

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Irthlingborough U.D.C.

Contributors

Irthlingborough (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ajvqt34d>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

E
INTELL. LIBRARY

IRTHLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT,
1925.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
BY
W. F. GIBB, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH :
A. BIGLEY, PRINTER, SPINNEY ROAD.

YEAH! HIDE


IRTHLINGBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT,
1925.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
BY
W. F. GIBB, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH :
A. BIGLEY, PRINTER, SPINNEY ROAD.



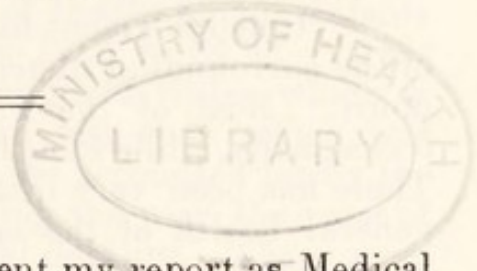
Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29497127>

IRTHLINGBOROUGH,

APRIL 29TH, 1926.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Irthlingborough Urban District Council.**



SIR, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour herewith to present my report as Medical Officer of Health of the District under your Administrative Control. This Report differs from the previous ones, in that in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, it is a Survey Report for the past five years.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, 3,722 acres, of which 46 are water.

Population 1921, 4,911. Estimated 1925, 4,946.

Number of Inhabited Houses 1921, 1,002. 1925, 1,198.

„ „ Families or Separate Occupiers 1921, 1,168.

Rateable Value, £22,495/5/0.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £82/16/0.

The Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

Irthlingborough rises on a gradual slope from East to West and towards the North.

The River Nene which drains by far the larger part of Northamptonshire, and into which all the main feeders flow from only one side—the Northern—forms the Eastern boundary.

The Meadow Land here is very low lying, and in the rainy season is under water.

The Streets of the Town are well kept and in good condition. The Houses are of the usual type found in small towns.

Minerals—Lime-stone and Iron-stone are abundant. Some of the Iron-stone, hereabouts, gives, I understand, over 43% of Metallic Iron.

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the Town are as follows :

Leather Currying and Tanning.
 Boot and Shoe Manufacturing.
 Cement Manufacturing.

The staple industry is the making of Boots and Shoes.

Unemployment has not been so bad in this area, as in some of the surrounding districts, and only one Tannery has had to close down. Most of the Factories have had to work short hours occasionally, while some have had sufficient orders to work overtime. There has been very little evidence of poverty in this area. The general health of the employees in the above Trades is on the whole good.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1925.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	77	34	43	} Birth Rate, 15.56
	Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Deaths	...	57	28	29	Death Rate, 11.52

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

From Sepsis, Nil ; From other causes, 1 (Eclampsia).

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Legitimate, 5 ; Illegitimate, Nil ; Total, 5.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

Population.

The figures supplied by the Ministry for 1925 is 4,946. Last year's figure was 5,001, a decrease of 55. The following table shows that during the last 5 years the population has remained fairly stationary.

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1924.
4,911.	4,970.	4,956.	5,001.	4,946.

Births.

The total number of Births for the District (as shown by the Registrar General) for the year 1925 was 77, of which 34 were Males, and 43 Females ; giving a Birth Rate of 15.56 per 1000 of the population. The Birth Rate for England and Wales during the same period was 18.3, and that for the County 16.23.

Deaths.

The total number of Deaths for the District, as returned by the Registrar General was 57; Males 28, Females 29; giving a Death Rate of 11.52. The Death Rate for England and Wales during 1925 was 12.2.

Infant Mortality.

Infant Mortality Rate (the number of Deaths among Infants under 1 year, per 1000 Infants born) for 1925 is 64.93. This compares favourably with that for England and Wales, which is 75; but is a much larger percentage than last year, which was 26.66. The increased rate, can, I think, be accounted for by the fact that of 3 of the 5 infants who died during the year, the cause of death was premature birth, and congenital debility. There were no deaths in children from any Infectious Diseases.

