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Contributors

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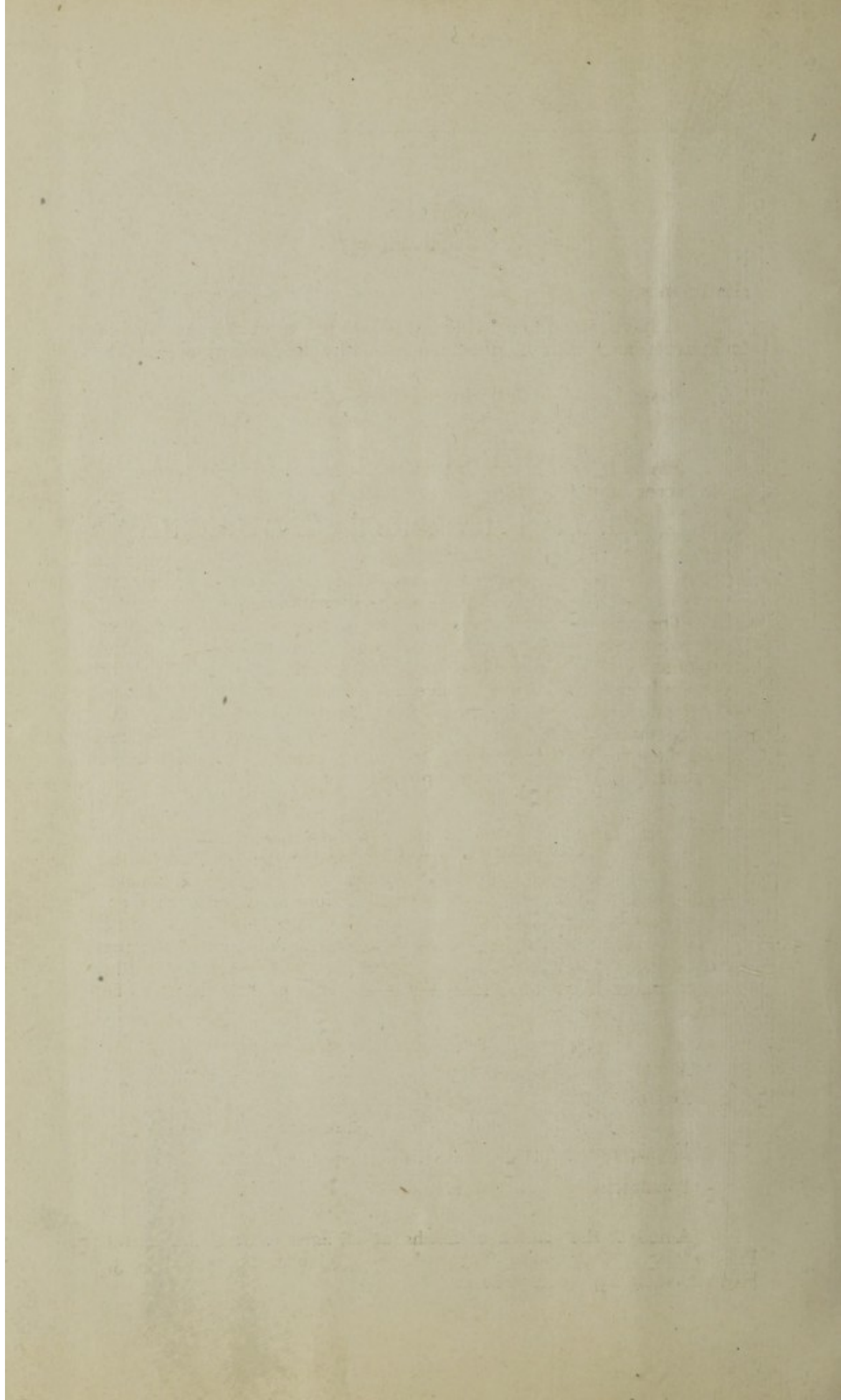
THE
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE
MARKET HARBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1920,

BY
C. T. Scott, M.A., M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Market Harborough :
Wilkinson, Printer, 64, High Street.



REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report drawn up in accordance with the directions issued by the Ministry of Health.

Population of the district (1) at census of 1911—8,853.
(2) estimated for 1920—8,951.

