, who holds the Special Certificate for Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute. He is provided by the Authority with a bicycle in order to facilitate his work, and paid 2,298 visits to slaughter houses during the year, and inspected 791 beasts, 2,225 sheep and 1,947 pigs.

The following table gives the particulars as to the carcasses or portions of carcasses from slaughter houses and meat shops which were condemned as unfit for food:—

<i>Home Dressed.</i>		<i>Imported.</i>	
	Weight.		Weight.
2 Carcasses of Cows...	740 lbs.	Beef ... ..	369 lbs.
2 " " Ox ...	460 lbs.	Mutton ... ..	10 lbs.
1 Ox Liver ... ..	12½ lbs.	Liver ... ..	12 lbs.
Mutton ... ..	87 lbs.	Ox Tail ... ..	48 lbs.

In addition to the raw meat condemned, the following articles of food (preserved, tinned, etc.) were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:—

7 tins of Corned Beef (42 lbs.)	17 Rabbits
5 tins of Prawns	6 boxes of Kippers
2 bags of Shrimps	8 Preserved Eggs.

Condemned meat and other articles of food are destroyed at the Refuse Destructor.

On the introduction (April, 1925) of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, a meeting of all the Meat Traders in the Borough was convened by the Medical Officer of Health, and very largely attended. The effect of the Regulations was explained and discussed, and no difficulties have arisen in their administration. It was generally agreed that the provision of standard (hygienic) meat-stalls on the open-air market would be a desirable improvement.



## (c) OTHER FOODS.

If the large modern Chocolate Factory of Messrs. Peak Frean & Co. be excepted, there are no premises besides the Bakehouses where food is prepared on any large scale. The sanitary conditions of the Bakehouses on the whole are satisfactory, though the Sanitary Inspector has had to report certain instances of want of cleanliness.

(d) No cases of food poisoning occurred in the Borough during the period under review.

## (e) SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

101 samples of food and drugs were purchased during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for examination :

ARTICLES.	No. of Samples.		Adulterated.	
	Formal.	Informal.	Formal.	Informal.
Milk ... ..	85	—	8	—
Cream ... ..	2	—	—	—
Preserved Cream ... ..	3	—	—	—
Cream Cheese ... ..	—	—	—	—
Butter ... ..	—	—	—	—
Dripping ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sausages ... ..	7	—	3	—
Pork Pie ... ..	2	—	—	—
Imported Apples ... ..	2	—	1	—

Three samples of pork sausages were reported as containing 30.38 ; 23.18 ; and 25.13 grains of Boracic Acid per pound. All three samples came from one Manufacturer, though purchased from three separate retail dealers. In one instance proceedings were instituted but withdrawn in consequence of the explanation given by the Makers and of the then unsettled state of the question of the preservative in question. For similar reasons no proceedings were taken in the other two cases.

Two 'random samples' of Jonathan apples were taken and in one of them Arsenic was found to the extent of 1/700 grain per pound. All dealers were warned and the apples withdrawn from sale.

## (f) MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

(1) *Milk ; and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream.*

No. of Samples examined for the presence of Preservative.	Number in which Preservative was reported to be present and percentage of Preservative found in each sample.
MILK ... 85	Nil
CREAM ... 2	Nil



The 85 samples of Milk were all taken under the Food and Drugs Acts. The Analyst makes a point of testing all samples for the presence of preservatives.

(2) *Cream sold as Preserved Cream.*

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

(i) Correct statements made .....	3
(ii) Statements incorrect .....	Nil

Total..... 3

(iii) Percentage of Preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on Statutory label.
0.397	0.4
0.136	0.4
0.311	0.4

(b) Determinations made of Milk Fat in Cream sold as Preserved Cream :—

(i) Above 35% .....	3
(ii) Below 35% .....	Nil

Total..... 3

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of Preserved Cream in Article V (1) and the proviso in Article V (2) of the Regulations have not been observed..... Nil

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with and action taken.. .. Nil

(3) *Thickening substances* ..... Nil

No action was taken under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923, or the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulation, 1923.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the five years 1921-25 there was no excessive prevalence of infectious diseases, the heaviest incidence being in 1922. The largest number of cases of Scarlet Fever (115) occurred in that year, whilst on the other hand there was comparatively little Diphtheria. Towards the end of the same year there was a considerable amount of Measles of a mild type with one death. Influenza was more prevalent also in 1922 than in any other year of the period with a high mortality, the deaths from this disease during the quinquennium being as follows :—1921—5 M., 2 F.; 1922—17 M., 17 F.; 1923—2 M., 2 F.; 1924—12 M., 6 F.; 1925—6 M., 0 F.



