

[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Kettering R.D.C.

Contributors

Kettering (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1919

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W. E. & J. Goss
KETTERING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

LESLIE W. DRYLAND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.Lond.

TOGETHER WITH THE

Annual Reports of the Sanitary Inspector
and Inspector of Dairies and Cowsheds

FOR 1919.

KETTERING :

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Medical Officer's Report

For 1919.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Fourteenth Annual Report. During the year 1919 the Local Government Board, as such, ceased to exist ; the new Ministry of Health took over the entire control of all matters relating to Public Health. This unity of control should make for efficiency and prevent overlapping.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF DISTRICT.

Population.

The Statement of Births and Deaths contain two estimates of population : One : the Death Rate is estimated on the civilian population of the District in 1919 ; the other has been used for calculation of the Birth Rate, and is an estimate of the total population based on the assumption that the ratio between the civilian population is the same in this District as in England and Wales as a whole.

These figures are supplied from Somerset House, and are as follows :

For estimating Birth Rate	...	12425
For estimating Death Rate	...	11928

These figures for estimating Birth Rate show a reduction of 622. As the Housing accommodation is practically the same as in 1914, and every house is occupied, and some are overcrowded, I consider that the population amounts to at least 13,000.

Death rate. The total number of Deaths in the district (civilian only) amounted to

Males	...	...	74
Females	...	...	80
			<hr/>
	Total	...	154
			<hr/>

compared with 188 last year.

This gives a death rate of 12'9 compared with 16'1 last year.

Birth rate. The total Births amounted to 202 compared with 194 last year with a much smaller estimated population.

This gives a Birth Rate of 16'2, bringing back the Birth Rate higher than the Death Rate.

The vital statistics of the District since 1907 show a steady decline of the Birth Rate until 1919, where a slight rise is recorded. Latterly the Death Rate has risen considerably, but I consider that this is more apparent than real. There has been practically no emigration, and a large number of people who work in the urban area have to come into the villages to sleep, as the town is overcrowded, and consequently the population of the Rural District is considerably higher than the figures in the estimate.

TABLE I.

Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table).

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.										Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
																3	
England and Wales	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3		
96 Great Towns, including London	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8		
Census Populations exceeding 50,000	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5		
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000—50,000)	18.3	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2		
London	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Kettering Rural	16.2	12.9	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.64	4.9	74	...	...	...	...

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

No Public Institutions in this district.

TABLE III.
Causes of Deaths in Kettering Rural District, 1919.
Civilians only.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.
Measles	1	0
Diphtheria and Croup	2	0
Influenza	6	12
Pulmonary tuberculosis	7	5
Tubercular meningitis	0	1
Meningitis	1	0
Other tuberculous diseases	0	0
Cancer, malignant disease	5	9
Rheumatic Fever	0	1
Organic heart disease	7	7
Bronchitis	1	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	5
Diarrhœa	1	0
Parturition	0	1
Nephritis and Bright's disease	1	0
Congenital debility, &c.	6	0
Violence, apart from suicide	4	4
Suicide	1	0
Other defined diseases	25	27
Causes ill-defined or unknown	2	2
All causes	74	80

TABLE IV.
 INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year
 of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
Congenital Debility ...	1	...	1	..	...	2	...	...	4
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other causes ...	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	...	5
Totals ...	2		1	1	5	5		1	15

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP
ACT, 1901.

(i.) INSPECTION.

		Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Workshops	...	50	1	0
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
Total	...	50	1	0

(ii.) DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.		Number of Defects Found.	Remedied.	Prosecutions.
Defective Sanitary Accommodation...		1	1	0
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>
Total	...	1	1	0

(iii.) HOMEWORK.

Making Wearing Apparel, etc.—

Lists received	...		...	20
Outworkers (Workmen)			...	415

(iv.) REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on Register—

Workshops	...		...	40
Bakehouses			...	22

There were 7 illegitimate births notified, 2 of whom died.

Of the 202 infants born, 15 have died during the year, or 74·2 per 1000, a slight increase on last year's figures.