Deaths.

The following table shows the details of the causes of Deaths as returned by the Official Registrar :

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Enteric Fever ...			Nil
Small Pox ...			"
Measles ...			"
Scarlet Fever ...			"
Whooping Cough ...			"
Diphtheria ...			"
Influenza ...	1		1
Encephalitis Lethargica			Nil
Meningococcal Meningitis			"
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	7	12
Other Tubercular Diseases		1	1
Rheumatic Fever ...			Nil
Diabetes ...	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	1	4	5
Heart Disease ...	1	2	3
Arterio-Sclerosis ...	2		2
Bronchitis ...	2	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	4	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	1		1
Cancer and Malignant Disease	6	1	7
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum			Nil
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)			"
Appendicitis and Typhlitis			"
Cirrhosis of Liver ...			"

Deaths (continued).

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal Sepsis ...			Nil
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition		1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation	1		1
Premature Birth ...		2	2
Suicide ...	1		1
Other Deaths from Violence			Nil
Other defined Causes ...	3	4	7
Causes ill-defined or unknown			Nil

The principal causes of Death, as will be seen from the above table, were Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Cancer ; the former accounting for 12, and the latter for 7 deaths. In 1924 there were 7 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 3 from Cancer.

Local Death Rate	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
for last 5 years.	9.5	8.8	10.08	9.5	11.52

Although the Death Rate has increased considerably, it is under the average for England and Wales, which is 12.2, and will, I think, compare favourably with other Urban Districts in the County.

Tuberculous Disease.

12 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year 1925, 11 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary. During the last 5 years, there has, I regret to say been a rise in the number of Notifications of this Disease, as the following table will show :

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Pulmonary ...	8	9	7	17	11
Non-Pulmonary	3	Nil	2	2	1

A determined effort was made a few years ago, to educate the Workers of the Town on the value of fresh air and sunlight in the prevention and cure of Tuberculosis. On careful enquiry, I find that even now a large number of the population live and sleep in rooms with closed windows, under the mistaken idea that with an open window they will "catch cold." Until this state of affairs is altered, I am afraid we cannot expect much improvement.

Death Rate from Tuberculosis.

There were 13 deaths from this disease during the year 1925; Pulmonary 12, Non-Pulmonary 1. This gives a Death Rate of 2.62 per 1000 of the population. During the last 5 years it has been as follows :

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
2.03	0.40	1.41	1.39	2.62

Giving an average of 1.57 for the five years.

Respiratory Diseases.

There were 8 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia during the year 1925, giving a combined Death Rate of 1.61, as compared with 1.99 for last year.

Deaths from the above during the past five years :

1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Nil	12	6	10	8

Considering the prevalence of Influenza and the consequent complications of Respiratory Diseases, this table, is, I think satisfactory.

Deaths at all ages for the year 1925, according to Death Returns received from the Registrar General :

Under	yr	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	yrs	
	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	
Total	57	5	0	1	0	0	1	2	4	9	2	8	25

Of the above 57 deaths, 16 were over 75 years of age.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1925.

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Total Deaths
Small Pox	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	3	"
Scarlet Fever	18	"
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	"
Puerperal Fever	"	"
Pneumonia (Lobar and Influenzal)	3	"

Notifiable Diseases (continued).

DISEASE		Total Cases Notified	Total Deaths
Other Diseases notifiable (1 Human Anthrax 1 Erysipelas)		2	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	Nil	"
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	Nil	"
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	{ Male	3	12
	{ Female	8	
Tuberculosis—other forms	{ Male	Nil	Nil
	{ Female	1	1
Chicken Pox	...	38	Nil
	Total	76	13

It will be noted from the above table that there has been a considerable decrease in the number of Scarlet Fever cases notified during the year 1925, while the number of notifications received for Tuberculosis remain about the same. The case incidence rates of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, per 1,000 population, during the last five years are as follows :

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever	1.01	5.43	4.64	4.59	3.63
Diphtheria	Nil	0.2	1.81	2.39	0.6

This table shows a great improvement on last year, when 23 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 12 cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Owing to the prevalence of Small Pox in the surrounding districts, Chicken Pox was made notifiable in this area for 1 year as from April 16th, 1925. By the end of the year 38 cases of this disease were notified, the majority being under 6 years of age.