Physical Features & Occupations.—The area of the district is 4,520 acres and comprises the parishes of Market Harborough, Great and Little Bowden. It is situated in the Welland Valley in the counties of Leicestershire and Northampton at an elevation of 290 to 450 feet above sea level. The geological strata vary from upper to lower lias covered by drift gravel in small patches. The surrounding country is mostly pasture but there is also a small amount of ploughed land. The river Welland runs from West to East through the centre of the town and carries the water drainage. The occupation of the inhabitants is chiefly manufacturing; the factories include those for the manufacture of corsets, coffee and dried foods, rubber goods, hosiery, pinafores, type, glue, brushes and boots; there is also a tanyard and three timber mills. The large cattle market is under the management of the Council. No trades are engaged in which have any specially deleterious effect upon health.

Vital Statistics.—Births for the year have increased from 103 in 1919 to 175 in 1920, rate per 1,000 population 19·5. The births include 87 males and 88 females, of whom 6 males and 4 females were illegitimate. Deaths (corrected number) during the year were 99, rate per 1,000 population 11·0, compared with 12·0 in 1919 and 14·8 in 1918. Infant mortality was low—5 deaths under 1 year, rate per 1,000 births 28·5. The infant deaths include three premature births (none of whom lived more than six hours) one meningitis, and one jaundice.

	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.
<i>Births</i>	175	19·5
<i>Deaths</i>	99 (Nett)	11·0
		Rate per 1,000 births.
<i>Deaths under 1 year</i> ...	5	28·5
<i>Population</i> ...	8,951.	

Amongst the causes of deaths at all ages were :—Influenzal Pneumonia 2, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 9, Cancer 10, Accident 3, Heart Disease 23, Pneumonia 9.

The Poor Law Relief for 1920 amounted to £293.

Hospital Accommodation.—The Cottage Hospital contains 11 beds and has admitted 188 in-patients during the year; there is no out-patient department. One district nurse is employed who is a member of the staff of the Cottage Hospital. The hospital is largely supported by voluntary contributions. The Town Estate Society also administer pecuniary assistance to sick poor.

Water Supply is from a natural underground reservoir at North Kilworth, 8 miles distant; water is received into a reservoir above the town. The supply yields 200,000 gallons per day, equivalent to about 20 gallons per head of the population. The water is of a high degree of purity, 12 degrees of hardness, with no plumbo-solvent properties. There are also 65 private wells the water from which is analysed periodically.

River & Stream Pollution.—None.

Drainage & Sewerage.—The system is in good order and self cleansing. Sewage gravitates through a 24-inch outfall sewer of glazed stoneware pipes to the sewage disposal works situated $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles East of the town. Drainage is on the "separate" system, storm water being excluded from the sewers as far as possible. Dry weather flow of sewage is about 339,000 gallons a day, an equivalent of $37\frac{2}{3}$ gallons per head of 9,000 population. The system is capable of dealing with a population of 12,000; it includes detritus and sedimentation tanks, sludge pumping machinery and sludge lagoons, together with 10 acres of land laid out on the intermittent irrigation system. The total area of the farm is 110 acres of which 65 acres are laid out on the broad irrigation system in addition to the above. The sewage is of a typical character; analyses of the effluent have been uniformly satisfactory. Excrement disposal is entirely by the water-carriage system of sewers.

<i>Closet Accommodation.</i> —	{	Vault closets	...	none.
		Bucket „	...	3.
		Water „	...	remainder.

Scavenging is effected by the Council's carts once or twice a week as necessary; refuse is conveyed to a nursery outside the town. There are only one or two ash-pits in the district, the remainder being movable ash-bins. There are no cesspools.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Total number of inspections for all purposes	...	...	...	617
Complaints received	...	...	...	82
Nuisances and defects discovered without complaint				204
* Ditto	abated	...	...	279
Informal Notices	...	...	...	279
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions	...	...	...	Nil

Houses examined under Public Health and Housing Acts.

Number inspected	...	...	...	72
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	2
Houses cleansed	...	...	...	10
Leaking roofs repaired	...	...	...	6
Defective rainwater pipes and gutters repaired	...	...	...	10
Dangerous chimneys repaired	...	...	...	3
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	10

Drainage, W.C's &c.

Number inspected	...	...	...	110
Drains tested	...	...	...	5
Drains unstopped, repaired or ventilated	...	...	...	65
New drains laid	...	...	...	4
W.C's repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	30
Earth closets condemned	...	...	...	3
New W.C's provided	...	...	...	3

Various Nuisances.

Number of inspections	...	...	...	108
Accumulations of offensive matters removed	...	...	...	22
Ashpits condemned	...	...	...	3
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	4
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	6
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	37

Infectious Disease.

