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Contributors

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**7 BIGGLESWADE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

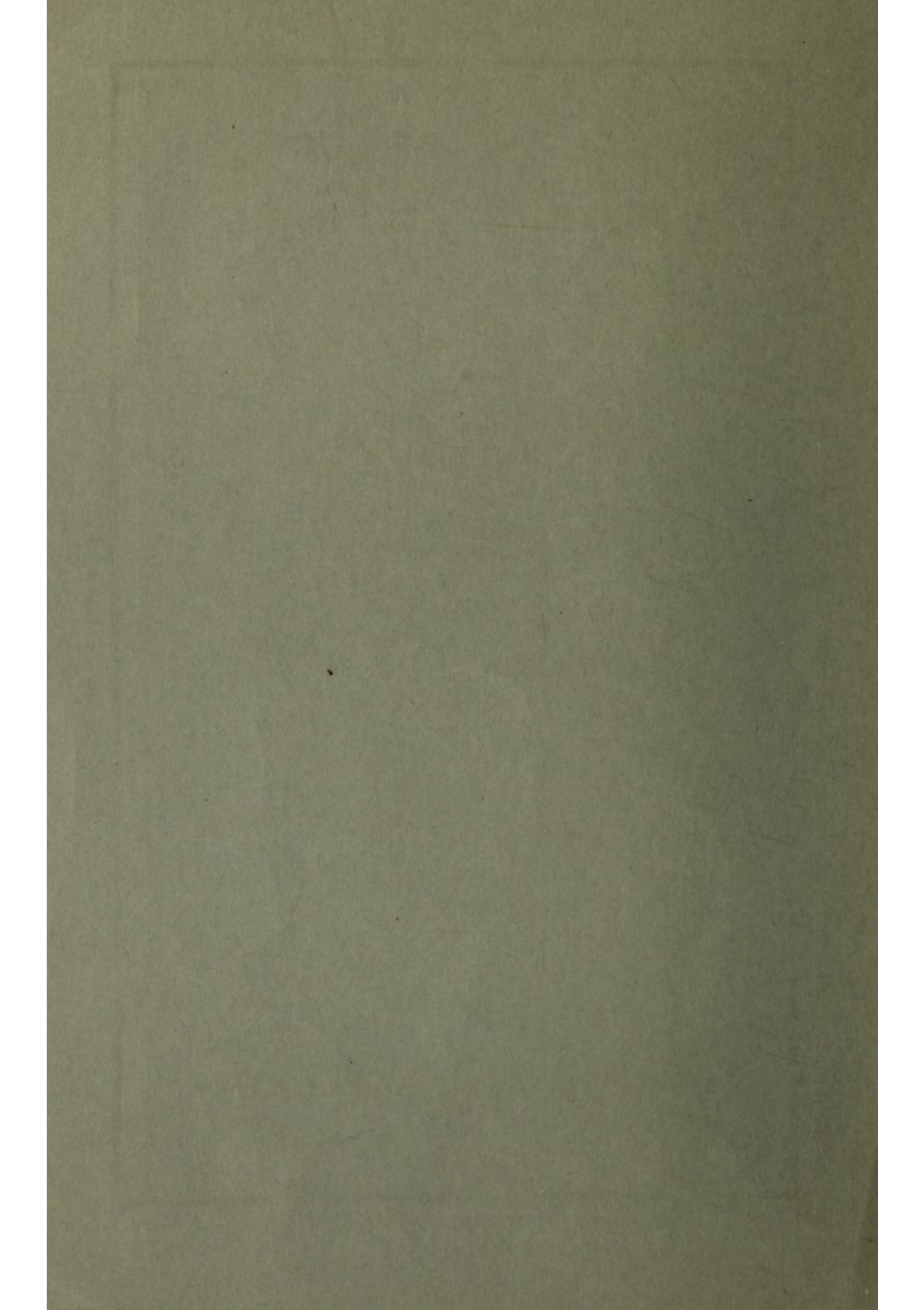
For the Year 1937

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR



**BIGGLESWADE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

For the Year 1937

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF

HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
BIGGLESWADE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report upon the health and sanitary circumstances for the Biggleswade Urban District for the year 1937.