There were 2 cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, with 2 deaths in 1921 and 1925 respectively, in a child of 3 years and a man of 32.

Pneumonia must take rank as one of the most formidable of diseases. This is illustrated by the following figures, which for each year of the quinquennium give the number of cases notified as the denominators and the number of registered deaths as the numerators of the corresponding fractions:— $\frac{26}{50}$ ,  $\frac{27}{68}$ ,  $\frac{16}{28}$ ,  $\frac{21}{23}$ ,  $\frac{11}{18}$ .

In most instances cases of Diphtheria are promptly notified and at once removed to hospital, where antitoxin is administered in accordance with the teaching of experience that large doses should be the rule. It would be better if the diagnosis were made more often on the clinical symptoms, as valuable time is sometimes lost waiting for the result of a 'swab.' These are examined in the Borough Laboratory free of charge, and practitioners are also supplied with the necessary outfits. The serum is all prepared in the Laboratory.

In all cases enquiry is made as to the origin of cases of infectious disease, and information is supplied to the Medical Officer of Health from the primary schools as to cases of absence due or supposed to be due to this cause.

The Shick and Dick tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively have not been applied. It is more than probable that the application of them would cause so much prejudice and opposition that any benefit to be derived from them would be more than negated. The experience gained last year when the Borough was threatened with an epidemic of Smallpox is greatly in favour of this view.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

Case No. 14	...	Patient in contact in the country with a case of Scarlet Fever.
„ 16	...	Patient visited a house in London where two cases of Scarlet Fever had occurred.
„ 20	...	Patient's brother returned from Isolation Hospital a week previously.
„ 28, 29	...	Members of the same family.
„ 40, 41	...	Members of the same family.
„ 43	...	Parents of the patient contracted Scarlet Fever whilst away on their holiday.
„ 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51	...	In contact at School. (Amphill Road Girls.)
„ 48	...	In contact at "London with a case of" Scarlet Fever.
„ 60, 61	...	Patient's brother returned from Isolation Hospital a week previously.
„ 72	...	In contact at School with Nos. 60, 61.
„ 74	...	In contact at School with No. 72.
„ 83, 84	...	Members of same family.
„ 86, 88, 89, 91, 92, 95, 96, 97	...	In contact at School with Nos. 72, 74. (Goldington Road Infants.)
„ 87, 94	...	In contact at School with Nos. 83, 84.



## DIPHThERIA.

Case No. 1	...	Patient's brother returned from Isolation Hospital about a week previously.
„ 4	...	In contact at work with a case that had occurred 10 days previously.
„ 5	...	Patient sister of No. 1.
„ 6	...	In contact with Nos. 1 and 5.
„ 36, 37	...	Members of the same family.
„ 38	...	In contact with Nos. 36, 37.
„ 42, 51, 52, 53,		In contact at School. (Amphill Rd. Infants.)
56, 58, 59, 63,	„ „	„ „
65, 66, 67, 68,	„ „	„ „
69, 81	„ „	„ „

It will be observed that cases 20, 60, 61 (S.F.) and 1 and 5 (D.) were 'Return Cases.'

As always, 'Return Cases' remain a constant source of anxiety in Hospital administration. All cases of nasal and aural discharge are always detained till the discharges have disappeared, even if this involves a lengthy stay in Hospital. Unfortunately it is impossible to guard against the possibility of a recrudescence of the discharge if the patient, for example, catches a 'cold' after leaving; and there is also the possibility of unsuspected latent causes of infection in the town. Careful enquiry is always made, but it is often impossible to trace the source of infection.

*Incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, 1921—1925.*

Year	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1921	97	1	53	1
1922	115	1	28	2
1923	47	—	24	1
1924	18	—	33	4
1925	49	—	41	—
Totals	326	2	179	8
Averages	65	—	36	—

*Typhoid.*

One case of Paratyphoid occurred in 1924 and two in 1925, in all of which the infection was contracted away from Bedford; in the latter year there was one case of Typhoid of uncertain origin. There were no deaths.



## DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	4	4	—
Diphtheria ... ..	41	40	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	49	45	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid ... ..	3	—	—
Puerperal Fever and other diseases of Parturition ...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. ..	1	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	15	2	11
Erysipelas ... ..	9	1	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	1	—	1
Chickenpox ... ..	224	—	—
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	5	3	—
Tuberculosis :—			
(a) Pulmonary ... { M	23	—	15
{ F	24	—	17
{ Total	48	—	32
(b) Non-Pulmonary ... { M	11	—	4
{ F	11	—	5
{ Total	22	—	9



ANALYSIS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED  
DURING THE YEAR 1925.

DISEASE	Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Total at all ages
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	2	1	5	4	17	5	1	5	1	...	...	41
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	...	2	28	10	4	...	...	1	...	49
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever and other diseases of the Rynary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	...	4	1	...	...	2	2	5	15
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	3	...	9
Poliomyelitis	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Chicken-Pox	5	9	8	9	15	97	66	10	4	1	...	...	224
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	1	...	...	3	2	7	23	4	6	1	47
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	3	8	5	...	2	2	2	...	22
Totals	12	13	13	14	24	157	89	23	43	16	14	6	424



ANALYSIS OF DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN  
TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE YEAR 1925.

Disease.	Under One Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and up- wards.
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	6
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	6

### SMALLPOX.

The most noteworthy outbreak of disease during the period under review occurred during the last year, 1925, fortunately without the serious consequences for the Borough which it is conceivable might have ensued. On May 12th, 1925, I was asked by a doctor to see a pustular eruption in a man aged 32. On consultation it was decided that the patient had Smallpox, and he was removed to the small hospital ('Observation Hut') at Newnham.

The patient was employed at Luton but slept in Bedford, going to business daily by train. Enquiry failed to trace the actual source of infection, but he had slept one night at Rushden, on April 25th, and been present at a crowded meeting which was attended by many visitors from Kettering, where Smallpox had been present for several months. His family consisted of himself, his mother and brother, and two men lodgers working at the Queen's Engineering Works. All the four contacts were strongly urged to be vaccinated, but only the brother consented. All the men were suspended from work and were kept under observation, but continued to reside in the house, there being no reception house for 'Contacts' available, even supposing they might have been willing to enter it.

On the occurrence of the first case Dr. Mackenzie, of the Ministry of Health, visited the town, and besides confirming the diagnosis gave valuable advice as to the procedure to be adopted.

On May 29th the contacts not having shewn any symptoms of the disease were released from observation, and one of them (M.) resumed night work at his firm.

On May 30th the other man (T.), who had come to the Officer about his private affairs, was found to have two or three suspicious spots on his hands and face. He was then seen by Drs. Coombs and Welch in addition to myself, and it was decided to remove him to the 'Observation Hut,' to which he at first strongly objected.



The same day, May 30th, the other man (M.), not feeling well, went to consult a doctor in the evening and was, in the Surgery, brought in contact with about a dozen people. (These were all traced and vaccinated.) Later on in the same evening he came to my house, and was directed to return home and to remain in his lodgings. When seen next day, May 31st, the rash had developed, and after consultation he was taken to the 'Observation Hut.'

On the same day, May 31st, it was decided at a special meeting of the Public Health Sub-Committee to proceed at once with the erection of the larger hospital for which plans had been prepared by the Borough Surveyor some months earlier, a local firm being under contract to erect it in a period of six working days from the completion of the concrete foundations, materials for which were always kept in readiness. The work was commenced the same day, Sunday, May 31st, and the building was finished by the evening of Monday, June 8th; the furnishing was completed the next day, and the patients were installed by 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, a fourth patient (Mrs. T.), a relative of the first one, but living in another house, and who had not been in direct personal contact with him, developed a slight indisposition, together with a few spots, the nature of which she and her family appeared not to have suspected and therefore did not report. She had been released from observation sixteen days after the occurrence of the first case. Owing however to certain rumours I visited the house on June 5th, and at once called in, in consultation, Dr. Welch, who agreed with the opinion that the case was one of mild Smallpox highly modified in consequence of efficient vaccination in infancy. The patient was at once removed to the 'Observation Hut.'

Cases (A.) and (M.) had attacks of moderate severity; the other two cases were very mild. The hospital was evacuated on July 11th. All contacts were as far as possible traced and kept under observation, and most of them submitted to vaccination.

The total number of vaccinations performed was 2,300, made up as follows: By private practitioners, 1,587; by the M.O.H., 713.

