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*With Dr. R. P. Myles' Compts*

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

### RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

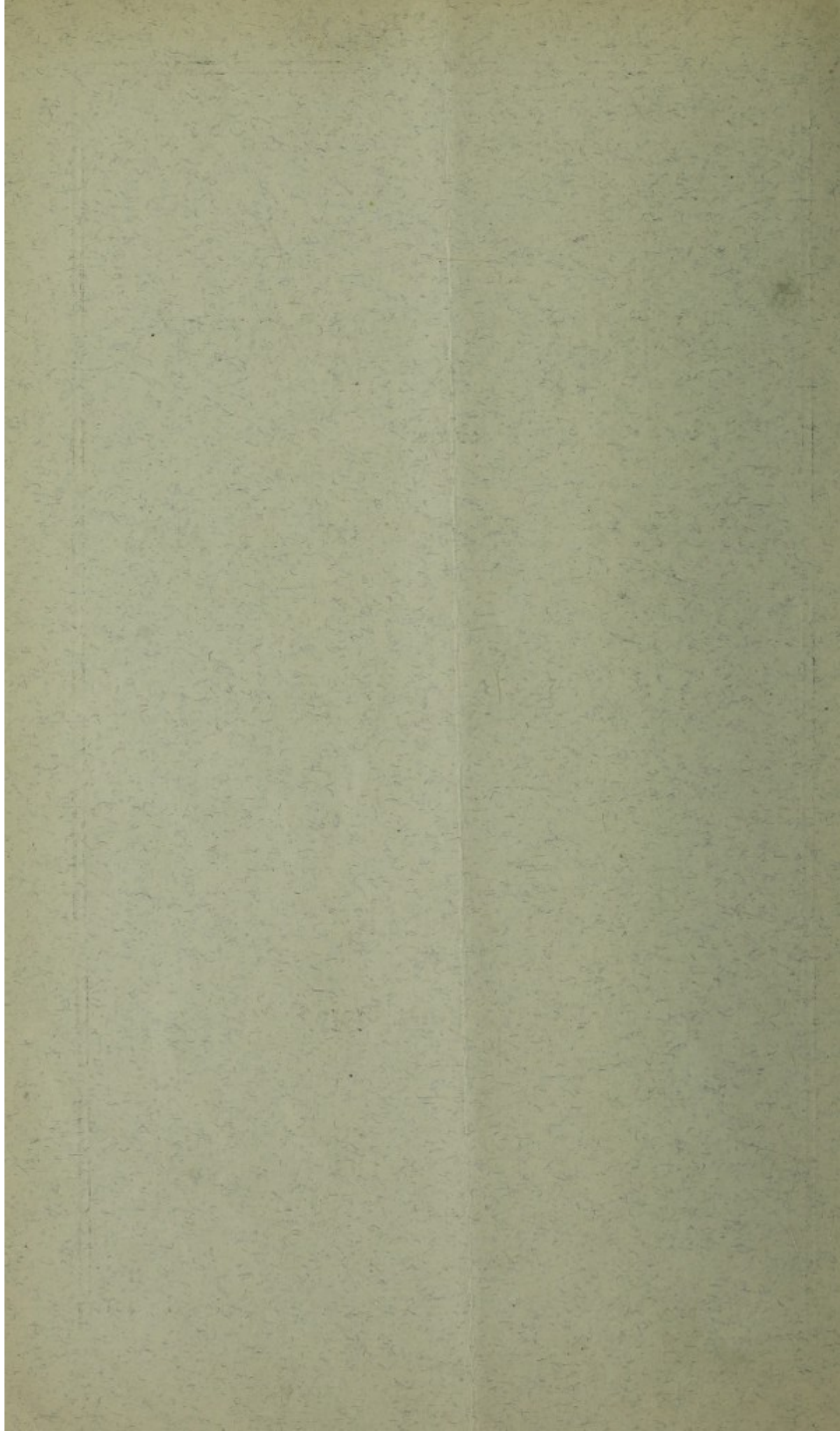
OF

### KINGSCLERE

For the year 1913.

—  
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1913.

# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

## KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT.

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TOWER HILL HOUSE,

KINGSCLERE,

NEWBURY.

7th February, 1914.

TO THE KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Having passed another milestone reminds me it is my duty to report to you on the sanitary and general condition of your District for the year 1913.

There must of needs be, some repetition and recapitulation in my report because it has to go into the hands of others not conversant with the district as well as yourselves.