The report has been prepared on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health in the Circular No. 1650, dated 4th October, 1937.

In the body of the report, the incidence of diphtheria in the district during 1937 is discussed and particular mention must be made to the Council's scheme for the immunisation of school children against diphtheria free of all cost to the parents. It is to be regretted that the response to the Council's offer has been comparatively small. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that parents should avail themselves of the facilities which are provided and not wait until diphtheria is prevalent in the district. The greater the number of children who have been immunised against diphtheria, the less danger there will be of an epidemic.

While there were no deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth, there was a very considerable increase in the infantile mortality rate which is discussed later in the report.

I should like to express my thanks to the Clerk to the Council for his help, and also to your Sanitary Inspector for his willing assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Health Department,

Your obedient servant,

Biggleswade.

C. A. HARVEY.

June, 1938.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) Medical Officer of Health, Part time:

C. A. HARVEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

(b) Surveyor, Water Engineer and Sanitary Inspector,
Whole time:

W. S. GREEN, M.Inst.M. and Cy.E., A.R.S.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	4,647
Population (Census 1931)	5,884
Population mid-year 1937 (Registrar-General)	5,932
Number of inhabited houses at the end of December 1937, according to the Rate Books	1,793
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£109
Rateable value	£29,689

Social Conditions—A Market Town and Market Gardening Centre.

			M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ...	75	43	32	Birth Rate 13.3
	Illegitimate ...	2	2	—	
	Total ...	77	45	32	
Still Births		5	1	4	
Rate per 1000 population, .84.*					

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the year 1936 was 14.9.

	Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	79	38	41	Death Rate 11.1

The Death Rate for England and Wales for the year 1936 was 12.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	0
From other Puerperal causes	0

7 deaths of legitimate Infants under one year of age occurred.
Bronchitis 1, Bronch-pneumonia 1, Nephritis 1, Premature Birth 4.

The Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1000 live births	90
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	93
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0

The Death Rate of infants per 1,000 live births for England and Wales was 58.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	0

*This figure is arrived at by multiplying the crude death rate by .84—the adjusting factor supplied by the Registrar-General.

This is necessary in order to make the death rate of the district comparable to that of England and Wales on the basis of equal sex and age distribution.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 77, which is 17 less than in 1936. This gives a birth-rate of 13.3 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 15.9 for 1936.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 14.9.

Two illegitimate births were registered in 1937 as compared with 4 in 1936.

The number of still births was 5, being a rate of .84 per 1,000 population.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in 1937 was 79, a decrease of 12.0 from the previous year. This gives a death-rate of 11.1 as compared with 12.5 in 1936.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 12.4.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 7 deaths of Infants under one year of age, all Legitimate Births, an increase of 2 from the previous year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 90.0 per thousand live births as compared with 53.7 in 1936.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 58.

Of the 7 deaths, only 3 actually occurred in the Urban District, the other 4 being transferable deaths occurring outside the Area, although the mothers were normally resident in Biggleswade. The ages of these infants were 1 day, 3 days, 7 days, and 8 months, and in two instances prematurity was given as the cause of death. The reason for the necessity of mothers leaving the district when the termination of pregnancy is near at hand is somewhat obscure, but a full investigation will be made should similar circumstances arise.

The following table gives the causes of death:—

	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	1	0
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Influenza	4	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	0	0
General Paralysis of the insane	1	0
Syphilis	0	0
Cancer (Malignant disease)	4	8
Diabetes	1	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, Etc.	1	4
Heart Disease	4	12

	Males.	Females.
Other Circulatory Diseases	4	3
Bronchitis	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	1
Other respiratory diseases	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	1	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Other Liver Diseases	0	0
Other Digestive Diseases	2	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1
Diarrhoea, Etc. (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal Causes	0	0
Congenital debility and malformation and premature birth	3	2
Senility	2	1
Suicide	0	0
Other Violence	2	0
Other defined diseases	0	5
	38	41
	—	—

STATISTICAL SUMMARY, 1932—1937.