Fifty-three cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, compared with 66 last year (measles excluded as usual for comparison with preceding years).

Diphtheria still heads the list with 20 cases compared with 25 last year.

The Death Rate for notifiable diseases (excluding tuberculosis) amounts to '2 per thousand.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis amounts to 1'09 per thousand.

Influenza accounted for 18 deaths, a rate of 1'6 per thousand or more than the Phthisis rate.

Social
Conditions.

The population of this Rural District is largely engaged in Agriculture, and taking them on the whole are less subject to illness than the urban population. In the larger villages such as Burton Latimer, considerable numbers work in Shoe and Clothing Factories, whilst in Cottingham there is also a Clothing Factory. A considerable number of the younger people from the villages bicycle daily into Kettering to their work; in severe weather this is a great strain on their physical capacities, and there are a number of them who suffer from Anemia.

The Iron Stone Mines and Furnaces at Corby and Cransley still afford large numbers of men with employment; they are seldom ill.

WATER SUPPLY.

Sanitary
Circum-
stances.

The Water Supply of the District has been plentiful. I have had only one complaint to deal with from any of the villages: that

was as to quality, and not quantity. Burton Latimer is supplied by pumping from a deep well at Weekley, which also supplies the latter place and Warkton. The majority of the other villages are supplied from shallow wells. The fact that there has been no case of enteric fever notified during the past year, and very little diarrhoea, speaks for the purity of the supply.

Below is appended the

Rainfall.

RAINFALL IN THE DISTRICT FOR 1919.
Taken at Cransley Reservoir.

Month.			Inches.
January	...	...	4'19
February	...	...	2'49
March	...	...	3'85
April	...	...	2'05
May	...	...	1'42
June	...	...	'75
July	...	...	2'17
August	...	...	2'2
September	...	...	1'56
October	...	...	1'42
November	...	...	1'81
December	...	...	3'76
			<hr/>
			27'67
			<hr/>

A fresh scheme is being considered to supply Corby.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The brook below Burton Latimer, into which the Sewage enters, has been noted in previous reports. Steps are now being taken to remedy this at the Sewage Works.

CLOSETS.

There is still some shortage in certain villages.

SCAVENGING.

No complaint received. See Housing Report.

Sanitary
Inspection of
District.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, appended to this Report, deals with the numbers and nature of inspections made by him during the year. Mr. Wallis only returned from Military Service during March, 1919.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

NUMBER.—658 Inspections.

NATURE.—After Infectious Disease, upon complaint, for detection of nuisances, reinspections.

These figures do not include 427 inspections under the H. & T P. Act, 1909.

NOTICES SERVED.

Statutory	...	...	7
Informal	...	...	200

RESULT OF SERVICE.

Nuisances abated. No legal proceedings found necessary.

Schools.

The Sanitary condition of the Schools as a whole is good, and the water supply sufficient.

I have had no complaints from any Schools.

The following Schools were closed on account of Measles :

Burton Latimer.
Geddington.
Cottingham.

Great Oakley was closed for a time on account of Influenza. It is a very small School, and the attendance became so diminished it was decided to close it. A considerable number of individual scholars were excluded from various Schools on account of Ring-

worm, Impetigo, etc. On the teachers' notices reaching me, I inform the Lady Health Visitor, who calls on the parents and advises as to treatment, etc.

MILK SUPPLY.

Food.

There is a Joint Committee *re* Dairies and Cowsheds composed of Members of the Urban and Rural Councils. The Veterinary Inspectors' Annual Report is appended to this Report.

I have every reason to believe that the milk supply of this District is good and ample.

Milk
Regulations.
1912, 1917,
1918.

These are being carried out under the County Council.

The Slaughter Houses in the District have been inspected, and the Council are now applying for power to give them fuller control over such places.

There are no offensive Trades or Lodging Houses.

