

[Report 1923] / Medical Officer of Health, Melton Mowbray R.D.C.

Contributors

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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1923,

TO THE

Rural District Council of Melton Mowbray.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I find very little of importance to comment on in my Annual Report for 1923, which I have the honour to present to you; the District was fairly healthy during the year, as shown by the following records:

VITAL STATISTICS.

When the census was taken in 1921 the population numbered 14,619, and it was estimated by the Registrar General that in June 1923, the population of the District was 14,650, showing that the increase of population which might have been hoped for, after the great decline due to the war and post-war conditions, has not been realised. The chief cause for this is undoubtedly the lack of employment in the area; there are few sources of employment in the District outside of agriculture, ironstone digging, and smelting. When the industrial conditions improve, it is very probable there will be an influx of people to follow those occupations, and other branches of industry may be commenced.

THE BIRTH-RATE.—The total number of births in 1923 was 280, of whom 135 were boys and 145 girls—8 boys and 6 girls being illegitimate. Using the Registrar-General's figures for population, the birth-rate was 19·1 per 1000 of population. As, however, 18 children died under 1 year, the nett increase of infants was 262. When compared with 324 births in 1911, 307 in 1914, and 327 in 1920, the birth-rate was low; but it was higher than in the war-years, *e.g.* 222 in 1917, and 241 in 1918, giving 13·9 and 16·5 per 1000 respectively. However, the birth-rate of Melton Mowbray Rural District, 19·1 per 1000, was little lower than that for all England and Wales which was 19·7 per 1000 for the same period.

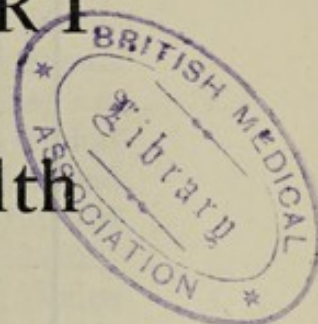


TABLE 1.—Vital Statistics of Melton Mowbray Rural District.

Year	Population.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected or Registered in the District.	NETT. Cor- rected Number	Birth-rate per 1000 of populat'n	Total Registered in the District		Non-residents Registered in District.	Residents not Registered in District.	Deaths under 1 year of age.		Deaths at all ages.	
Number	Rate per 1000				Number	Rate per 1000 Births			Number	Rate per 1000		
1914	15,448	303	307	19.8	148	9.2	4	17	14	46.2	161	10.4
1915	14,773	280	283	19.1	180	12.1	5	16	29	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
1921	14,619	268	—	18.3	146	9.37	6	22	13	48.5	162	11.08
1922	14,550	278	291	20.0	134	9.08	—	30	19	65.3	164	11.27
1923	14,650	273	280	19.1	133	9.07	3	28	18	67.8	158	10.78

THE DEATH-RATE.—The number of persons who died in your District in 1923 was 133, and gave the low death-rate of 9 per 1000 persons living; but of this number 3 persons belonged elsewhere, and 28 persons who died elsewhere, *i.e.* in various institutions, have to be added to the number, so that the actual number of persons belonging your District who died in 1923 was 158, and this figure gave rise to a death-rate of 10·7 per 1000 persons living. It is a low death-rate, and compares favourably with the death-rate for all England and Wales in 1923, which was 11·6 per 1000. During the year 18 children died under 1 year of age, and this gave rise to a death-rate of 67·8 per 1000 children born in the year, as compared with a death-rate 69 per 1000 children born in the whole of England and Wales. These are evidences of the salubrity of your District.

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.—The health of the District was very good in 1923. The outbreaks of infectious disease were infrequent and few. This is shown by Table II. which gives the Notifications of infectious diseases, their occurrence at various ages, and the number of persons who were treated in the Isolation Hospital and Sanatoria.

TABLE II. Infectious Diseases notified in 1923.

Cases of Diseases of various age-periods.	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 years and over	Removed to Hospital
Small Pox									
Cholera, Dysentry									
Diphtheria.....	6	1	1	4					7
Erysipelas	4							4	
Scarlet Fever.....	5		1	3		1			3
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	3					1	2		3
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1			1					2
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	15				6	6	3		*
" of other parts	2				1	1			
Malaria									
Trench Fever									
Acute Poliomyelitis									
Relapsing & Continued Fever									
Puerperal Fever									
Ophthalmia Neonatorum									
Acute Primary Pneumonia	15	2	2	4	1	4	1	1	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia.....	7		1	2	1			2	
TOTAL.....	58	3	5	14	9	13	7	3	15

* The number of tuberculosis cases treated in Sanatorium is referred to elsewhere.

