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The Annual Report for 1920

ON THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF
MELTON MOWBRAY.



BY

William Tibbles,

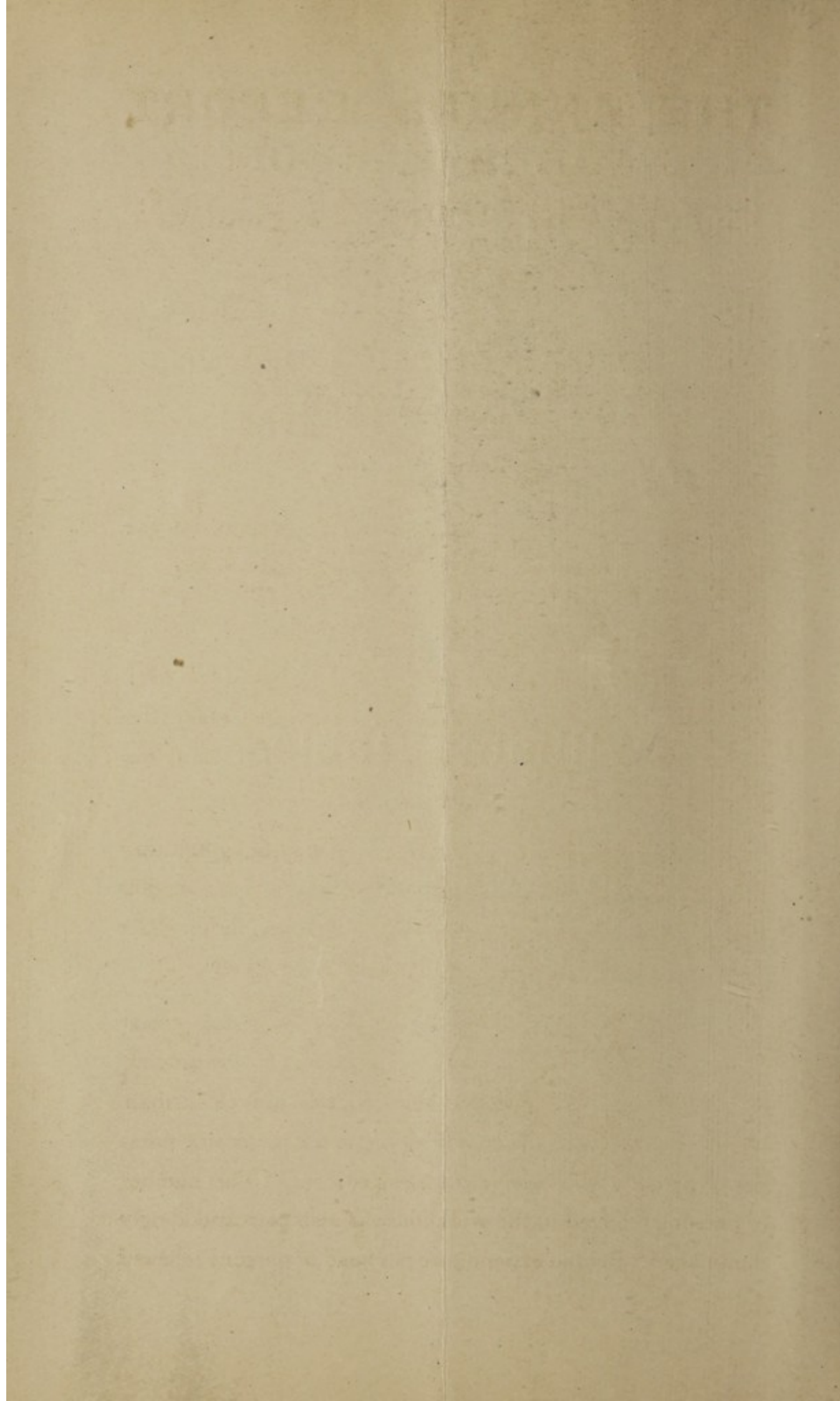
M.D., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., etc.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



MELTON MOWBRAY.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1920,

TO THE

Rural District Council of Melton Mowbray.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report on the Rural District of Melton Mowbray, for the year 1920.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the District at the census of 1911 was 15,271 ; the number of inhabited houses was 3,606 ; the average number of persons per house was 4.325 ; and the district covers an area of 91,848 acres.