Number of rooms disinfected with formalin lamps	...	...	...	32
Lots of bedding disinfected by steam	...	...	...	5

Common Lodging Houses.

Number on Register	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	4
Defects found and remedied	...	...	...	1

Water Supply.

Samples of well water analysed	...	...	...	3
Wells condemned	...	...	...	1
Wells cleaned out	...	..	...	1
Town water laid on	...	...	...	2
Samples of Town water analysed and found satisfactory				2

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws
or Regulations :—

Common Lodging Houses, New Streets and Buildings, Slaughter-houses, Nuisances arising from snow, filth, rubbish, &c, and keeping of animals, Markets, Pleasure Grounds, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops, and Water Works.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in the district.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice	...	...	Nil
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Schools, comprise 5 public elementary, one county grammar, and four small private schools. The sanitary conditions are good throughout; the water supply is from the town mains. No school-closure was necessary during the year.

FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.—Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.*

Number on register	...	...	17
Number of inspections by Veterinary Surgeon			124
Defects found and remedied	...	...	5

Milk for Mothers & Children.—The Council authorized the Health Visitor and myself, together with a Member of the Sanitary Committee, to supply milk to nursing or expectant mothers and to children under 5 years, free of charge or at half-price, in necessitous cases; 47 families were provided for in this manner, the average amount supplied being one to two pints daily for from six weeks to six months. The Council made this grant of milk conditional to the householder continuing to buy no less milk than before the grant. The Council also supply, through the Health Visitor, dried milk foods at wholesale cost price.

(b) *Meat.*—(i) The inspection of slaughter-houses has been carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon who reports that they are all in a satisfactory condition.

(ii) The Council own two slaughter-houses which are at present used by three butchers. There are still three old registered slaughter-houses in use.

(iii) & (iv) The Veterinary Surgeon has inspected meat during his visits to slaughter-houses.

Number of Slaughter-houses.

	1914.	Jan. 1920.	Dec. 1920.
Registered	4	4	3
Licensed	2	2	2

(c) *Other Foods.*—During the year the following foods have been condemned :—

Tinned Food	...	363 tins.
Bacon	...	123½ lbs.
Ham	...	28 lbs.

There are 15 bakehouses on the Register, 21 inspections have been carried out and 4 defects found and remedied.

There is a large factory for the manufacture of dried soups, jellies, &c. ; this I have inspected frequently and always found to be in a most excellent condition.

(d) *Food Poisoning.*—Nil.

Infectious Diseases have not been at all prevalent during 1920 :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	11
Diphtheria	...	...	12
Malaria	...	...	1
Pneumonia (Influenzal)...			5
Erisipelas	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	1
			—
			31
			—

The scarlet fever cases mostly occurred early in the year and represent the finish of the epidemic which prevailed during 1919 ; one case was sent to fever hospital, the others were isolated at home ; no return cases occurred. Three of the diphtheria cases were imported, the others were of the sporadic type for which no source of infection was found ; one was sent to fever hospital and the remainder isolated at home ; no contact cases occurred ; swabs are bacteriologically examined at the County Council laboratory and anti-toxin is provided by the Urban District Council. The malaria case was military importation.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Influenza was somewhat prevalent at the beginning and end of the year, the autumn epidemic being very mild. A few cases of whooping cough and chicken pox occurred during the autumn.

Disinfection of houses after infectious disease is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, clothing and bedding being sterilised in the Council's Steam disinfecter.

<i>Tuberculosis.</i> —Notified	{ Pulmonary	12
	{ Other forms	1
Deaths	{ Pulmonary	9
	{ Other forms	3

Only two of the cases notified occurred in the slum areas ; six of the twelve cases have received sanatorium treatment. Two of the cases notified this year appear to have been infected by relatives who have returned home, incurable, from sanatoria.

There is no Tuberculosis Dispensary in the district, the National Health Insurance Dispensary is at Leicester, 15 miles distant.

The incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis has been less during this and previous years in the slum areas than in the newer and well-built areas. The factory workers provide the greatest number of cases.

Venereal Diseases appear to have been less prevalent than in 1919. The nearest V. D. Clinic is at Leicester, 15 miles. Bacteriological examinations are made at the County Council laboratory of material sent by any of the doctors and the results of the examination sent by post.