AGE PERIOD STATISTICS OF THE SCARLET FEVER CASES NOTIFIED.

1	was	between	2	and	3	years	of	age
2	were	"	3	"	4	"	"	"
5	"	"	5	"	10	"	"	"
3	"	"	10	"	15	"	"	"
3	"	"	15	"	20	"	"	"
3	"	"	20	"	35	"	"	"
1	was				54	"	"	"

Of Diphtheria Cases :

1	was	between	1	and	5	years	of	age
1	"	"	10	"	15	"	"	"
1	"	"	35	"	45	"	"	"

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Month	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Acute Poliomyelitis	Chicken Pox	Totals
Jan.	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Feb.	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	..	6
March	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
April	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	5
May	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
June	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	9
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	16	18
August	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	7
Sept.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Oct.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Nov.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Dec.	...	...	...	...	3	1	..	1	...	...	...	5
Totals	3	18	...	...	3	1	...	11	1	...	38	75

Notifications of Cases of Tuberculosis Admitted and Discharged from Rushden Sanatorium :

Admitted to Sanatorium ... 6—1 Male, 5 Females

Discharged from „ ... 5—2 „ 3 „

Poor Law Relief.

The amount of Poor Law Relief is to-day less than it was 5 years ago. During the last quarter of 1925, there was a slight increase in pauperism, when over £90 was paid out in Out-door Relief. Medical Relief is excessive for a town of this size.

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity.

There have been the usual epidemics of Measles, Influenza, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox in this area during the past 5 years. Influenza was the cause of death in only 2 cases. This, I think, may be considered very satisfactory.

One case of Human Anthrax contracted at a Chrome Tannery recovered under treatment in Hospital.

The Chief Medical Inspector of Factories visited and inspected the Tannery at which the disease was contracted, and gave valuable advice to the management, with a view to preventing infection (from imported hides) among the workmen. His suggestions are being carefully carried out.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

There is no Fever, Small Pox or other Hospital within the Urban District. In 1921, the Wellingborough Isolation Committee consented to take in suitable cases of infectious disease sent by your Council. Since then, advantage has been taken of this arrangement on 4 occasions.

Early last year, on the advice of the County Medical Officer, a large building was rented by the Council for the reception of Small Pox Cases. Fortunately none occurred in the District, although there were many in a Town only 8 miles distant.

Hospitals available for the area :

Maternity Home, Northampton, which is subsidized by the County Council in respect of County Cases.

County Council Sanatorium, Rushden, has accommodation for 78 Patients. During the past few years, many patients from this area have undergone treatment there, with very satisfactory results.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

When required, such cases may be sent to the Maternity Home, Northampton. During the period under review, advantage of this has been taken on 2 occasions.

Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children can be admitted to the Cottage Homes, under Wellingborough Board of Guardians. The Irthlingboro' Home has accommodation for about 12 children. Dr. Barnardo's Homes are largely subscribed for in the district.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Cases.—Infectious cases requiring Institutional Treatment are transported by Fever Hospital Ambulance.

Non-Infectious and Accident cases are transported by the Irthlingborough St. John Ambulance Corps, which is doing excellent work.

Clinics and Treatment Centres in the Area.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	}	Nil
Day Nurseries		
School Clinics		
Tuberculosis Dispensaries		
Treatment Centre for Venereal Disease		

Tuberculosis.—When necessary, Tuberculosis cases are sent to Wellingborough Dispensary, for consultation with the Tuberculosis Officer, and are admitted to Rushden Sanatorium on his recommendation.