#### LABORATORY.

During the year 1925, there were made 349 examinations of Throat Swabs for Diphtheria; 96 for patients in the Isolation Hospital, 117 for local private practitioners, and 136 for outside Authorities. 31 Samples of sputum for Tubercle and one of pus for Gonococcus were examined as also one of blood serum for Widal's test for Enteric. Two specimens of bullock's blood were examined for Anthrax. Thirty-three specimens of hair were examined for Ringworm. The weekly bacteriological examination of water from the Rising Main and the two Service Reservoirs were continued as usual. Four samples of water were sent from outside sources and were examined chemically and bacteriologically. Distilled Water was also supplied to the Electrical Department of the Corporation. An additional room which was greatly needed has been added to the Laboratory.



## ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The Steam Disinfector, situated at the Refuse Destructor at Newnham, is of the largest size and of the Manlove Alliott type. There is another of the same size and type at the Isolation Hospital.

In all cases of notifiable infections disinfection is done free of cost to the occupier of the house. 159 rooms were disinfected after removal of the patient or his death, and 1751 articles were put through the Steam Disinfector. 27 rooms were disinfested with sulphur and Formalin spray, and the use of the plumber's blow lamp.

During the outbreak of Smallpox all the bedding, bed clothes and wearing apparel of the four patients was destroyed.

In one bad case of infestation by vermin, the whole bedding of a household was destroyed under the provisions of Sec. 56 of the P.H.A. A.A. 1907., no compensation being given.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—
5 ... ..	3	1	5	3	—	—	—	1
10 ... ..	—	2	2	3	—	—	2	—
15 ... ..	4	2	—	—	2	2	—	1
20 ... ..	5	5	—	—	2	4	—	1
25 ... ..	6	7	—	2	7	4	—	—
35 ... ..	1	3	2	—	1	2	—	1
45 ... ..	2	2	—	2	1	2	2	1
55 ... ..	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
	23	24	11	11	15	17	4	5

On December 31st, 1925, there were on the Tuberculosis Register 230 cases, of which 157 were Pulmonary and 73 Non-Pulmonary: the former class comprised 76 males and 81 females; the latter 34 males and 39 females. The total number of deaths due to Tuberculosis was 41. 708 visits were paid by the Health Visitors during the year.

No occasion arose for action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Two Centres are held weekly, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, on the premises of the Free Library in Harpur Street, where a large and convenient room is specially reserved for the purpose: the large Hall serving as an excellent waiting room for the Mothers and Children. The attendances numbered 4,004. These figures do not include visits to the Health Office made for the purpose of purchasing dried milk, &c., but represent *bona fide* visits of the Mothers with their infants for the sake of getting advice and having their infants weighed. Dried and Fresh Milk are supplied only to mothers who attend regularly at the Centres. The Milk is distributed from the Public Health Offices at the Town Hall. The Medical Officer of Health attends each meeting for consultations, and there is a rota of Ladies who help the Health Visitor in the clerical work. Records and Charts are kept of all cases, and the Mothers are supplied with a card register of the baby's progress.

During the year 2497 lbs. of Dried Milk were distributed as follows: 2413 lbs. at full price; 19 lbs. at half cost price; and 65 lbs. gratuitously. 249 lbs. of Virol were also distributed; 207½ lbs. at full price, and 41½ lbs. gratuitously. 1129 pints of fresh milk were distributed to expectant and nursing mothers, and to infants, at a cost of £15.3.0.

The members of the Women's Adult School and of the Women's Co-operative Guild have continued to render valuable aid by undertaking to supply tea to the mothers at a small charge.

The supply of Maternity Outfits has been systematically organized. These are placed in the care of ladies residing in different parts of the town, who are responsible for the lending and return of the sets.

There is room for the development of the dental treatment of expectant mothers. The purchase of dentures is beyond the means of many or even most of the patients, and they are averse to treatment for this reason and often decline it when offered, though a small sum has been set aside by the M. and I.W. Committee for the purpose.

During the year the Health Visitors paid 1,145 visits to infants under one year, of which 593 were first visits. 210 visits were paid to expectant mothers, and 1,240 to children between 1 and 4 years, the total number of visits being 2,595.

There is no Maternity or Children's Hospital in the Borough. There is a Children's Ward at the County Hospital. This institution also provides facilities for surgical treatment of serious maternity cases. The want of a Maternity Home however will, as already stated, be very shortly supplied at the County Hospital.