Measles.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and eighty-two cases of Measles have been notified, with only one death, and were distributed as follows :

Burton Latimer	...	69
Geddington	...	49
Cottingham	...	40
Middleton	...	9
Warkton	...	1
Thorpe Malsor	...	1
Corby	...	2
East Carlton	...	5
Newton	...	4
Weekley	...	2

182

The first cases were notified from Cottingham on January 14th. The Schools were closed and disinfected.

Middleton, which shares the same School, soon became infected.

The epidemic was practically over by the middle of February, the last case being notified on February 18th. East Carlton cases were probably infected from here.

On the 15th March, an epidemic started in Burton Latimer; by the 20th, 16 cases were notified, only a few sporadic cases were then notified until July, when 29 cases were notified from the infant school. These were found to be cases of German Measles, and were very slight indeed; the infant schools were closed and disinfected. The Geddington cases commenced in January, and became very numerous in April; the schools were closed here also.

Measles.

On the 31st of December, 1919, Measles ceased to be a notifiable disease by order of the Ministry of Health. At the same time Medical men practising in the District and Health Visitors, Teachers, etc., are requested to inform the Medical Officer of Health of any epidemic occurring in the District.

Once an epidemic of Measles has started in a small village it is exceedingly difficult to arrest it, and school closure often is of no avail, but by preventing children visiting neighbouring villages the disease may often be restricted to an area.

Diphtheria.

Twenty cases of Diphtheria were notified, but nothing in the way of an epidemic occurred, although this disease has been prevalent in the district for some years it is gradually abating. There were two deaths only.

In 1915	...	there were 122 cases.
In 1916	...	„ 75 cases.
In 1917	...	„ 24 cases.
In 1918	...	„ 26 cases.
In 1919	...	„ 20 cases.

This year there were five cases in each of the two largest villages ; in some houses sanitary defects were found and remedied. In five of the notified cases, practitioners sent swabs up to the Clinical Research Association, which proved positive, the expense being borne by the Council.

Influenza.

Towards the end of February, and during the month of March, another severe epidemic of Influenza occurred ; this started simultaneously in nearly all the villages of the District, but the cases, although quite as numerous as in the epidemic of the previous November, 1918, were not quite so severe. The total deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia amounted to 18, compared with 38 the previous year.

Leaflets have been circulated in the District (one is enclosed in this Report) giving advice as to precautions, etc., to be taken, and I have procured from the Government Lymph Establishment a supply of Influenza Vaccine, which may be obtained free of charge by any medical man practising in the district, provided he keeps a record of the cases vaccinated.

Up to present date, March 10th, 1920, there has been little demand for the vaccine, but up to now Influenza has not reappeared excepting a few sporadic cases.

Tuberculosis.

Fourteen cases were notified, but certain deaths were registered as due to tuberculosis which had not been previously notified. The dwellings of those notified are inspected, instructions and disinfectants supplied ; bedding being destroyed and compensation paid. Five of these cases were notified from Burton Latimer.

Enteric Fever

No cases reported.

Small Pox.

No case reported, nor were any vaccinations performed by your Medical Officer of Health.

Cerebro-spinal Fever.

No case reported.

Polio Encephalitis. One case of an old lady in Stanion, 80 years of age, was notified, and investigations were made and a Report sent up to the Local Government Board ; no cause could be found.

Scarlet Fever. Only four cases, all children, were notified in the whole District, and two of them were admitted to the Fever Hospital. No return cases were discovered.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases. There has been ample accommodation for the treatment of any cases of Infectious Diseases in the Hospital during the year.

The Kettering Urban and Rural Council continue to elect a Joint Hospital Board which manages the Hospital, which is situated just within the Urban area.

Table appended below records numbers of cases admitted :—

Cases.	ADMITTED TO INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.			
	Diphtheria	...	12	
	Scarlet Fever	...	2	Died Diphtheria
			<hr/>	1
			14	
			<hr/>	
	DISCHARGED.			
	Diphtheria	...	8	Remaining in
	Scarlet Fever	...	2	Hospital
			<hr/>	...
			10	3
			<hr/>	

The cost of accommodating these cases was roughly £200.