Venereal Disease.—There is a Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Disease at Northampton General Hospital. Advantage is taken as required of the convenient arrangements, as to hours of treatment which have been made.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

1. Medical Officer of Health. Part time.
2. Sanitary Inspector. " "

Contribution to the salaries of the above is made under the Public Health Acts.

The Health Visiting in the area is done by a County Council Officer who frequently visits and advises mothers as to the care of their infants. She also visits the mentally defective children in the district. This Officer is doing excellent work, and is much appreciated by the mothers.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General.—The Irthlingborough Hospital and Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association, employ 2 fully-trained Nurse-Midwives. One attends particularly to the Midwifery work, and the other to the General Nursing for the district.

Weekly Collections are made in most Factories in the Town, and for the small sum of of 1d. per week, subscribers and their dependants receive many benefits, including the provision of In and Out-Patient Hospital Letters, and free conveyance by Motor Ambulance to Hospital when necessary. Last year 23 Patients were thus conveyed, at a total cost of £36/14/3 to the Association.

The Association has a yearly income of over £650. Northampton General Hospital is in receipt of an Annual Grant from the Association—last year's grant being £63.

The management of the Association is in the hands of a most capable Committee, representative of the workers, private subscribers, and subscribing organizations.

Nursing of Infectious Diseases.

Under a County Council arrangement with the County Nursing Association, a special Nurse would be supplied at my request, in the event of a serious epidemic of Measles, or if necessary for Puerperal Fever, or Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Midwives.

There are Two State Registered Certified Nurse-Midwives practising in the district. Both are engaged by the Irthlingborough Hospital and Nursing Association. During the year 1925, the Nurses attended 82 cases of Child-birth. There are no unqualified or independent Midwives practising in the district.

Legislation in Force.

There are no Local Acts or Special Local Orders in force in the area. The only Adoptive Act is Part 3 of the Public Health Act of 1890, which was adopted by the Council on the 11th April, 1905. The only Byelaws in force are those respecting New Streets and Buildings, which were adopted by the Council on the 17th June, 1913.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—No shortage of water has been experienced during recent years. The supply is constant, and is obtained from a Well situated in the lower part of the Town. From there it is pumped to the Reservoir, which has a capacity of 800,000 gallons.

The possibility of contamination appears to be slight, as the Reports on frequent examinations of samples have always been satisfactory. The latest Report from the Clinical Research Association of a sample sent for examination is as follows: "The sample is of much the same character as before. The chemical figures showing a slight improvement, and the bacteriological result being satisfactory. The water may therefore be regarded as safe for drinking purposes."

All dwelling houses in the area built during the last 5 years are directly supplied with Town Water. There are about 80 stand pipes in the Town which supply a number of houses. During the year 1925, one Well was condemned and closed down, and the Town Water was laid on to the house.

Rivers and Streams.—During recent years, only 1 complaint has been received of pollution of River Nene by effluent from a Chrome Tannery. On the attention of the Management being called to the matter, the nuisance was immediately remedied.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There is practically a complete system of drainage and sewerage, all the drainage being practically new; 430 yards of new sewers have been laid during the past year. The sewage is collected in settling tanks, and from there it is pumped to the Council Farm for disposal.

Closest Accommodation.—With the exception of outlying houses, all houses in the area have water closet accommodation. There are no privy closets in the Town.

Scavenging.—The scavenging is efficiently carried out by the Council's men. About 30 loads of house refuse being carted away each month. The refuse is disposed of at 2 refuse tips on the outskirts of the town. There are 6 cesspools in the area (where it is impossible to connect to sewer). These are regularly cleaned out by the Council's men. All houses have been provided with movable ash-bins with proper covering.