This is my twenty-fourth year as your Medical Officer of Health, and it has been far the most strenuous one I have had, for what with new inspection duties and the frequent cases of diphtheria in several parts, I have been kept busy practically all the year.

The year was a seasonable one, with a rainfall of 30·95 inches, but the harvest time was protracted through showers.

X

The whole district is essentially agricultural, with a good sprinkling of residential properties, and is in the north-west portion of the County of Hants. The sub-soil is in large areas of either chalk, gravel, or clay, and the surface in many parts prolific.

Area : 45,986 acres, including 1,323 of inland water.

Population, according to 1911 census, 8,842, which I cannot believe increases but more likely decreases ; and average of 4·02 persons in each of the 2,152 inhabited houses.

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There are a few persons who still claim that further cottages are required for the labourers in Kingsclere, both St. Mary's and St. Paul's Wards, but still there are, and always have been, several empty ones, and annually more of the larger residences are becoming unoccupied, and not a tenant to be found. There are now eight empty residential houses in Kingsclere. One recognises the objection to letting cottages to parents with large families. Cottage property is, although slowly, improving in character, but I should like to see all thatched ones stripped before re-thatching, for the odour, especially after a frost, in the bedrooms is quite objectionable, and due to the decomposing vegetable matter. Especially has one noticed this this last autumn.

X

Birth rate remains low, about twenty per thousand, whilst both infant and general death rate is somewhat increased, being 81·5 and 11·3 respectively.

Fourteen infants died in your Kingsclere area of various causes, whilst only one in your Highclere area—prematurely born.

There was no special disease to cause excessive deaths, and twenty-four aged persons are to be numbered amongst the total of 102. Of these twenty-four aged, many were over 80 years of age, and one had reached the advanced age of 102 years.

#### *Tuberculosis.*

Five pulmonary cases died and two from other tubercular diseases. It is most encouraging to know that this disease is steadily on the decrease as reported by the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board for the year 1912-13, for he says: "The fell disease tuberculosis is gradually losing its grip on the community—the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis as compared with the decennium 1891 to 1900 has fallen 25 per cent., and that from all forms of the disease the drop is no less than 32 per cent."

During the year 7 male and 9 female cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, also 1 male 4 female non-pulmonary cases, and two further cases in Institutions.

All cases notified are followed up, and where advisable sent to sanatoria. You also provide shelters when application is made.

*Diphtheria.*

This disease has again given much anxiety more or less all the year, for we commenced with an outbreak at Ball Hill, East Worldhay, of seven cases; the first two of these contracted from putrid gases in connection with emptying a large accumulation at Enborne. These patients were not cognisant of their disease and conveyed it to their friends. None of these were children attending school, and six were treated in hospital.

Then in February an isolated case at Woodhay Chalk Pit and admitted to hospital, to be accounted for by removal of an old refuse heap.

April, another single case at Duncroft Cottages; an adult, who died.

Then in June, during hay harvest, an outbreak at Clapgate, Litchfield, of ten cases, seven of which were treated in hospital. I believe the primary case of this lot to have contracted it in Whitchurch, according to information I gleaned from the medical attendant.

September the 23rd commences an outbreak in Kingsclere, which may have been conveyed by a travelling company, but I am inclined to think not so, but from two girls attending the Kingsclere Girls' School. These children had been to Southampton together with their mother and other members of the family, and whilst there ailed slightly for a few days, and later on a brother was detected suffering from diphtheritic paralysis, so I swabbed these girls and found both of them infected and attending school innocently, so I conclude they were the cause of infection. Three weeks

later the disease broke out in connection with Kingsclere Woodlands School, but I cannot connect the two outbreaks, although they were of a similar virulent nature, unless it was conveyed to the primary Woodlands case by a lad who was assisting his father carting hay from Frith Farm, and whose two sisters had both suffered from it, and I had had much difficulty in enforcing on them hospital treatment. This lad was twice swabbed but both declared negative. The original case at Woodlands was kept at school some hours although seriously ill and vomiting, ultimately being taken home in a cart together with other children, some of which also developed the ailment.

These two outbreaks continued until the end of November. Five cases were notified from Burghclere and Woodhay the last week in November, each in separate houses where there were other children, but in neither house did the disease spread, and three of these were treated in hospital. Numerous swabs were taken during the Kingsclere outbreaks, and dozens of children declared to have dangerously infected throats, but none of these developed diphtheria. Needless to say, all the schools in the vicinity were closed, but does this help eradication when parents will permit their children to mix anywhere and everywhere?