Year.	Births.		Deaths		Infantile Mortality	
	Biggleswade Urban District.	England and Wales.	Biggleswade Urban District.	England and Wales.	Biggleswade Urban District.	England and Wales.
1932	16.0	15.3	14.5	12.0	114	65
1933	14.2	14.4	12.4	12.3	58	64
1934	13.8	14.8	8.0	11.8	85	59
1935	15.7	14.7	8.5	11.7	74	57
1936	15.9	14.8	12.8	12.1	53	59
1937	13.3	14.9	11.1	12.4	90	58

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Arrangements are made whereby medical men practising in the town can obtain free Bacteriological examinations in cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Meningitis. These examinations are carried out by the Lister Institute.

Provision of Antitoxin.

A supply of diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital and is issued free to Medical Men on request.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) Infectious Cases. A motor ambulance is provided by the Joint Hospital Board, and is stationed at the Hospital.
- (b) Non-infectious and Accident Cases. The use of the motor ambulance provided by the County Council under the supervision of the police was discontinued during the year. Pending agreement between the Biggleswade Rural District Council, the Biggleswade Urban District Council and Sandy Urban District Council, for the provision of a joint ambulance, the services of the Hospital Board ambulance were available.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

None provided by this Authority but the County Council employs a Health Visitor for certain work, which it undertakes in the district.

The Sister-in-charge of the Biggleswade Clinic does a certain amount of nursing in the district.

Midwives.

Registrations and supervision exercised by the County Council.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare Centre, St. Andrew's Rooms (Tuesday, 2 p.m.).

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinic, St. Andrew's Rooms (Tuesday fortnightly, 10.30 a.m.).

Maternity Hospital, Public Assistance Infirmary, London Road.

Tuberculosis, St. Andrew's Rooms (Wednesday, 11 a.m.).

Venereal Diseases, Bedford County Hospital.

In additions to the above there is the Biggleswade and District Clinic in Crab Lane. This clinic is open daily from 10 to 12 a.m. for the treatment of minor ailments and also for other cases requiring daily attention. The Sister-in-charge is assisted by members of the Committee, and a small fee is charged. Practitioners in the town visit the clinic periodically.

During the year ending 31st August 1937, 2,003 attendances were made and of this number 1,330 were made by school children, and 253 by children under school age.

Nursing appliances for use in the home are provided at a nominal charge and bath chairs can also be hired.

The Clinic does serve a very useful purpose in Biggleswade and it is possible the use of the clinic would be greater if the advantages that are offered were more widely known by the general public.

(e) Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospital in Biggleswade is under the control of the Joint Hospital Board, comprising of representatives from the Biggleswade Urban and Rural District Councils and the Sandy Urban District Council, which areas the hospital serves.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water.

The public water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality. One sample was taken during the year and the result showed a high degree of purity. Arrangements have now been made for samples to be taken each month.

The Water Board during the year embarked on a scheme for the augmentation of its supplies. Four boreholes have been sunk at Dunton, the tests of which were so successful that when the scheme is completed the capacity of the existing station at Topler's Hill will be duplicated. The scheme is progressing satisfactorily and it is hoped that it will be completed within the next twelve months.

During the year 200 yards of 4-inch and 720 yards of 3-inch water main has been laid to supply the Council housing estate in Potton Road, and the private building estate in Havelock Road.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

For the housing estate at Potton Road, 700 yards of 12-inch sewer and 140 yards of 9-inch sewer have been constructed. There has been no alteration in the method of disposal.

(3) Swimming Pools.

There are no privately owned swimming pools in the district. The public bathe in the River Ivel and no action was taken during the year.

(4) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

During the past year twelve Council houses were found to be infected with bugs. Disinfestation was carried out by spraying with special insecticide liquids and by fumigation. These measures were quite satisfactory.

(5) Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools in the Area is satisfactory and all the schools are provided with water through the public supply.