Tetanus. No case of death from Tetanus has been notified, and I have heard of no case.

A Memorandum dated October 31st, 1919, on the Prophylactic use of Tetanus Antitoxin was issued by the Ministry of Health. The County Medical Officer of Health, Northampton, has a supply which he will issue to any Medical practitioner who will apply for it.

MATERNITY CENTRE.

The Northamptonshire Nursing Association, acting as the Agents of the County Council, have opened an Infant Welfare Centre at Burton Latimer. The Health Visitor attends this centre with the District Nurse. There are only four villages in this area that are not provided with a District Nurse.

EXTRACT FROM ANNUAL REPORT OF
COUNTY HEALTH VISITOR.

Ante-natal visits	135
-------------------	-----	-----	-----

Five mothers were recommended to see a medical man. One died during Puerperium.

New cases	...	...	162
Re-visits to new cases		...	728
Other infants on books (over and under 1 year)	...	...	1677

Of the 162 new cases, 104 were wholly breast-fed, 35 partly breast, and 23 entirely bottle-fed.

CONDITION OF INFANTS AT BIRTH.

Good	...	...	137
Fair	...	...	20
Weakly	...	...	5

HEALTH OF MOTHER.

Good	...	...	138
Fair	...	...	29
Bad	...	...	5

Medical aid advised for infants		...	55
Deaths under 1 year of age		...	8
Deaths over 1 year of age		...	4
Still-births	...	...	5
Cases reported to Local Sanitary Authority			12
Cases reported to N.S.P.C.C.		...	2
Visits to Infant Welfare Centre at Burton Latimer	...	...	18

STAFF.

(1) During the year Mr. S. Wallis returned from his Military duties and resumed his work as Sanitary Inspector. His report is appended. Mr. F. W. Blackmore, M.C., who, after being demobilized, was appointed in June, 1919, has taken up the duties of Assistant Sanitary and Housing Inspector. His report will be found here also.

Miss Ryding continues her duties as Health Visitor. Her report is supplied to the County Medical Officer of Health, under whom she carries out her duties.

(2) There is no Hospital or place in the Rural District for dealing with Small Pox, but the Joint Hospital Board, above-mentioned, have a small building in the Urban area to which rural cases would be admitted in the event of a case being notified.

(3) LOCAL ACTS.

Bye-laws respecting New Buildings, Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, also to prevent waste or contamination of water, etc., are in force.

(4) The Council are members of the Clinical Research Association, and any Practitioner in the District may, in necessitous cases, send a specimen up for examination, etc., free of charge. This is often made use of in cases of Diphtheria, but not so often for sputum testing, as tubercular cases now go to the clinic in the Urban area in greater numbers than formerly.

THE HOUSING ACT.

(1) The total number approximately of the houses in the district is 3041 ; of these 2702 are for the working classes.

No houses have been erected during the past year for the working classes.

The population is estimated at 13,000.

There are no empty houses in the district, and the Housing Committee have taken what measures seemed necessary in their scheme to meet the shortage.

(2) Twenty-six cases of over-crowding have been dealt with, the cause of this being shortage, and particularly the shortage of houses with more than two bedrooms. It is hoped the proposed scheme will remedy this.

(3) **FITNESS OF HOUSES.**—The standard of houses is good for a Rural District, although many of them have only two bedrooms. The defects chiefly met with are damp, insufficient light and ventilation, defective drains and poor closet accommodation. Owners of property where defects have been found have been written to with successful results.

Seven notices were sent under the Public Health Act, and seven notices under the Housing Act.

The difficulties met with are the structure and age of some cottages, together with the shortage of labour and material.

The water supply from the wells is generally good, but the public supplies are found at Burton Latimer, Cottingham, Rushton, Pytchley, Stanion, Thorpe Malsor, Warkton, and Weekley.

In the following villages scavenging is undertaken : Barton Seagrave, Broughton, Burton Latimer, Corby, Cransley, Geddington, Great and Little Weldon, Pytchley and Rushton. Many privy middens still remain but steps are gradually being carried out to provide a better form of closet.