There were five cases of Scarlet Fever—one at Brooksby, one at Little Dalby, and three at Great Dalby, all were of a mild type, and three were treated at the Isolation Hospital.

The Diphtheria cases were six, although another case which was removed to hospital proved "negative" on bacteriological examination. They were from Asfordby, Rotherby, Hoby, Burrough-on-the-Hill, and Gaddesby. A large number of "swabs" was taken from the throats of children attending a Council School, and reference is again made to these cases in the report of the Bacteriologist.

Of the three cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever, two were removed into hospital from Knossington, the other case was from Branstone and proved to be "not enteric fever" after a bacteriological examination.

Two patients reported to be suffering from cerebro-spinal fever or cerebro-spinal meningitis were removed to hospital, and one of them proved to be tetanus, from which he died.

The number of cases of Erysipelas reported during the year was four, and none of these were removed.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified to me during the year was 16, including 14 tuberculosis of respiratory organs and two of other organs.

The cases of Tuberculosis from Melton Mowbray Rural District who received treatment in the Sanitoria of the Leicestershire County Council were as follows:—

Under treatment Jan. 1st, 1923	...	2
Admitted during 1923	...	9
Discharged during 1923	...	8
Remaining in Sanitoria Dec. 31st, 1923	...	3

These Sanatoria are at Coalville, Mowsley, Hinckley and Creaton, and the duration of their residence varied from 4 weeks to 23 weeks. In these institutions they are given treatment suitable to the case, and taught the hygiene proper to the disease, and an arrangement has now been made for the disinfection of their homes.

SMALL-POX AND CHICKEN-POX. No case of Small-Pox was notified to me as occurring in your District in 1923. Several persons who had been associated with small pox elsewhere or were "contacts" of small-pox in other Districts came within our area. And although no case of small pox occurred in consequence, it was deemed advisable

to issue a warning notice to the people. Accordingly a poster was fixed in a prominent position in each village warning the inhabitants of the existence of small-pox in surrounding districts, pointing out the protection against that disease afforded by vaccination, and giving the names of the Public Vaccinators who would vaccinate and re-vaccinate people free of charge. In regard to this matter it may be pointed out that there is now-a-days a great disregard of the advantages to be derived from vaccination. In the Melton Vaccination District only 111 children were vaccinated during the year, and in 235 cases the parents claimed exemption under the Conscientious Objections Clause; in the Waltham District 84 children were vaccinated, and the parents claimed exemption for 77 children. This is not as it should be; it is obvious that for each child vaccinated two children are left unprotected by it. The Government has appointed Vaccination Officers to see the Vaccination Acts carried out; and the same officers have to deal with a much larger number of objections than of vaccinations. The scientific evidence in favour of the protective value of vaccination is great, and the objections to the simple operation needed is largely due to sentiment and even ignorance on the part of parents. Small pox has existed in England for some years, and were it not for the extreme vigilance on the part of the sanitary officials there would doubtless soon be a very serious epidemic.

A few cases of CHICKEN-POX occurred in several villages at various times in the year.

MEASLES was prevalent during the year in many parishes, and in connection with the outbreaks of the disease schools were closed for various periods at Abb-Kettleby, Saltby, Barsby, Great Dalby, Stathern, Edmondthorpe and Branstone.

WHOOPIING COUGH was also prevalent at Abb-Kettleby, Gaddesby, Branstone, Saltby, Wymondham, Stathern, Eaton, Buckminster, Edmondthorpe and Knossington. Schools were closed on account of this disease also, and sometimes the closure ran concurrently with that for measles.

INFLUENZA was prevalent in the early months of the year, but it had not the severity of some epidemics in recent years; it was a comparatively mild epidemic, with very few cases of pneumonia, and very few deaths. According to statisticians another epidemic was due in November, during which month the weather was unusually cold; but the outbreak of influenza begun then was abortive, although it was followed by a much more serious epidemic in the early months of 1924.

PATHOLOGICAL REPORTS.—The total number of specimens examined in the County Pathological Laboratory in 1923 was 2,774. The following is the list of specimens sent there for examination from your District.

Throat Swabs for suspected Diphtheria	...	52
Sputa for suspected Tuberculosis	42
Urine Analysis	3
Widal's blood test for Enteric Fever	2
Drinking water examined for B. Typhosus	1
Waters and Sewages Analysed	26
		—
TOTAL	126

Of the large number of SWABS examined for suspected diphtheria, 40 were taken from children attending Gaddesby Council School in October—2 were positive and 38 negative: the rest were sent by medical men from various parts of the district. The increasing use of bacterial tests for patients suspected to be tuberculous shows the reliance now placed on this test for the diagnosis of doubtful cases. The blood taken from two persons for confirmation of the diagnosis of typhoid or enteric fever was of value, as also was the examination of drinking water at Knossington for the presence of the *Bacillus typhosus*.