There were no closures of schools during the year for infectious disease.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	62 (in course of erection)
(b) By private enterprise	16
	—
Total	78
	—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	410
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose...	410
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	—
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	—

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	—
---	---

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By local authority in default of owners	—
(c) Proceeding under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding:	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	11
(2) Numbers of families dwelling therein	11
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	93
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
(11) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	—

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	6	—	—
(including Workshops Laundries)			
Workshops and Workplaces	19	—	—
Total	25	—	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts: Found 2.

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

Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year.

Disease.	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Diphtheria	52	50	1
Scarlet Fever	5	5	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	2	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0

An analysis of the cases notified under age groups is given below:—

Disease.	Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 or over.
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	2	3	6	22	14	4	...	1	...	...

Diphtheria.

During the year there was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the Area, fifty-two cases in all being notified. No large number of cases occurred at any one time, nor in any particular area. In September the Council passed a scheme for the free immunisation of school children and this has already been referred to at the beginning of this report. All the usual preventive measures were adopted, including examination and swabbing of school children and the distribution of leaflets from the schools. Early in 1938 the epidemic subsided. There was one death from Diphtheria during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upward	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total	2	1	0	2	2	1	0	0

No deaths occurred in cases which had not been previously notified.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action was taken in respect of tuberculosis employees in the milk trade under the above regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925. Section 62.

(Compulsory removal to Hospital).

No action was taken.

An analysis of the cases notified under age groups is given below:

Disease	1 year	1 year & over
Diphtheria	2	3
Scarlet Fever	1	1
Pneumonia	1	1

During the year there was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the Area. Fifty-two cases in all being notified. No large number of cases occurred at any one time, but in one particular area, in September the Council passed a scheme for the free immunisation of school children and this has already been referred to at the beginning of this report. All the usual preventive measures were adopted, including examination, and swabbing of school children and the distribution of leaflets from the schools. Early in 1938 the epidemic subsided. There was one death from Diphtheria during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS BY SEX AND AGE PERIOD

Age Period	Male	Female	Total
0	—	—	—
1	—	—	—
2	—	—	—
3	—	—	—
4	—	—	—
5	—	—	—
6	—	—	—
7	—	—	—
8	—	—	—
9	—	—	—
10	—	—	—
11	—	—	—
12	—	—	—
13	—	—	—
14	—	—	—
15	—	—	—
16	—	—	—
17	—	—	—
18	—	—	—
19	—	—	—
20	—	—	—
21	—	—	—
22	—	—	—
23	—	—	—
24	—	—	—
25	—	—	—
26	—	—	—
27	—	—	—
28	—	—	—
29	—	—	—
30	—	—	—
31	—	—	—
32	—	—	—
33	—	—	—
34	—	—	—
35	—	—	—
36	—	—	—
37	—	—	—
38	—	—	—
39	—	—	—
40	—	—	—
41	—	—	—
42	—	—	—
43	—	—	—
44	—	—	—
45	—	—	—
46	—	—	—
47	—	—	—
48	—	—	—
49	—	—	—
50	—	—	—
51	—	—	—
52	—	—	—
53	—	—	—
54	—	—	—
55	—	—	—
56	—	—	—
57	—	—	—
58	—	—	—
59	—	—	—
60	—	—	—
61	—	—	—
62	—	—	—
63	—	—	—
64	—	—	—
65	—	—	—
66	—	—	—
67	—	—	—
68	—	—	—
69	—	—	—
70	—	—	—
71	—	—	—
72	—	—	—
73	—	—	—
74	—	—	—
75	—	—	—
76	—	—	—
77	—	—	—
78	—	—	—
79	—	—	—
80	—	—	—
81	—	—	—
82	—	—	—
83	—	—	—
84	—	—	—
85	—	—	—
86	—	—	—
87	—	—	—
88	—	—	—
89	—	—	—
90	—	—	—
91	—	—	—
92	—	—	—
93	—	—	—
94	—	—	—
95	—	—	—
96	—	—	—
97	—	—	—
98	—	—	—
99	—	—	—
100	—	—	—
Total	2	1	3

No deaths occurred in cases which had not been previously notified.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

(Year ended 31st December, 1937).