Maternity & Child Welfare.—The Urban District Council employ a whole-time Health Visitor and one Midwife, the latter having assistance when necessary. The Health Visitor visits all babies during the first month at their home and continues supervision until the child is five years of age; her visits have totalled about 4,000 during the year; she reports monthly to the Sanitary Committee notifying them of any defects she discovers in the sanitary conditions of the dwellings as well as the children's welfare; the Health Visitor brings to the notice of the Committee any necessitous cases who are then supplied with extra milk free of charge. The Infant Welfare centre which was opened in 1919 has continued its useful work and is very popular with the mothers. The Health Visitor attends at the centre every day for the sale of dried milks and other foods at wholesale cost price; twice a week the centre is open all the afternoon and is in charge of a committee of ladies who work voluntarily, the average attendance is from 15 to 20 per diem (infants); the Medical Officer attends once every fortnight. The expansion of the centre has been severely handicapped ever since it was opened on account of the uncertainty of management in the future; the Ministry of Health are still considering whether the work is better controlled locally or by the County Council. The Urban District Council are strongly of opinion that the work is essentially a local one and will succeed best under local management. They do not feel disposed to enlarge the scheme, at expense to the ratepayers, and then have the management taken out of their hands. In the matter of Infant Welfare this Council have been pioneers as they were before even the County Council in adopting the notification of births act, their infant mortality rate, too, has always been low, frequently the lowest in the County. The Council can see no advantages but many disadvantages in transferring the management to the County Council. There is no lying-in hospital in the district but with extension of the Infant Welfare scheme it is hoped that such may be started.

One case of puerperal fever occurred and one of ophthalmia neonatorum (imported).

Sanitary Administration.—

(1) *Staff:* 1 Inspector, 2 Assistant Inspectors, 1 Health Visitor, 1 Veterinary Inspector.

(2) *Infectious Hospital.*—This has been taken over during the year and absorbed in the scheme of the County Council.

(3) *Local Acts.*—None.

(4) *Bacteriological work* is carried out by the County Council in their Laboratory at Leicester.

HOUSING.

(I.) *General housing conditions in the district :—*

- (1) The general Housing conditions are good.
- (2) (a) In December, 1919 the shortage of houses was estimated at 300.
- (b) A housing scheme is in progress and contracts have been let for 98 houses, 14 of these being completed and occupied, and a further 54 in the course of erection.

(II.) *Overcrowding :—*

- (1) Extent : 85 cases.
- (2) Causes : Insufficient number of houses.
- (3) Housing scheme in progress.
- (4) Several cases of overcrowding have been dealt with by boarding out members of the families, &c.

(III.) *Fitness of Houses :—*

- (1) (a) General standard : Good.
- (b) General defects in unfit houses : Lack of air space, no sunlight, delapidated houses, bad paving, dampness.
- (2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under :—
 - (a) Public Health Acts : Nuisances and defects remedied on complaint or discovery.
 - (b) Housing Acts : Unfit property to be considered when sufficient new houses erected.
- (3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness :—

It is considered an unsuitable time to proceed with house-to-house inspection owing to the high cost of materials and labour, smallness of rents, and the shortage of labour by reason of pressure of more important work in erecting new houses.
- (4) Conditions as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal are good and under continual observation.

(IV.) *Unhealthy Areas :—*

No complaints or representations have been made in regard to unhealthy areas under part I or Part II of the Housing Act of 1890.

(V.) *Bye-laws* relating to houses, houses let in lodgings and tents, vans, sheds, &c. :—

- (1) Building bye-laws only are in force.
- (2) Adoption of new bye-laws not considered necessary.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics. Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	8951
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	11'0
(3)	Death rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	1'34
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	28'5
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	2077
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	1702
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	14

2 —UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(I.) *Inspection.*

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	72
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	50
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	12
(4)	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	...	...	...	12

(II.) *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	..	(repaired)	41
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(III) *Action under Statutory Powers.* ... Nil

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.—Nil.

Staff engaged on housing work—

Medical Officer of Health.
Sanitary Inspector.
Clerk of the Works.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

			Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories	...	...	5	
Workshops	...	...	37	3
Workplaces	...	..	2	
			—	—
Total	...		44	3
			—	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.

Want of cleanliness, Found ..	...	...	3
" " Remedied	...	...	3

3.—HOME WORK.

	Lists.	Workmen.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists
Wearing Apparel—			
Cleaning & Washing ... 4	...	40	...
			4

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Laundries	...	...	...	..	4
Bake-houses	...	...	...	...	15
Other Workshops		...	...	...	67
					—
Total number of workshops on Register	...				86
					—

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts	...	...	...	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	2
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector			...	2
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at end of year				Nil

CHARLES T. SCOTT,

March 1st, 1921.

Medical Officer of Health.