Various circumstances attendant upon the great war and its sequences, have reduced the population by about 800 souls, and the number of inhabitants in the middle of 1920 was estimated by the Registrar General to be 14,485.

The District is chiefly agricultural, and the social position corresponds with that class. However, the amount of outdoor poor-law relief is now considerably less than before the war, which is chiefly owing to the increasing number of persons who receive old age pensions. The number of persons relieved in the workhouse is also correspondingly diminished. But the expenditure per head of persons relieved

is by no means diminished, owing to the increased amount the Guardians have found it necessary to give in out-door relief and the extra cost of maintenance and up-keep in the workhouse. The out-relief is quite double, and the cost per head in the workhouse is more than double that of pre-war days.

The number of births registered in your district in 1920 was 314, but other children belonging to your district were born in institutions, etc., outside the area, which bring the number up to 327 and including 165 males and 162 females, of whom 9 boys and 17 girls were illegitimate. These gave a birth rate of 22.57 per 1000 inhabitants. Ten infants, including 3 illegitimate ones, belonging to your district died under one year of age, thus giving an infant death-rate of 32.7 for every 1000 children born. This compares well with the infant death-rate for England and Wales which was 80 per 1000 children born.

The deaths registered in your district amounted to 122, and gave a death-rate of 8.32 per 1000 inhabitants, which is the lowest I have recorded. In addition to these, however, 21 persons belonging to your district died in houses or institutions outside of it, and one person who died in your district belonged elsewhere, therefore the nett number of deaths for the Melton Rural District was 122, plus 21, minus 1, equals 142, and the corrected death-rate is 9.8 per 1000 inhabitants, which again is a remarkably low death-rate.

These figures are given in the adjoining table, where they are compared with similar figures for recent years.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of Melton Mowbray Rural District.

Year	BIRTHS			Total Deaths Registered in the District		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS belonging to the District.				
	Population estimated	Nett		Number	Rate	Non-Residents Registered in the District	Residents not Registered in the District	Under 1 year		At all ages		
		Uncorrected Number	Rate					Number	Rate per :000 Births			
											Number	Rate per 1000
1914	15,448	303	307	19.8	148	9.6	4	17	14	46.2	161	10.4
1915	14,773	280	283	19.1	180	12.1	5	15	20	102.4	191	12.9
1916	14,773	247		16.7	172	11.6	3	23	12	48.6	192	11.6
1917	14,594	224	222	15.9	188	14.3			13	58.3	188	14.3
1918	14,602	241	241	16.5	204	15.6	12	40	11	46.0	232	17.8
1919	14,511	236	239	16.5	139	9.9	4	27	10	41.8	162	11.6
1920	14,485	314	327	22.5	122	8.3	1	21	10	32.7	142	9.8

The Sickness in your district in 1920 was by no means of an alarming character, although a large number of cases was notified, due to the inclusion of diseases not previously notified. There was an entire absence of Enteric Fever, Small Pox, Epidemic Diarrhoea, and some of the other infectious diseases which are notifiable. Measles broke out in various villages, notably Long Clawson, Harby, and Garthorpe; Mumps likewise occurred in Frisby-on-the-Wreake and Thorpe Arnold, but all the cases of these diseases were mild and no death was reported as being due to them. There were seven cases of Diphtheria in Nether Broughton, this occurrence being a continuation of the outbreak in that village in 1919; three Sporadic cases also occurred in villages at a distance from that centre of infection, but only one death from this cause occurred in the entire district.

Altogether 45 persons were certified as being infected with Scarlet Fever. There were two chief centres of infection—Long Clawson and Asfordby. In the former place 15 cases were notified, but I was satisfied by examination that for the most part they were of a very mild type. The other centre was Asfordby, whence 11 cases were notified. The remaining 18 or 19 cases were distributed through ten parishes, some of the houses being widely separated from the village in outlying places. The mildness of the outbreak is confirmed by the fact that no death was recorded in your district from this cause.

