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LEIGHTON BUZZARD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE YEAR
1925.

BY
JONATHAN GROGONO,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

TO THE
Leighton Buzzard
Urban District Council.



Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report for the year 1925.

As you are aware, copies of it have to be sent to the Ministry of Health.

This Report is based on the work done by the late Dr. Percy Stedman and his Deputy.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	2426
Population (1925)	...	...	...	6749
Number of inhabited houses (1925)	...	...	...	1805
Number of families or separate occupiers (1925, Estimated)	...	...	...	1840
Rateable value	...	...	...	£31,953
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£106

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	{ Legitimate	128	73	55	} Birth Rate (R.G.) 19.8
	{ Illegitimate	6	4	2	
Deaths	...	98	47	51	Death Rate (R.G.) 14.5

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth } from sepsis ... Nil
 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, other causes ... Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—

Legitimate, 11. Illegitimate, 1. Total, 12.

Rate per 1,000 births, 89.5.

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

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were nine cases of diphtheria notified during the year.

On April 10th, a girl, aged 4 years, was notified. She was an only child, and the house being a large one with plenty of room for isolation, the child was treated at home and made a good recovery.

On April 28th, a married woman, aged 34 years, was notified. She was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery. A few days previously she had attended a meeting in Aylesbury.

On October 13th, a girl, aged 10 years, was notified. She was removed to the Hospital, making a good recovery.

On October 14th, a man, aged 21 years, was notified. He was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

On October 16th, a girl, aged 6 years, was notified. She was isolated and treated at home, and she made a good recovery.

On October 17th, a boy, aged 6 years, was notified. He was removed to Hospital and make a good recovery.

On November 27th, a girl, aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, was notified. The case was fatal within a few days.

On November 27th, a boy, aged 10 years, was notified. He was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

On December 9th, a boy, aged 3 years, was notified. He was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were four cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year.

On June 26th, a girl, aged 3 years, was notified. She was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

On September 29th, a girl, aged 14 years, was notified. She was isolated and treated at home, and made a good recovery.

On October 20th, a boy, aged 4 years, was notified. He was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

On December 9th, a boy, aged 3½ years, was notified. He was removed to Hospital and made a good recovery.

ENTERIC.

There was one case of Enteric notified during the year.

On January 24th, a man, aged 25 years, was notified. He was a nurseryman, and he had previously attended some district markets. No other source of the disease could be traced. He was isolated at home and made a good recovery.

PNEUMONIA (ALL FORMS).

There were eight cases of Pneumonia (all forms) notified during the year.

These included three cases of Broncho-Pneumonia, and five of Lobar-Pneumonia.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year.

The following are the cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis:

On May 6th, a man, aged 38 years, was notified. He did not wish for Sanatorium treatment.

On May 16th, a girl, aged 20 years, was notified. She had a separate bedroom, and later on was admitted to Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

On May 23rd, a girl, aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, was notified. She had a separate bed and was treated by her own doctor at home. Her parents did not wish her to go to a Sanatorium.

On June 25th, a girl, aged 19 years, was notified. She was a domestic servant in Willesden. She was admitted to Mogerhanger at the end of July.

On August 10th, a woman, aged 58 years, was notified. She did not wish for Sanatorium treatment.

On August 29th, a girl, aged 17 years, was notified, and was admitted to Mogerhanger in the course of a few days.

On November 24th, a man, aged 25 years, was notified. He had a separate room and did not wish for Sanatorium treatment.

On December 3rd, a man, aged 47 years, was notified. He was working at the Gas Works. He did not wish for Sanatorium treatment.

On December 18th, a girl, aged 6 years, was notified. She was a school girl, and her people did not wish her to go to a Sanatorium.

There were four cases of Non-Pulmonary:—

The first was on March 31st, a child of 9 years, from Glands. The next, on June 2nd, a girl, of 14 years, suffering from a Tubercular Hip-joint. The next, on Aug. 26th, a girl of 21 years, also suffering from a Tubercular left hip. The next, on December 16th, a woman of 32 years, suffering from a Tubercular Spine.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital is situated at Grovebury, which is on the outskirts of the town, and yet near enough to be very convenient for the speedy removal of patients, and this is a very important factor in the recovery of severe cases of disease.

There are:—

12 Scarlet Fever Beds.

6 Diphtheria Beds.

4 Enteric Beds.

Six cases of infectious disease were treated in the Hospital.

There is a permanent matron, who resides there, and the administration is on the best lines. It is a thoroughly well equipped Hospital, and quite able to deal with all cases that occur, or are likely to occur, in the Urban District.

Specimens are sent to the Clinical Research for microscopic and bacteriological examination.

There is a resident trained nurse in the town for general nursing, medical and surgical.

The infectious diseases are nursed in the local isolation hospital. The Health Visitor also visits the homes, and gives instruction and advice.

There are two midwives resident in the town, and there are others on the boundary of the District.

Patients with tuberculosis can attend at the Dispensary, which is conveniently held at Luton, and they can be admitted to the Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

Venereal cases can be treated at the Bute Hospital, Luton, and the County Hospital, Bedford.