Smoke Abatement.—It has not been found necessary to take any action with a view to the abatement of nuisance from smoke, as all the factories, with the exception of four in the area, obtain their power by means of Gas Plant. No local readings of atmospheric impurity have been taken.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations—Nil.

Cement Works.—Frequent complaints have been made *re* the nuisance from the dust from these Works. The Manager has met the Council on more than one occasion, and has assured them that the Company are doing all they possibly can to avoid any nuisance.

Schools.—There is now only one Elementary School in the Town, which is under the control of the County Council. The Church of England Schools having been closed in December 1923. This necessitated additional accommodation in the Council School, and an extension was added to the Infants' Department. This was completed in May 1925, and accommodation for 50 extra children was thus made. At the same time there were 3 new w. c.'s added, and an extension was made to the urinal. The sanitation of the Schools is excellent.

In the Spring of 1925, the Schools were thoroughly fumigated, owing to a recurrence of Scarlet Fever. The School children are inspected at regular intervals by the local Nurses, who are the officially appointed School Nurses for the area.

Housing.

General Conditions in the Area —There is still a shortage of houses, and much overcrowding in the area. The Council are doing their best to overcome this difficulty, and during the year 1925, have erected 24 houses. During the past 5 years, over 120 houses have been built. The Council have, I understand, about 110 applicants on their waiting list for Council Houses.

Overcrowding.

- 1.—Extent. Less than formerly.
- 2.—Causes. Shortage of Houses.

Fitness of Houses.

The general standard of housing in the area is satisfactory. There are several houses one would condemn if other accommodation could be found for the present tenants. These houses are very old property which constantly require repairing. Considerable delay is often experienced in getting the necessary repairs carried out, owing to the fact that the local tradesmen are mostly fully occupied in the building of new houses.

Appended is your Sanitary Inspector's Report, and Housing Statistics as required by the Ministry :

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the district, including the number of inspections made, and the work done during the year. The district has been inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health for any nuisances.

Number and status of inspections made during the year—780.

Number of Notices served during the year—

Statutory—Nil. Informal 34.

Result of serving of Notices—Defects remedied.

General character of the defects found in unfit houses :

Nature of defects.	Remedied.
Walls and Ceilings, 97	Cleaned and renovated, 97
Windows, Doors and Stoves, 11	Repaired, 11
Chimney heads, 30	Taken down and rebuilt, 8
	Repaired 21, taken down, 1
Defective roofs, 47	„ 47
„ spoutings, 31	„ 31
Overcrowded dwellings, 10	Abated, 4 (6 in hand)
Dwellings kept in such a state as to be injurious to health, 4	„ 4

Other Houses.—One house with thatched roof and low sidewalls was taken down, and a new building erected. Five cottages had each a new kitchen added, with new copper and sink, drainage improved, and new paths made.

General action taken as regards unfit Houses.

See details in Housing Statistics for 1925.

There are no back-to-back houses in the Town, and the old houses are, I think, in a much better state of repair to-day, than they were 5 years ago. There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :

(a) Total	29
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts 1919 or 1923	Nil
(i) By the Local Authority	24
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons	5

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses :

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	51
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	34

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	34
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers :

A.—Proceeding under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925 :

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served, requiring repairs ... | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... | Nil |
| (a) By Owners ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |
| 3. Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close | Nil |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices | Nil |
| (a) By Owners ... | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925 :

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... | Nil |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... | Nil |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined ; the dwelling houses having been rendered fit | Nil |
| 4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | Nil |
| 5. Number of dwelling houses demolished, in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... | Nil |

As the erection of Council Houses proceeds, we are gradually overcoming the overcrowding difficulty, but there still remain a certain number of cases of overcrowding.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.—All Dairies and Cowsheds are inspected regularly, and are usually found to be in very good order. The milk supplied in this area is good, both as regards the wholesomeness and the distribution. All milking cows are inspected by Mr. Parks, Veterinary Surgeon, who presents his Report quarterly. All Tuberculous cattle are destroyed. There are no Licenses granted for the sale of milk, and no registration of retailers in this area. Bacteriological examinations of samples of milk are carried out by the County Council.