Influenza, although somewhat prevalent in the winter and spring of 1920, was of a comparatively mild type, and rarely possessed the virulence of the type prevailing in 1918—19. In this connection one's thoughts naturally turn to Pneumonia, its most dangerous sequela, but only ten cases of Pneumonia were notified in 1920—3 cases following Influenza, 3 subsequent to measles, and 4 were primary Pneumonia.

One person was notified as suffering from Cerebro-spinal Fever, but on closer investigation the disease proved to be Tubercular Meningitis, and the person died. No case of Polio-myelitis was reported. One case of Encephalitis Lethargica, a boy of 10, was notified, and visited and examined by myself. He fully recovered without any remnant of paresis or other disorder of nervous function.

I received notice that a person who had been in contact with a case of Small Pox arrived in the district, but fortunately there were no developments.

Two cases of Malaria and one of Dysentery in ex-soldiers were notified, the diseases being contracted abroad.

Two infants were notified as afflicted with Ophthalmia Neonatorum and became objects of attention by the welfare department of the County.

Eleven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and seven cases of Tuberculosis in other parts of the body were notified.

TABLE II. Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1920.

Notifiable Diseases,	Number of cases Notified at various ages.								Total removed to Hospital
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and upwards	
Small Pox.....									
Cholera, Plague.....									
Diphtheria and Croup..	10		1	5	2	2			7
Erysipelas	5				1	1	2	1	
Scarlet Fever.....	45		5	35	2	3			37
Enteric Fever.....									
Pneumonia	10		1	3	1	2	1	2	
Puerperal Fever									
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....									
Poliomyelitis									
Encephalitis Lethargica	1			1					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11			3	5	2	1		
Tuberculosis of other parts	7			3	4				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2							
TOTAL.....	91	2	7	50	15	10	4	3	44

The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases was of the usual character. All cases were notified to me. Some were treated in the Isolation Hospital. Those which remained at home were isolated as far as circumstances permitted. Bedding and clothing were disinfected in a steam heated apparatus; rooms were disinfected with Formaldehyde; schools were closed in those villages where infectious diseases became prevalent. The Tuberculosis cases were looked after by the Health Visitors, and many Pulmonary cases were treated in sanatoria or special residential homes, where they were taught hygienic methods of living and the prevention of infection. Specimens sent from your district to the County Pathological Laboratory in 1920 were as follows:—

Substance Examined.	Total	Positive	Negative
Diphtheria Swabs	3	1	2
Sputa for Tuberculosis Bacilli	9	1	8
Lumbar Fluid for C.S.F. ...	1		1
Hairs for Ringworms	3	3	
Waters* and Sewage analysed	15	?	?

*These specimens were chiefly brought in by Health Visitors from houses where goitre was encountered.

TABLE III. Causes of Death at various periods of life in 1920.

	Deaths at all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes { Certified	140	8	2	2	3	3	12	30	79
{ Uncertified	4								4
1 Enteric Fever									
2 Small Pox									
3 Measles									
4 Scarlet Fever									
5 Whooping Cough..									
6 Diphtheria and Croup	1				1				
7 Influenza	4						2	1	1
8 Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2					1		1	
9 Tubercular Meningitis	1				1				
10 Other Tubercular Diseases	5			1		1	1	1	1
11 Erysipelas									
12 Cancer: Malignant Disease	20						2	7	11
13 Rheumatic Fever.....	1						1		
14 Meningitis	1							1	
15 Organic Heart disease	28						1	7	20
16 Bronchitis	4	1							3
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	8		1	1			1		5
18 Other Respiratory dis- eases									
19 Diarrhoea and Enteriti									
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis									
21 Cirrhosis of Liver	2							2	
21a Alcoholism									
22 Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2								2
23 Puerperal Fever									
24 Other accidents and Diseases of Preg- nancy.....	1						1		
25 Congenital Debility and Malformation, Prem- ature Birth	6	5	1						
26 Violent Deaths (exclud- ing suicide)	7	1				1	1	3	1
27 Suicide.....	1						1		
28 Other Defined Diseases	50	1			1		2	7	39
29 Diseases ill-defined....									
TOTAL.....	144	8	2	2	3	3	13	30	82

The causes of Death are set out in Table III, which shows the number of people who died from various diseases at different periods of life. This table deals only with the death of civilians.