(4) No unhealthy area, as such, exists in the district.

(5) Bye-laws adopted by L.G.B. model have been in force since 1903.

(6) General and miscellaneous. *See 7.*

(7) <i>a</i> —Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for human habitation	...	...	0
<i>b</i> —Number of dwelling houses inspected		...	427
<i>c</i> —Number of dwelling houses considered unfit for human habitation	...	...	10
<i>d</i> —Number of dwelling houses for which defects were remedied without making closing orders			95
<i>e</i> —Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for habitation after making closing orders		...	0
Action under Section 28 of H.A., 1919 :			
Number of orders for Repairs issued		...	1
The work is now being done.			

(8) Mr. F. W. Blackmore, is the only officer engaged in housing inspection, which he commenced in July, 1919.

As regards the future supply of houses :—The scheme at present under consideration provides for the erection of 270 new dwellings.

The form of Survey of Housing Needs was completed and sent to the Ministry of Health in October, 1919.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the Health of the District during the past two years has considerably improved. Whether there is any relation between this improvement and the continued restrictions on obtaining alcohol, there are not sufficient data for a definite statement, but it seems that there is a decreasing call on the services of medical men for attending those forms of illness directly associated with the consumption of alcohol. I trust that the present restrictions will be continued in the interest of the General Health of the community.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

LESLIE W. DRYLAND.

KETTERING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Sanitary Inspector
and Surveyor for 1919.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kettering Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present 6th Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary Work in the Rural District of Kettering for year ended 31st December, 1919.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified : 250, of which 20 were Diphtheria, 182 Measles, against 223 for year 1918.

The following is a summary of Infectious Disease :

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Privies converted to Pail Closets	...	...	15
Privies converted to Water Closets	...	...	10
Defective Gullies	...	...	29
Drains cleared	...	...	20
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	33
Wells and Pumps repaired	...	...	10
Taps repaired	...	...	300
W.C's repaired	...	...	18
Animals improperly kept	...	...	2
Overcrowding	...	...	26
Old buildings demolished	...	...	2

No legal proceedings were taken ; preliminary notices proving satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been inspected from time to time. Two nuisances were dealt with. No unfit food was found.

All Workshops and Bakehouses in the District have been inspected.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Mr. F. W. Blackmore, who was appointed June, 1919, has dealt with this as follows :

Number of Houses inspected being as follows—

Broughton	...	...	20
Burton Latimer	...	...	66
Corby ...	...	...	13
Cottingham	...	...	63
Cranford St. Andrew	...	...	25
Cranford St. John	...	...	51
Cransley	...	...	41
Geddington	...	...	20
Oakley Great	...	...	16
Oakley Little	...	...	12
Pytchley	...	...	74
Thorpe Malsor	...	...	5
The Weldons	...	...	1

427

The following is a summary of proceedings for the year :

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	...	427
Number of Dwelling-houses definitely unfit		10
Number of Closing Orders made	...	
Number of Dwelling-houses defects remedied		95
Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit after closing orders	... ..
Number of Dwelling-houses demolished	...	
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	61
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	7

General defects included Dampness, Drains, Insufficient Closets, Lighting, and Ventilation.

NEW HOUSES.

Upon the recommendation of the Housing Committee, the Council have prepared a scheme to erect houses in the following parishes :

Barton Seagrave	...	6
Broughton	...	12
Burton Latimer	...	62
Corby	...	100
Cottingham	...	12
Cranfords	...	6
Cransley	...	6
Geddington	...	6
Pytchley	...	12

Sites have been approved in these villages with the exception of Cranford. These figures may be slightly amended in the case of Corby and Burton Latimer. Tender has been received for Geddington.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

PLANS.

	New Buildings. Houses. Wood.	Factories, etc.	Alterations and Additions.	Drainage.	Total.
Barton Seagrave...	2	...	...	...	2
Burton Latimer ...	1	6	3	1	11
Broughton	...	...	...	4	4
Corby	...	1	...	...	1
Cottingham	...	...	1	...	1
Geddington	...	...	..	1	1
Loddington	1	...	...	...	1
Pytchley	...	...	...	1	1
Stanion	...	1	...	...	1
	—	—	—	—	—
	4	8	4	7	23
	—	—	—	—	—

SEWAGE AND WATER WORKS.