Building Plans.

The following building plans were approved by the Council and all buildings are regularly inspected and drains tested during course of construction:—

New dwelling houses (Council)	62
New dwelling houses (Private)	27
Alterations and additions	17
Shops	9
Alterations to shops	2
Garages	9
Sheds and temporary buildings	6
New cafe	1
Advertisement signs	6
	148

Sanitary Inspections.

1,466 inspections have been made and nuisances abated or defects remedied where required by informal action:

Housing defects	410
Defective drains	81
Overcrowding	352
Cowsheds and Dairies	10
Miscellaneous Nuisances	215
Water Wastages	338
Work in progress	60
	1466

Meat and Food Inspections.

There are six Slaughterhouses in the district, and the standard of cleanliness is well maintained.

176 visits to Slaughterhouses and 21 visits to shops and stalls were made.

The carcasses of 136 beasts and calves, 120 sheep and lambs, and 854 pigs were examined.

The following were found to be diseased and were surrendered to be destroyed:

Carcase of beast (part of)	1
Various organs of beasts	3
Various organs of sheep	0
Various organs of pigs	10
Carcases of pigs	0

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are five Cowkeepers and 11 Milk Sellers registered. A good standard of cleanliness in handling and distribution is being maintained.

12 samples of Grade "A" (T.T.) milk were taken for analysis, one of which did not comply with the requirements.

Factories and Workshops.

The following Factories and Workshops are registered:

Brewers	1
Millers	3
Motor and Cycle Engineers	14
General Engineers	2
Joiners, Cabinet Makers	6
Plumbers	5
Printers	3
Tailors and Dressmakers	7
Boot Repairers	6
Laundry	1
Miscellaneous	2
Bookbinding	1
Photographic Films, Etc.	1

House Scavenging.

The 7 cubic yard refuse vehicle purchased in 1935 is still working satisfactorily. During the year the Council decided to require 24in. x 18in. sanitary bins to be provided to all houses and have arranged to purchase them in bulk and supply to owners at wholesale prices.

Sewerage.

During 1937 700 yards of 12in. and 140 yards of 9in. sewers have been constructed to drain the Council Housing Estate at Potton Road.

23 new connections were made to the Council's sewers.

Water Supply.

11 new connections were made to the Council's mains during the year. The consumption of water for the year for all purposes was 64,659,000 gallons. This is an increase of 2,415,000 gallons of the figures for the previous year, the daily consumption of water being 30 gallons per head of the population.

200 yards of 4in. and 720 yards of 3in. water main has been laid during the year to supply the Council Housing Estate in Potton Road and the private building estate in Havelock Road.

W. S. GREEN, M.Inst., M. & Cy.E., A.R.S.I.,

Surveyor Sanitary Inspector and
Water Engineer.

Water supply for the township of ... was ...
 11 new connections were made to the Council's mains during the year. The consumption of water for the year for all purposes was 64,629,000 gallons. This is an increase of 2,412,000 gallons of the figures for the previous year, the daily consumption of water being 30 gallons per head of the population.

200 yards of 4in. and 720 yards of 3in. water main has been laid during the year to supply the Council Housing Estate in Potters Road and the private building estate in Havelock Road.

A ...
 W. S. GREEN, M.A., M. & C.E., A.R.S.I.
 Surveyor Sanitary Inspector and ...

Water Engineer.
 ...

Factories and Workshops

The following are registered factories and workshops:

Brass	1
Mills	3
Engineering and Cycle Works	14
General Engineering	2
Wagon and Cabinet Makers	6
Printers	5
Painters	3
Tailors and Dressmakers	7
Book Binders	4
Launderies	4
Miscellaneous	2
Photographers	1
Photographers, Etc.	1

Public Cleansing

...
 ...
 ...

Sewerage

...
 ...
 ...