There was no death from Small Pox, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Chicken Pox, Mumps, Whooping Cough, Erysipelas, Puerperal Fever, Epidemic Diarrhoea, Appendicitis, and various other diseases of microbial origin. One patient, originally notified as Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, died of Tubercular Meningitis. Another case belonging to your district, which died in the Isolation Hospital was certified as Cerebral Meningitis. There was one death from Diphtheria. Of four deaths due to Influenza, three were complicated by Pneumonia, and there were eight deaths from other forms of Pneumonia. Tubercular diseases were accountable for 8 deaths, viz. : two from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one from Tubercular Meningitis, and five from Tuberculosis in various parts of the body.

Malignant diseases, including Cancer of various parts of the body, was the cause of death of 20 persons. Organic diseases of the heart was responsible for the death of 28 persons, of whom 20 had passed the age of 65 years.

One death was due to Pulmonary Embolism following confinement. A case of suicide by drowning herself in a pond while in a state of unsound mind is recorded. There were seven deaths due to accidents and injuries of various kinds, viz. : an old lady burnt to death in a house on fire, a man died as a result of a fall from a ladder, another had his skull fractured by the kick of a horse, another man was killed by a fall of ironstone, a woman died from septic poisoning resulting from injuries received by falling downstairs, a girl was accidentally drowned, and an infant was suffocated while in bed with its mother. Other inquests were held on a man who died from internal haemorrhage, and on a man who died from heart failure.

TABLE IV. INFANTILE MORTALITY in 1920.

The cause and age of children who died under one year.

Diseases	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks old	2 to 3 weeks old	3 to 4 weeks old	Total deaths under 4 weeks	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	1				1					1
Congenital Diseases, Mallformations, and Accidents.....	4				4	1				4
Bronchitis						1				1
Pneumonia							1			1
Cellulitis					1					1
Suffocation	1				1					1
TOTAL.....	6				6	1	1			8

Nett Births: Legitimate 301. Illegitimate 26. Total 327.

Nett Deaths: Legitimate 5. Illegitimate 3. Total 8.

The Hospitals to which patients are sent from your district are as follows: The Isolation Hospital, The Melton Mowbray Poor Law Hospital, The Leicester and Nottingham General Hospitals, The Leicester and Rutland Asylum.

THE SANITARY WORK of the year has been carried out on the usual lines. The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. I have personally visited nearly every parish in the area. Wherever nuisances have occurred they have been as far as possible abated. New sewers have been laid in various villages. Several items of Sanitary progress are held up for want of necessary funds.

THE WATER SUPPLY is mostly from wells, many of which are only 10 to 20 feet deep, and derive their water by percolation through the surrounding soil. Nevertheless, there are numerous springs in the district which supply excellent water to other wells. Six waters were taken for analysis during the year and three of them condemned. No wells have been closed or repaired, but a scheme has been prepared to supply Asfordby parish as a whole with water from a reliable source. In the meanwhile, new houses which are about to be erected under the Housing Scheme are to be supplied with water, which is proved potable, from a disused gravel pit. Negotiations are now proceeding with the Housing Commissioner to allocate the cost of this scheme between the Parish Council and the Housing Scheme respectively. Owing to the low rain fall in the latter half of

the year, there was a general shortage of water in those villages which are dependent on shallow wells for their supply.

THE RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Instances of river pollution are rarer than in former times, and no specific instance had to be dealt with. The sewer dykes were practically all cleaned out during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.—All the sewage farms have been kept in good order. The sewage tanks have all been cleaned out. New sewers, of various lengths, have been laid at Grimston, Nether Broughton, and Somerby. A new scheme for the disposal of sewage at Nether Broughton has been prepared, but is at present held up.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—While the old fashioned conservancy privy prevails in most villages the conversion of these into pail closets is steadily progressing. 32 new earth or pail closets have been provided during the year, including five conversions, the rest being extra closets where such were needed, and closets for newly erected houses. The scavenging of Asfordby parish has been carried out with fair efficiency. In other villages the scavenging depends mainly on individual help, as there are no other paid scavengers.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT also includes the following account of his work during the year.