The analyses of water were made partly in connection with the reported cases of typhoid fever, and are referred to in the Sanitary Report. In addition to these, water was taken from the River Wreake and its tributaries at eleven points for the determination of pollution by sewage in connection with the Hydrological Survey of the Trent Water-shed.

TABLE III. The Causes of Death in 1923.

Age - Periods	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and upwards
1 Enteric Fever									
2 Small Pox									
3 Measles									
4 Scarlet Fever									
5 Whooping Cough	2	1	1						
6 Diphtheria, Croup									
7 Influenza	4						2	1	1
8 Encephalitis lethargica									
9 Meningococcal Meningitis									
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	9					2	5	2	
11 Tuberculosis of other parts	2			1			1		
12 Cancer, Malignant Disease	19						2	7	10
13 Rheumatic Fever	1						1		
14 Diabetes	4						2	1	1
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage	12						1	1	10
16 Heart Disease	23						1	4	18
17 Arteriosclerosis	11							1	10
18 Bronchitis.....	10	2	1					2	5
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	10	3		1	1		3		2
20 Other Respiratory disease.....	3							1	2
21 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1							1	
22 Diarrhœa, &c.....	1	1							
23 Apendicitis									
24 Cirrhosis of Liver									
25 Nephritis, Acute and Chronic	2			1					1
26 Puerperal Sepsis.....									
27 Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and parturition									
28 Congenital Debility, Malformations and Premature Birth. ...	10	10							
29 Suicide	1						1		
30 Violence, other deaths due to	5			1	2	1	1		
31 Other defined Diseases	28	1	1		2	1	2	4	16
TOTAL DEATHS.....	158	18	4	4	5	4	22	25	76

THE CAUSES OF DEATH.—There was no death in your District from enteric fever, small-pox, chicken-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, encephalitis lethargica, cerebro-spinal meningitis, puerperal fever, or appendicitis. This wipes out a very large class of diseases.

Influenza caused 4 deaths—2 males and 3 females; but there were 10 deaths from pneumonia, several of whom had influenza.

The deaths from Bronchitis also were 10, several of whom had had influenza.

CANCER caused the death of 19 persons—11 males and 8 females; the organs affected being the oesophagus 2, stomach 3, abdomen 1, bowels 4, liver 1, bladder 1, hand 1, breast 2, female generative organs 4.

Ulcer of the stomach caused 1 death.

ARTERIO-SCLEROSIS caused 11 deaths; and cerebral hæmorrhage, and the subsequent paralysis, frequently associated with arteriosclerosis caused 12 more deaths.

The deaths due to violence were 1 suicide by drowning; 2 due to tetanus following injury to leg; 2 due to accidental drowning; 1 sudden death by being thrown from a bicycle; and another by accidentally swallowing a piece of meat which lodged in the larynx.

TABLE IV. Infantile Mortality.

Causes of Infants Deaths and their age.	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
All Causes: Certified	8	2	1		11	3	2		2	18
„ Uncertified										
Tubercular Meningitis.....										
Convulsions							1			1
Bronchitis		1			1	1				2
Pneumonia (all forms).....						2			2	4
Whooping Cough.....							1			1
Injury at Birth	1				1					1
Premature Birth	3	1	1		5					5
Inanition.....	2				2					2
Diarrhœa										
Other Causes.....	2				2					2
TOTAL	8	2	1		11	3	2		2	18

Total Births in 1923	...	135 boys.	145 girls
Legitimate births	...	127 „	139 „
Illegitimate	...	8 „	6 „
Deaths under 1 year :			
Legitimate	10	„	8 „
Illegitimate	nil		nil

Birth-rate per 1000 of population ... 19'1
 Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...67'1 per 1000 children born
 Deaths of Infants in all England
 and Wales ...69'0 per 1000 children born

Other deaths due to defined causes were 128, and include a variety of diseases, e.g., 2 deaths from tetanus following injury to the leg, 2 from gangrene of leg or foot, 2 from goitre—one being exophthalmic, 1 from meuxoedema, 1 from hydrocephalus, one from Addison's disease, 1 from cellulites of scalp, 2 from intestinal obstruction, 1 from meningitis following operation for a mastoid abscess, etc.