Meat.—Slaughter Houses are regularly inspected and found to be well kept, and in a sanitary condition. Application was made by 5 Butchers for Registration of Slaughter Houses. Two of the Butchers have no Slaughter Houses, but do their killing elsewhere. Animals are also inspected at the time of slaughter. No Meat unfit for Human Consumption has been offered for Sale. There is One Stall for the Sale of Meat which is visited regularly.

There are no Public Slaughter Houses in the Area.

Private Slaughter Houses in use in the area :

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered } Licensed }	7	7	5
Total ...	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 7	<hr/> 5

Other Foods.—49 lbs. of tinned foods, consisting of Fish, Fruits, and Tomatoes were surrendered and destroyed during 1925.

The sanitary condition of the Bakehouses in the area is good, and the Shops where cooked food is prepared and exposed for sale are clean and healthy.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

GEORGE BAYES.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Small Pox ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria ...	"	1	9	12	3
Scarlet Fever ...	5	27	23	23	18
Enteric Fever ...	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Sepis ...	Nil	1	Nil	"	"
Pneumonia ...	"	1	4	3	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Human Anthrax ...	Nil	"	"	"	1
Erysipelas ...	"	1	1	"	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	Nil	1	Nil
Acute Polionyelitis	Nil	Nil	"	2	"
Tuberculosis :					
Pulmonary ...	8	9	7	17	11
Other Forms ...	3	Nil	2	2	1
Chicken Pox ...	Nil	"	Nil	Nil	38

The above Table shows the number of cases of Notifiable Diseases which have occurred during the past five years. The special feature of the Scarlet Fever epidemic in 1922-23-24, was the proportionately large number of cases occurring in adults. The outbreaks attracted considerable attention, but were really not of a serious character, the mildness of the disease constituting the chief difficulty in dealing with it. I feel sure some people were going about without knowing what was the matter with them.

A stock of Diphtheria Antitoxin—supplied free of charge by the Council—is always available for the use of Medical Men practicing in the district. Phials of two different strengths are kept in accordance with the suggestions of the Ministry of Health.

Laboratory Work.

The Council is a member of the Clinical Research Association which as well as the Pathological Department of the Northampton General Hospital, does the Pathological and Bacteriological Work for the District.

The Schick and Dick tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, have not been used in this area.

Vaccinations.

	Primary Vaccinations.	Re-Vaccinations.	Total.	Births.
1921 ...	15	1	16	90
1922 ...	9	Nil	9	88
1923 ...	13	1	14	69
1924 ...	8	Nil	8	75
1925 ...	13	3	16	77

When one realizes that Small Pox is extremely contagious ; is almost invariably contracted by unvaccinated persons on the first exposure to infection ; that all ages are equally susceptible, and that the mortality is very high in young children, one shudders to think what might happen if an epidemic occurred in this area.

As I have already stated in previous Reports, precaution is better than cure, and Vaccination is *the* preventative measure.

Disinfection of Premises and Articles.

All cases of infectious disease are regularly visited, and a plentiful supply of soaps and disinfectants are supplied. All dwellings, bedding, etc., are afterwards fumigated, and the infected rooms renovated throughout.

Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.
1-5								
5-10		1				1		
10-15	1							
15-20		1		1	2	1		1
20-25		1			1	1		
25-35		4			1	2		
35-45		1				1		
45-55	1							
55 and Upwards	1				2			
Total ...	3	8		1	6	6		1

In conclusion, I have to thank all the Members of the Council for the kindness, consideration, and help given me in carrying out my duties. I wish also to thank the Officers of the Council for their assistance, and particularly Mr. Bayes, who by his keenness and tact has added to the efficiency of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. F. GIBB,

Medical Officer of Health.