During the year no less than sixty-one cases with only five deaths, and this speaks volumes for antitoxin. Thirty of these cases were treated in hospital; 17 from Highclere division and the remaining 13 from Kingsclere area.

#### *Measles.*

Measles was prevalent in Baughurst in February and March; Tadley in June and July; Wolverton in June; Kingsclere Woodlands in April and May; but no deaths occurred.



*Chicken Pox.*

At Hedley in April.

All these diseases caused schools to be closed, so it has been a very hot year of school closings, one or other during the whole year being closed, and many disinfectings were carried out.

To my mind it is a great mistake disinfectants are not provided to our Elementary Schools for general use, which I believe would be the means of preventing disease at times.

A supply of drinking water is now provided at all the schools.

Alterations and improvements have been carried out in several of them, and an additional one built at Old Burghclere.

A suggestion was made that they should be provided with lavatory paper, but this has fallen through.

*Scarlet Fever.*

Three cases were reported from separate houses where there were other children, but in neither instance did the disease spread.

*Erysipelas.*

Nine cases occurred and all treated at home.

*Enteric Fever.*

A case reported early in April; this patient had been ailing a month, and there is every reason to believe con-

tracted it at Brighton. The second case occurred in May, and had been to the farm of the former patient, but there seems to have been no direct contact in any way.

Dr. Fletcher from the Local Government Board visited the district in February, and made a complete inspection of it, together with myself, and several enjoyable days we had. He complimented me on the quantity of work I put in, but is quite of my opinion we are far from up-to-date. Our cottage Isolation Hospital does excellent work with our tiny staff, consisting only of myself, a residential fever nurse, and a wards' woman retained for duty when required. When necessary I always send for extra skilled nursing. We have now under consideration how best to enlarge our Hospital, for neighbouring Councils are not willing to accept patients from us.

Several special reports have I made during the year, and numerous inspections, both systematically and unexpectedly, and also with your Sanitary Inspector.

*Housing and Town Planning.*

Much work has been done under this score, ~~some 850~~ *of a complete list* ~~houses having been inspected and report made~~ on cards and submitted to yourselves at various times.

Unofficial notices were given where nuisances existed, and all willingly remedied.

*Water Supplies.*

Practically all from wells to individual houses or groups of cottages. Kingsclere and Ecchinswell are also provided with streams; Ashmansworth with a pond besides wells;

and Woodcott, Crux Easton, Litchfield, Ewhurst and Hannington provided from deep wells drawn by mechanical power.

Water. *6*

Eleven samples were reported on by myself and ~~nine~~ *11* by the County Analyst.

New Houses. *10*

Fifteen of the cottage class were erected during the year to plans previously submitted to you and passed.

Overcrowding.

<sup>2</sup>  
~~One~~ case in Kingsclere Dell, which, after pressure, was abated. *1 under observation at Echinwell*

Sewerage and Drainage.

Sewerage and Drainage has been under constant observation and is satisfactory. Several large residences have reconstructed their drainage and brought the same up to modern ideas.

Kingsclere sewage farm meets the calls on it, and is frequently visited by officials of the Thames Conservancy.

Closet Accommodation.

*51* Closet accommodation of the houses examined during the year showed ~~504~~ *51 new* pail closets, ~~244~~ *30 re-built* privies, and 66 water closets. Each property deals with its own refuse. Arrangements have been made for the removal by cart of house refuse in Kingsclere, but so far no one avails themselves of the opportunity.

*Pigstyes.*

Pigstyes continue to be much on the decrease.

*Slaughter Houses.*

Slaughter houses are only two and regularly visited, and one recently reconstructed and modernised.

*Bakehouses.*

Bakehouses all continue satisfactory and are cleaned and whitewashed twice annually.

*Milk.*

Demand for this is much on the increase. Seven more farms have been registered for supply. We have 44 dairies now on the register, and also about 20 cowkeepers, from whose premises milk and butter can be purchased. I had one occasion to suspect the quality of milk sold, but on analysis it proved unadulterated but of low quality.

The Public Institutions in your area are your Cottage Isolation Hospital with its ten beds and your Workhouse and Infirmary which usually contain about fifty inmates either aged, epileptic, or imbeciles. Eight deaths occurred among them, and there were four births.