Children can be treated in the Royal Hospital at Aylesbury, fever cases at Grovebury, and small pox cases at the Small Pox Hospital in the District.

There is a motor ambulance, which is a great convenience and comfort in the removal of cases.

The Council grants supplies of antitoxin.

INFANT WELFARE.

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted in the town, a lady health visitor being present each week. She is assisted by local nurses and several ladies in the town. It is very popular. The Medical Officer attends.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply is obtained from the Urban District and the Eaton Bray and Wing Rural Districts. Inspections of the supplies, premises, and the cow-sheds have been made. The milk is of good quality.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town has a plentiful supply of water, which is supplied from the Council's waterworks in Stanbridge Road.

The water is pumped from a bore-hole, 200 feet in depth, in the lower green sand into a storage tank.

The following are the results of the analysis of the water:—

	Parts per 100,000	Grains per Gallon.
(I.) CHEMICAL		
Total solids (dried at 120° C.)	31.30	21.91
Combined chlorine... ..	2.10	1.47
equivalent to NaCl... ..	3.46	2.42
Nitric nitrogen	0.02	0.01
Nitrouf nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.0092	0.0064
Albumenoid nitrogen	0.0026	0.0018
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C ...	0.035	0.025
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	18.0	12.6
Permanent hardness	5.2	3.7
Total hardness	23.2	16.3
(II.) BACTERIOLOGICAL (cultural and microscopical).		
Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20-22° C. for 3 days ... ..		...=38 per C.C.
Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37-5° C for 2 days ... ..		...= 5 per C.C.
B. Coli		not found in 100 C.C.
Streptococci		" " " 30 C.C.
B. Enteriditis Sporogenes		" " " 100 C.C.

Remarks : —

Judged by the above results, this water may be regarded as of a very good quality.

The slight cloudiness of this sample is due to traces of iron.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Sewerage System of the district gravitates to the works off King Street, and at four parts of the town the sewage is forced up by compressed air to higher points, from which it is able to gravitate.

Various schemes are under consideration for the improvement of the Sewage Disposal Works, but so far, no final decision has been made.

The works, completed in 1895, consist of a screening chamber, sedimentation tanks, and stationary filters. Most of the liquid sewage is purified by means of filters, and a part by means of land filtration.

The land at the works is cropped with osiers, of which good growths have been obtained.

About 90 per cent. of the houses are connected with the public sewer, the remaining part chiefly comprising pail closets.

SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging is carried out by the Urban District Council, and each home is visited at least once a week, and oftener, if required.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There have been no complaints of pollution of rivers and streams in the town.

DISINFECTION.

A stock of disinfectants is kept at the Council's Store Yard, Back Lane, and the public can have a full supply on application, which they take advantage of.

During the summer months the street gullies and dustbins are flushed and sprinkled respectively with disinfectants. Premises are always disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and deaths from tuberculosis.

There are two common lodging houses in the district, and these are kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one offensive trade in the district, that being a knacker's yard, which is quite away from the town. It is paved and the general conditions are good.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools of the town are as follows:—

Beaudesert: Boys and Infants.

Bassett Road: Girls and Infants.

Pulford: Boys.

St. Andrew's: Girls.

The sanitary accommodation is sufficient and in good order.

There is a Secondary School in the town for boys and girls, which is well provided with all sanitary arrangements.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BAKE-HOUSES.

There are 8 slaughter-houses in the district. All are well kept, except for slight defects, which have been remedied by the owners.

There are 9 bake-houses in the district, two of which are underground.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The principal factories in the town which employ a considerable number of hands, are:—

Four agricultural iron works, a tile works, a concrete works, laundry, and a boot factory. There are also the Gas Works and two flour mills.

The principal workshops are:—

Basket-makers, brushmakers, dressmakers, tinsmiths, builders and saddlers. Many of the workshops on the register comprise domestic workshops, where only members of the family are employed.

HOUSING.

During the year eight new houses have been erected, all being due to private enterprise. There is still a demand for small houses at a moderate weekly rental. The Council, during the year, had building schemes, to come into operation at the beginning of 1926.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Three six pound tins of pressed beef were surrendered during the year.

A Store was provided at the Council's Depot for the temporary storing of unsound meat.

An incinerator has been installed for the destruction of unsound meat, and it is working satisfactorily.

MEAT INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

A qualified Veterinary Surgeon was appointed as Meat Inspector during the year. The following is his report:—

No. of Inspections ...	...	920
Carcases Examined	...	2,079
Carcases Condemned	...	17

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—	
(a) Total	8
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	Nil
1. <i>Unfit Dwelling Houses.</i>	
Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	105
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	47
(3) Number of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1925	17
(4) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	18
2. <i>Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.</i>	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	29
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>	
A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Acts, 1919 and 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit	
(a) by owners	13
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