The infantile deaths were 18, and the causes were— whooping cough 1, convulsions 1, bronchitis 2, pneumonia (all forms) 4, injury at birth 1, premature birth 5, inanition or failure to support a separate existence 2, hydrocephalus 1, defective heart 1, jaundice 1. These are set out according to age in the accompanying table. The infants who died were all of legitimate birth and were 10 boys and 8 girls.

The uncertified deaths registered, all ages, were 5, viz. :— 3 from heart failure, 1 cancer of stomach, and 1 senile-decay.

The Coroner issued certificates of death after holding an inquest in the following cases :—M 66, heart disease ; M 31, suicide by drowning ; M 39, accidental death through being thrown from a bicycle ; F 69, internal hæmorrhage from rupture of ulcer of stomach ; M 16, accidental drowning ; M 14, accidental drowning ; F 11 months, pneumonia ; M 36, fracture of thigh followed by bronchitis ; M 12, tetanus following injury of leg ; F 2, death following the accidental swallowing a piece of meat which lodged in windpipe

THE SANITARY CONDITION IN 1923.—Mr. E. C. Moorhouse, the Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :—

COMPLAINTS.—The total number of Complaints received in 1923 was 23 ; the total number of inspections made for all purposes was 815. The notices served on owners or occupants were 66, all were informal, there were no summones and therefore no convictions.

INSANITARY HOUSES.—5 houses were found in a very insanitary condition and 4 were cleansed. Two observations of a smoke nuisance were made, and the nuisance abated. There were 2 cases of overcrowding of such marked character that the Sanitary Officials had to interfere, and in both cases the nuisance was abated. There is no great overcrowding in Melton Rural District, owing to the reduction of population, but here and there it is found that lodgers are taken in the ironstone district, and it is usually in connection with this work that overcrowding occurs. The nuisances arising from offensive accumulations were 24; abated 24.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Total in the District:—

1. Privies 1049.
2. Pail Closets 1431.
3. Water Closets 680.

Privy Middens: New provided, nil; repaired 6.

Converted: (a) to pails, 2; (b) to water closets, nil.

Pail or Earth Closets: New provided, 7

Converted to water closets, 7.

Water Closets: New provided, 7.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Drains, etc., inspected 271; nuisances abated, 51.

Cesspools.—Cleaned and repaired, 2; abolished, nil.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.—New ashpits provided, 4; ashbins, 9. Scavenging has been carried out at Asfordby for many years, but not always in an entirely satisfactory manner. In other villages ashes are taken to arable land or allotments and dug in. In a large number of villages bunkers are provided for the reception of old tins and similar things, and these are periodically removed and buried. No refuse destructor is available.

WATER SUPPLY.—10 samples of drinking water were analysed and 5 condemned. One well was closed in consequence, 3 other wells were cleaned and repaired; and the public water supply was substituted for the other well.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Houses inspected, 18; number of inspections, 28. Houses disinfected, 17 (29 rooms); schools disinfected, 14 (25 rooms). Premises are sprayed with formaldehyde and fumigated with formalin tablets. Clothing and bedding are disinfected by super-heated steam at the Isolation Hospital.

REGISTERED LODGING-HOUSES, Canal Boats, etc.—nil.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There is one knacker's yard.

DISEASED FOOD.—There was one inspection and seizure of diseased food which was surrendered on demand; parts condemned for tuberculosis, 1. There was no summons and no conviction.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There is no public abattoir, but there are 21 Slaughter Houses in the district, and inspections are arranged to take place, as far as possible, during slaughtering operations. There were 30 inspections of slaughter houses in the year, and the general conditions of such premises was found to be good. The total number of inspections of places where food is prepared or kept was 53, and no contraventions of the regulations was found.

MILK SUPPLY.—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Orders, 1885, 1889, etc., and Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922. Regulations for the supply of milk have been adopted, and a veterinary inspector was appointed in October, 1923.

(a)	Retail milk sellers on register	...	253
	Premises of same inspected—		
	Number of inspections	...	42
	Contraventions of regulations found		3
	Premises found requiring cleansing	...	8
	Structural or sanitary improvements required		11
(b)	Wholesale dealers and producers of milk		
	on register	...	476
	Inspection of their premises	total	107
	During milking time	...	16
	Contraventions of regulations found		13
	Cleansing required in premises	...	7
	Structural or sanitary improvements needed		6
(c)	Total number of milch cows in district		7867
(d)	Legal proceedings in connection with milk supply	...	nil

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901—

	Workshops on register, including bakehouses)		39
	Nuisances therein abated	...	4
	Bakehouses on register	...	23
	Nuisances therein abated	...	4
	Homework—Outworkers	...	nil
	Legal proceedings	...	nil

ADOPTIVE ACTS.—The Bye-laws and Regulations of your district, based on the Local Government model, were adopted in December, 1901. They are now undergoing revision in several particulars.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.—The Council or their Inspector has not been appointed to act as officer, and no visits have been made under the Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894-1909—Neither the Council nor its Inspector have been appointed to act as officer under this Act.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS.—During the year investigations were made into the sewerage systems and methods of sewage disposal at Twyford, Long Clawson, Welby Lane (Sysonby), and schemes are being prepared for improvements in each of these parishes.