Barton
Seagrave.

New Sanitary Cart was found necessary for this village.

Broughton.

The Sewage Disposal Works are satisfactory. The sale of crops realised £64 3s. 2d., against £62 12s. 8d. last year.

Burton
Latimer.

The Brook at the Sewage Disposal Works being badly polluted, the Committee visited, and the engineers are now proceeding with scheme for installation of New Filter Beds. The sale of crops realised £97 17s. 6d., against £117 18s. 2d. last year. The Grass Keeping made £33, against £30 last year. New Piston and Liner were found necessary to No. 1 Engine at Weekley Water Works.

Corby.

The Committee visited the Sewage Disposal Works, and gave instructions for lower filter to be emptied and refilled with fresh material. This has been done. Messrs. Everard and Peck have scheme for new water supply, Rockingham Road, in hand.

Cottingham.

The Parish Ditch has been cleaned out.

- Cranford
St. Andrew The deep well Pump on Rectory Hill has been overhauled
and is now satisfactory.
- East Carlton The Septic Tank has been cleaned out.
- Geddington The Septic Tank has been cleaned out.
- Grafton
Underwood The Brook here requires cleaning out. I propose to do same
during the coming year.
- Great Oakley The Parish Brook has been cleaned.
- Harrington The Septic Tank has been emptied.
- Little Oakley The Parish Ditches have been cleansed.
- Middleton Parish Ditch has been cleansed and guard fence made good.
- Pytchley The New Windmill is working satisfactorily. The sale of
crops realised £128 6s., against £198 11s. 11d. last year.
- Rushton The Septic Tank has been cleansed
- Stanion The Committee inspected here, and a new head to Windmill
has been ordered from Messrs. Roberts at the cost of £110.
- Weekley. The Parish Ditch has been cleaned out.

There has been no shortage of water in any of the Parishes during
the past year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. WALLIS,

Sanitary Surveyor and Inspector.

*To the Joint Committee of the Urban and Rural Districts
of Kettering, and of the Urban Districts of Desborough and
Rothwell, re Dairies and Cowsheds.*

VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

KETTERING,

January, 1920.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to report that during the past year I have made inspection of premises occupied by registered Cowkeepers to the number of 340, and an individual examination, with especial regard to the condition of their udders, of 3,524 Milking Cows.

With reference to the sanitary state of the cowsheds inspected, the following conditions were found to prevail, *viz.* —

Good or satisfactory in 324 cases.

Unsatisfactory or bad in 16 „

340

It will be seen, therefore, that the sanitary condition of the Cowsheds in the period covered by the report was unsatisfactory or bad in 4.70 cases per cent.

A separate inspection of every cow contributing to the public Milk Supply, and with especial regard to the condition of its udder, has been made with the following results :—

Number of Cows inspected, 3524.

Number of abnormal udders, 29, or .82 per cent.

Of these deranged udders, 15 were in a condition calculated to render the milk harmful to persons consuming it in an uncooked state. One cow was suffering from acute mastitis, but was slaughtered at the outset of the disease. The remaining 13 udders were cases of atrophied quarters or other abnormalities which would not affect the quality of the milk.

Of the 16 cowsheds, the state of which was bad or unsatisfactory, this was due in all cases to insufficient attention to general cleanliness, the use of insufficient litter, or accumulation of manure in too close proximity to the sheds.

Of the 15 cases of udder disease, the milk of which was unfit for human consumption, the whole of these were due to acute or suppurative mastitis.

Samples of milk from all udders showing evidence suggestive of the existence of Tuberculosis have been examined microscopically, and three of these have also been subjected to biological test, but in no case have tubercle bacilli been found.

Your obedient Servant,

TREVOR F. SPENCER, M.R.C.V.S.