2. HOUSE NUISANCES.					
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Spouts cleaned and repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Pavements repaired	...	...	...	...	0
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty houses cleaned	...	...	...	...	2
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	4
3. DRAINS, W.C.'S, PRIVIES, ETC.					
Total defects found	...	...	...	...	19
Drains cleaned, repaired and ventilated	...	...	...	...	8
New drains laid (connected to sewer)	...	...	...	...	5
W.C.'s constructed	...	...	...	...	11
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	6
W.C.'s supplied with water (formerly without)	...	...	...	...	0
Privies repaired	...	...	...	...	Nil
4. WATER SUPPLY.					
Houses supplied with water during year (formerly without)	...	...	...	...	6
Samples, taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	Nil
Certificates granted (Rural Districts only)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Certificates deferred (Rural Districts only)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	Nil
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	Nil
5. FOOD.					
Seizure of unsound food, o; details separately	...	...	...	...	0
Surrender of unsound food; details separately	...	...	...	...	1
6.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES.					
Number on register	...	...	...	...	8
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	32
Number of defects found	...	...	...	...	6
Number remedied	...	...	...	...	6

7.	BAKEHOUSES.				
	Number on register	...	...	...	9
	Number of inspections	...	...	...	27
	Number of defects found	...	...	...	3
	Number remedied	...	...	...	3
8.	DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.				
	Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	20
	Number of Cowkeepers	...	...	...	18
	Number of inspections	...	...	...	36
	Number of defects found	...	...	...	6
	Number remedied	...	...	...	6
9.	FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.				
	Number on register	...	...	...	139
	Number of inspections	...	...	...	51
	Number of defects found	...	...	...	7
	Number remedied	...	...	...	7
10.	VARIOUS.				
	Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	...	0
	Visits to infected houses	...	...	...	41
	Houses disinfected	...	...	...	24
	Other items: two Common Lodging Houses inspections	...	...	...	8

Your obedient Servant,

JONATHAN GROGONO,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1925 and previous years.

Year. 1	Population estimated to Middle of each Year. 2	Unrec. No. 3	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
			Number. 4	Rate. 5	Nett.	Number. 6	Rate. 7	of Non-residents registered in the District. 8	of Residents registered in the District. 9	Under One Year of Age. Number. 10	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births. 11	At all Ages. Number. 12	Rate. 13
1919	6924	145	147	20.3	74	10.6	12	5	8	54.4	67	9.6	
1920	7200	158	159	22.1	85	11.8	8	12	9	56.2	89	12.3	
1921	6820	153	155	22.7	94	13.8	7	5	12	77.4	92	13.4	
1922	6813	138	139	20.4	96	14.1	11	4	13	93.5	89	13	
1923	6844	137	136	19.8	83	12.1	7	8	15	110.2	84	12.3	
1924	6803	129	129	18.9	91	13.3	7	7	8	62	91	13.3	
1925	6749	134	134	19.8	104	15.4	19	13	12	89.5	98	14.5	

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1925.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.												Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths	
	At all Ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 & upwards
Diphtheria	9	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	...	...	...	6	1
Scarlet Fever	4	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms).....	8	1	2	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	...	6
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox.....	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	24	1	2	1	4	2	5	1	4	1	1	1	...	9	7

TABLE III.
Cases of Tuberculosis notified during 1925.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F.	M	F	M	F
0
1
5
10
15
20
25
35
45
55
65 and upwards
Totals
	3	6	1	3	1	3		2

TABLE IV.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT. -- Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1925.

Causes of Death.	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.								
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
All Causes { Certified Uncert.	98	12		5	2	3	9	20	47
Enteric Fever									
Small-pox									
Measles									
Scarlet Fever									
Whooping Cough									
Diphtheria and Croup				1					
Influenza	3						1		2
Rheumatic Fever	1			1					
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4					2	1	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2			1			1		
Cancer, malignant Disease	8							4	4
Encephalitis Lethargica Meningitis	1							1	
Organic Heart Disease	15						3	4	8
Bronchitis	4	1		1					2
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	2			1		1	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs									
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2							2	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis Appendicitis & Typhlitis	1			1					
Cirrhosis of Liver	1							1	
Diabetes	1							1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2							1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage... ..	12							2	10
Arterio-sclerosis	2								2
Puerperal Fever... ..									
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition									
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	9	9							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2						1	1	
Suicide	1						1		
Other Defined Diseases	20				1	1		1	17
Diseases ill-defined or unknown									
Accidents... ..									
Totals	98	12		5	2	3	9	20	47

Leighton Buzzard Urban District.—Infantile Mortality during the year 1925.
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-4 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 Uncertified	5	2	2	9	1		1	1	12
{ Small-pox									
{ Chicken-pox									
{ Measles									
{ Scarlet Fever									
{ Whooping Cough									
{ Diphtheria : Croup									
Erysipelas									
{ Tuberculous Meningitis									
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis									
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases									
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)									
Convulsions									
Laryngitis... ..									
Bronchitis							1		
Pneumonia (all forms) ...					1			1	
{ Diarrhoea									
{ Enteritis									
Gastritis									
Syphilis									
Rickets									
Suffocation, overlying ...									
Injury at Birth									
Atelectasis									
{ Congenital Malformations									
{ Premature Birth	5	2	2	9					
{ Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus									
Violence									
Other Causes									
Totals	5	2	2	9	1		1	1	12

(Continued on next page).

Infantile Mortality during the year 1925 (*continued*).

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cases.			Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths.
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home	In Hospital				
Nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