A very large amount of work has been performed by your Sanitary Inspector, and together with my own six returns I enclose his and call your special attention to these for they are not only instructive but most interesting.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

REG. MAPLES.

TABLE I.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	8,500		191	22.3	90	11.6			18	94.3	90	11.6
1909	8,500		200	25.6	92	11.7			7	33.6	92	10.07
1910	8,500		175	20.58	91	10.6			13	76.05	91	10.06
1911	8,842		181	20.47	87	9.83		3	12	66.33	90	10.17
1912	†8,842		172	19.4	86	9.72		2	13	75.5	88	9.95
1913	8,842		185	20.8	93	10.5		9	15	81.5	102	11.3

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 45,986. Total population at all ages, 8,842.  
 Number of inhabited houses 2,152. Average number of persons per house, 4.02.  
 † At Census, 1911 (c.f. Census, Vol. V.)

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY					Total cases removed to Hospital	
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Kings-clere	High-clere	...	...		...
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	61	...	8	42	9	2	...	...	37	24	...	...	30	...
Erysipelas	9	...	...	1	...	5	2	1	8	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	17	...	...	3	5	7	2	...	9	8	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	1	1	...	1	2	1	...	4	2	...	...	...	...
Totals	98	1	9	49	15	18	5	1	63	35	...	...	30	...

Cottage Isolation Hospital in Eechinswell Parish by Local Authority. Sanatoria patients are sent to any Institution where there is a vacancy.



TABLE IV.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH				Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes	{	Certified	Yes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Uncertified	Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
{	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis ( <i>not Tuberculous</i> )	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{	Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
{	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
				5	...	...	...	...	3	4	3	...	15

Nett Births in the year : Legitimate, 178. Illegitimate, 7.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 15. Illegitimate Infants, 0.



*Not yet received*

TABLE V.

*Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1913.*

	Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notices by		Nuisance Remaining Unabated	
	Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority		
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	6	6	6	6	...	6	...
	Structural Defects ...	14	14	14	2	12	2	...
	Over-crowding ...	4	4	6	2	2	2	...
	Unfit for Habitation	1	1	1	1	...	...	1
	Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dairies and Milkshops	88	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cowsheds ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bakehouses ...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Slaughter-houses ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ashpits and Privies	32	32	38	10	19	10	3
House Drainage	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	18	1°	18	2	16	2	...
	Water-closets ...	12	14	4	...	4	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	7	7	7	...	7	...	...
	Water Supply ...	11	11	11	...	11	...	...
	Pigsties ...	6	6	6	...	6	...	...
	Animals improperly kept	1	1	1	...	1	...	...
	Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Nuisances ...	30	30	30	...	30	...	...
	Inspections of New Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	288	134	142	23	108	22	4	
Complaints received 3 by letter ...					...	12		
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...					...	...		
Samples of Food taken for Analysis					...	...		
" " found Adulterated					...	...		
" of Water taken for Analysis					...	20		
" Condemned as Unfit for Use					...	1		
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.								
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed					...	2		
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease					...	40		
Schools ditto ditto					...	19		
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease					...	...		
Convictions ditto ditto					...	...		
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things					...	...		
Convictions ditto ditto					...	...		

*Particulars  
Not received*

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses, and where?—No.

Number of new houses built in 1913?—15. General Character?—Good  
Cottages, about 4/6 per week.

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—Not necessary.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II of  
the Housing Regulations, 1910?—William Thomas Jelfs.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—Yes.

	Number.
Houses Inspected ... ..	843
SECTION 17—	
Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation ... ..	0
Representations made ... ..	0
Closing Orders made ... ..	0
Houses made habitable without Closing Orders ... ..	0
Houses made habitable as result of Closing Orders ... ..	0
Houses demolished ... ..	0
Houses unfit but still occupied ... ..	0
SECTION 15—	
Defects reported ... Sec. 91 Nuisances.	148
Defects remedied ... ..	148
Notices served ... ..	148



TABLE VII.

*Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.*

Factories Inspected	...	4
Workshops "	...	0
Workplaces "	...	42
		—
Total	...	46
Written notices	...	0
Defects found ...	...	0
„ remedied	...	0
		—
<i>Registered Workshops.</i>		
Defects	...	0
Retail Bakehouses	...	0
Other Workshops	...	0
		—
Total	...	0
		—
<i>Other Matters:—</i>		
Underground Bakehouses in use at the end of the year	... ..	0

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