The Bedford Poor Law Institution possesses admirable accommodation in modern and well equipped premises (for six maternity patients) adapted for all cases, including those requiring the most serious surgical treatment. During the year two Cæsarean operations were performed, both successfully. A fee of 21s. is charged to patients who can afford it; treatment in other cases is free of cost. In my last Report I alluded to the very natural reluctance of some patients to avail themselves of treatment at this Institution on account of its associations. There are



signs that this feeling is diminishing, and the fact that the Institution is now known generally as St. Peter's Hospital has no doubt largely conduced to the result.

The number of maternal deaths due to childbearing during the period was nine, of which one was due to sepsis and the rest to other complications. There were 25 stillbirths in 1925. When the Maternity Home and Anti-Natal Clinic at the County Hospital is opened, as it will be shortly, it is to be hoped that these figures may be still further reduced.

There is no prevalence of serious rickets in the town, and no special arrangements have been made for orthopædic treatment. The local Committee and the Inspector of the R.S.P.C.C. have given invaluable assistance in procuring special treatment in London hospitals for some special cases.

There have been but few cases each year of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. In one instance only, owing to tardy notification, the loss of sight in one eye unfortunately ensued. Of the five cases in 1925, two were treated at home, two at 'St. Peter's Hospital, and one at the Borough Isolation Hospital; all recovered.

#### DEATHS OF RESIDENT INFANTS, 1925.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.
1.	F.	4 days	Asphyxia caused accidentally. Inquest.
2.	M.	3 months	Mucous Enteritis : Marasmus.
3.	M.	3 months	Mucous Enteritis : Marasmus.
4.	M.	21 hours	Premature Birth.
5.	F.	1 day	Convulsions : 24 hours.
6.	M.	4 months	Bronchitis : 20 days.
7.	F.	2 days	Mediastinal Emphysema : Asphyxia.
8.	M.	10 days	Debility from Birth.
9.	M.	2 days	Congenital Heart Disease.
10.	M.	1 month	Purpura Hæmorrhagica Neonatorum.
11.	M.	1 month	Prematurity : Bronchitis.
12.	F.	19 days	Prematurity.
13.	F.	5 days	Acute Bronchitis : 5 days.
14.	M.	22 hours	Convulsions.
15.	M.	3 days	Deficient Vitality.
16.	M.	2 days	Congenital Heart Disease.
17.	M.	4 days	Encephalitis.
18.	M.	8 months	Patent Foramen Ovale : General
19.	F.	1 day	Prematurity. [Cardiac Failure.
20.	F.	13 days	Erysipelas : 2 days.
21.	F.	7 hours	Prematurity.
22.	M.	11 months	Measles : Broncho-pneumonia.
23.	F.	3 days	Prematurity.
24.	F.	1 month	Marasmus.
25.	M.	28 days	Umbilical Sepsis.
26.	M.	12 days	Premature Birth.
27.	F.	25 days	Premature Birth.
28.	M.	3 days	Prematurity : Pulmonary Atelectasis.
29.	F.	2 hours	Congenital Heart Disease.



Deaths of Resident Infants—*continued.*

No.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.
30.	M.	20 minutes ...	Premature Birth.
31.	F.	1 month ...	Congenital Morbus Cordis.
32.	M.	18 days ...	Sepsis following Circumcision.
33.	M.	6 months ...	Post. Basic Meningitis : 5 weeks.
34.	M.	3 days ...	Premature Birth.
35.	F.	1 day ...	Prematurity.
36.	M.	6 months ...	Congenital Heart Disease.
37.	F.	17 days ..	Prematurity.

## INFANT DEATHS, 1921—1925.

	1921.			1922			1923.			1924.			1925.		
	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.	M.	F.	Tot.
Legitimate ...	22	14	36	18	14	32	21	7	28	16	13	29	22	16	38
Illegitimate ...	4	3	7	4	2	6	1	1	2	2	—	2	1	—	1
	26	17	43	22	16	38	22	8	30	18	13	31	23	16	39

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	CASES				Vision un-impaired		Vision impaired		Total Blindness		Deaths
	Notified	Treated		1 Eye	2 Eyes	1 Eye	2 Eyes	1 Eye	2 Eyes		
		At Home	In Hospital								
	5	2	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	



In reviewing from the health point of view the history of the Borough for the last five years it may be said that it is marked by steady progress without any particularly striking features. The housing shortage has not been overcome, but it is hoped that it will be in the near future. The question of the water supply is under earnest consideration as the amount needs increasing: the quality of the water itself is excellent. Large additions have been made to the sewerage system of the town which will enable further building operations to be carried out on the outskirts of the residential portions of the town. No large industrial works have been brought to the town, but I have often pointed out that there are ample facilities for such in the southern district. The health of the town has on the whole been excellent throughout, and with the exception of the small outbreak of Smallpox there has been no cause for anxiety as regards infectious diseases.