HOUSING.—Number of new houses erected during the year, 3. With State assistance under Housing Acts, 1919 to 1923, nil.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.—

I.	Infection.	(1) Number of dwelling houses inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts	126
		(2) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	118
		(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation	nil
		(4) Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	8
II.	Defects remedied without service of formal notice 38		
III.	Action taken under Statutory powers—		
	(a)	Proceedings under section 28 of Housing, Town Planning Act, 1919	nil
	(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	nil
	(c)	Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909	nil

No closing orders were made and no houses demolished.

In elaboration of various points in his portion of this Report, Mr. E. C. Moorhouse makes the following observations—

WATER SUPPLY. 1. Arrangements have been made with the Duke of Rutland whereby the village of Eastwell will receive an improved water supply. This includes the erection of an extra stand-pipe, which has already been fixed, and it is intended to connect the water pipes of the village with the water storage tanks at Eastwell Hall, thus ensuring an adequate supply of water to all the village.

2. **Deficiency of Water at Asfordby.** The east end of Asfordby Village and Asfordby Valley are still very deficient in the supply of drinking water, and it is advisable that steps be taken at an early date to provide an adequate supply, as this deficiency is undoubtedly a menace to the health of the inhabitants. (See reports of M. O. H. on several occasions during past years, and especially the water survey which he made in 1910 and 1911).

In other parts of the district the existing wells were sufficient to supply the needs of the inhabitants throughout the year.

WATER COURSES.—Most of the sewer-dykes in the district were cleaned out during the year, and taking them generally, they are now in a satisfactory condition. In the early part of last summer a considerable pollution of the streams in various parts of the district occurred, owing to the discharge into them of the waste from the cheese factories. Steps were taken by the Council to abate this nuisance, and their efforts were aided by several heavy rainfalls which cleared away the accumulated materials.

DRAINS AND SEWERS.—The various sewage farms have been kept in a satisfactory condition, and the sewage tanks regularly cleaned out. Several of these tanks are not very satisfactory, being merely sedimentary depositing places formed in the open ground without any proper construction; these ought to be re-arranged and constructed in brick or concrete.

The lease of the land for Somerby Sewage Outfall Works terminated, but an extension of the lease has been arranged and the works are being put into proper order.

New sanitary pipe-sewers have been laid during the year, to replace old and defective tile pipes, or extend the existing sewer, viz. :—180 yards of 9 inch pipes at Harby; 190 yards of 6 inch pipes at Saxby; and short lengths of 6 inch pipes at Burton Lazars and Asfordby.

Arrangements are being made for laying a new sewer and constructing outfall works for a portion of Nether Broughton village. Schemes are also being prepared for new sewers and methods of sewage disposal at Long Clawson, Twyford, and Welby Lane (Sysonby). In the case of Welby Lane it is proposed to connect the new sewer with the adjacent sewage system of the Melton Urban Council. If an arrangement to do this can be arrived at, the work can be carried out in 1924.

Fresh arrangements are proposed by Asfordby Parish Council for the scavenging which is necessary for this village.

HOUSING.—Although only three new houses were completed during the past year, plans were approved for the erection of 14 others, and most of these have been commenced. Your Council have agreed to make a grant of £6 per annum or a lump sum of £80 for each house which is built in accordance with regulations, and several applications for this grant have been received.

MILK SUPPLY.—During the year notices were published about the necessity for cowkeepers, etc., to be registered; and the register was brought up to date, showing at the end of the year 253 Retail Purveyors of milk and dairy produce, 476 wholesale producers and traders, owning approximately 7,867 cows. During the year a step further in sanitary work has been taken by the appointment of a Veterinary Inspector, to inspect all miich-cows in the district and to co-operate with the Sanitary Inspector in the inspection of the cowhouses and other premises connected with this industry. It is most important that this work should be done systematically to endeavour to prevent tuberculosis among the cows and the spread of that disease to human beings by means of the milk. During 1923 only 7 new cowsheds were erected during the year; but it is hoped that constant supervision of these premises will be the means of raising the standard under which the cattle are kept throughout this district.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM TIBBLES,

Medical Officer of Health.

April 15th, 1924,
119, Derby Road,
Parkside,
Nottingham.