Total number of inspections for all purposes.....	1154
Total complaints received	3
Informal notices sent out	61
Statutory notices sent.....	Nil
Summonses	Nil

Houses and other premises inspected 279, nuisances abated 15.
Pools, ditches, and watercourses inspected 25, nuisances abated 25.
Animals improperly kept, inspected 1, nuisances abated 1.

Privies—New middens provided.....	Nil
Existing middens repaired	5
" " converted to pails	5
" " converted to W.C.'s.....	3
Pail closets provided.....	32
" " converted to W.C.'s	6
Water closets provided.....	23
" " converted from dry receptacles	6
Cesspools, etc., repaired	4
Abolished	Nil

Drains and drain-traps inspected 233, nuisances abated 27.
Offensive accumulations inspected 30, nuisances abated 24. Overcrowded houses inspected 2, nuisance abated 1. Insanitary conditions (not included above) inspected 55, nuisances abated 10.

Offensive trades.—1 knacker's yard inspected, nuisance abated 1.

Slaughter houses in district 17, inspections of premises 21.
Unsound food inspected, one sample, surrendered one parcel.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Houses affected 86, inspected 86.

Total inspections	113
Houses disinfected (number of rooms)	96
Schools disinfected	5
Clothing disinfected parcels	66
Clothing and bedding destroyed	Nil

DAIRY AND MILKSHOPS' ORDERS, 1885-1889.—Regulations have been adopted for the District, but no Veterinary Inspector has been appointed.

Milk sellers in the District 329, registered	329
Milk sellers: inspections of premises	67
Butter & cheesemakers in District 329, registered	329
Butter & cheesemakers: inspections of premises	67
Premises of the above milk, butter and cheese-makers.. ..	329
Inspections of same 67, during milking time ..	11
Contraventions of Regulations	5
(a) Premises requiring cleansing 3, (b) requiring sanitary improvements	3
Requirements (a) and (b) carried out	6

Water Supply.—Practically all from wells. Water analysed 1; result, good 1; condemned nil, legal proceedings taken nil.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS of 1910.

Dwelling houses inspected	279
Number of inspections	325
Defective dwelling houses	33
Defects in same rectified	21
Closing orders	Nil
Houses demolished.....	Nil

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.—Workshops, including bakehouses, 34, nuisances abated 3; bakehouses only 26, nuisances abated 3. Homework: Lists 12, contractors 10, out-workers 28; Number of houses 18, insufficient sanitary accommodation 1, number of houses infected nil. Legal proceedings nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS, statistics of the District.—Estimated population 14,485, general death-rate 9·8 per 1,000. tuberculosis death-rate 0·055 per 1,000, infantile death-rate 0·055 per 1,000. Dwelling houses, approximate, 3,620.

Unfit dwelling houses—

Total number inspected for defects	279
Inspected and recorded under regulations	33
Number found in a state injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	133
Houses seriously defective but can be made habitable.....	113
Defects remedied without formal notice & houses made habitable after informal action ..	21
Action taken under statutory powers—	
Dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served	33
Dwelling houses rendered fit by owners after notice	21

Dwelling houses rendered fit by local authority	Nil
Legal proceedings under Public Health and Town Planning Acts	Nil
Houses built in 1920 by private persons.....	18
Houses in course of erection	14
Houses proposed to be built by R.D.C. under the Housing Scheme	77
Number of houses not complying with the Building Bye-laws permitted to be erected by the Local Authority under Section 25 of Housing and Town Planning Act	2

A tabular statement of the number of defective houses in each parish, also of the houses built in 1920 and of those proposed to be built by the Rural District Council in various parishes is appended.

I am,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM TIBBLES,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 27th, 1921.

119, Derby Road,
Nottingham.