The new sewage works at Summerhouse Hill are in good working order but need further land for sludge disposal. This matter however is in hand at the present time.

Though the three great questions of Housing, Water Supply, and Sewerage have occupied the chief attention of your Authority and must continue to do so for some time yet, particularly as respects Housing and Water Supply, there are other relatively minor matters which will have to be considered in the near future. Among them is the provision of a Public Abattoir, a site for which might be found on the London Road in connection with the railway. Another desirable improvement would be the provision of more public lavatories. It is also desirable that all streets in the Borough should be tarred, to prevent dust. At the Borough Isolation Hospital it is desirable that a Lodge should be erected for a resident porter. Just before the War plans were prepared for an Administration Block: this is badly needed and it is to be hoped that the financial condition of the Borough may shortly permit of its erection.

The question of Town Planning is now under the consideration of the Authority as the plans must be completed by the end of 1928.

In conclusion I beg to express my thanks for the valuable assistance I have received from the Town Clerk and the Borough Surveyor, as also for the loyal support of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his colleagues and of all the members of the Health Visiting and Nursing Staffs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. WILLMER PHILLIPS

M.A., M.D. (Oxon.); D.P.H. (Camb.);  
B.Sc. (Lond.)

*June 17th, 1926.*



TABLE X.—BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY  
DURING THE YEAR 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns).

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.		
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.	
England and Wales...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0	
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6	
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000-50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1	
London ...	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0	



**BEDFORD BOROUGH CENSUS, 1921.—PRIVATE FAMILIES, CLASSIFIED BY SIZE OF FAMILY, ROOMS OCCUPIED,  
AND DENSITY OF OCCUPATION.**

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN FAMILY.	NUMBER OF PRIVATE FAMILIES OCCUPYING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF ROOMS.										TOTAL PRIVATE FAMILIES.		Population in Private Families.	Rooms occupied.	Average Number of Rooms per Person.	DENSITY OF OCCUPATION.										
											No.	%				under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 7	7 and under 10							
	1	2	3	4	5	6-7	8-9	10 and over	b	c										d	e	f	g	h	i	j
1 ...	61	99	31	75	62	143	21	6	498	5.2	498	18.4	2,110	4.24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 ...	15	140	80	270	353	743	110	47	1,758	18.4	1,758	18.4	9,494	2.70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 ...	9	91	79	283	447	959	169	130	2,167	22.7	2,167	22.7	12,704	1.95	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 ...	2	28	50	224	432	862	189	124	1,911	20.1	1,911	20.1	11,651	1.52	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	2	6	17	158	313	591	135	111	1,333	14.0	1,333	14.0	8,399	1.26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6 ...	—	4	15	79	197	335	82	103	815	8.6	815	8.6	5,380	1.10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 ...	—	—	4	56	139	191	44	66	500	5.2	500	5.2	3,268	0.93	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8 ...	—	—	4	31	76	91	22	33	257	2.7	257	2.7	1,654	0.80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9 ...	—	—	—	17	33	74	8	20	152	1.6	152	1.6	1,012	0.74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	4	25	38	11	13	91	1.0	91	1.0	633	0.70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11 ...	—	—	—	1	6	8	2	8	25	0.3	25	0.3	192	0.70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12 ...	—	—	—	2	2	4	1	7	16	0.2	16	0.2	139	0.72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13 ...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	4	0.0	4	0.0	32	0.62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14 ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	0.0	2	0.0	11	0.39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	0.0	1	0.0	12	0.71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Private Families ...	89	368	280	1,201	20,85	4,042	794	671	9,530	100.0	9,530	100.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Population in Private Families	136	818	863	4,506	8,802	16,206	3,371	3,410	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rooms occupied ...	89	736	840	4,804	10,425	25,351	6,692	7,754	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	0.9	3.9	2.9	12.6	21.9	42.5	8.3	7.0	100.0	1921.	100.0	1921.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	0.1	2.0	1.9	10.2	17.1	49.8	9.6	9.0	100.0	1911.	100.0	1911.	56,691	1.49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Percentage of families living in various units of occupation.











