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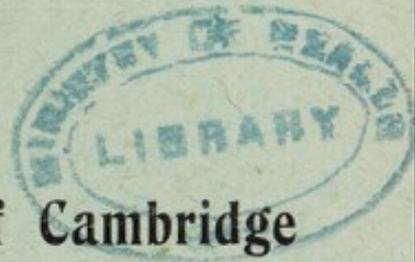


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Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge



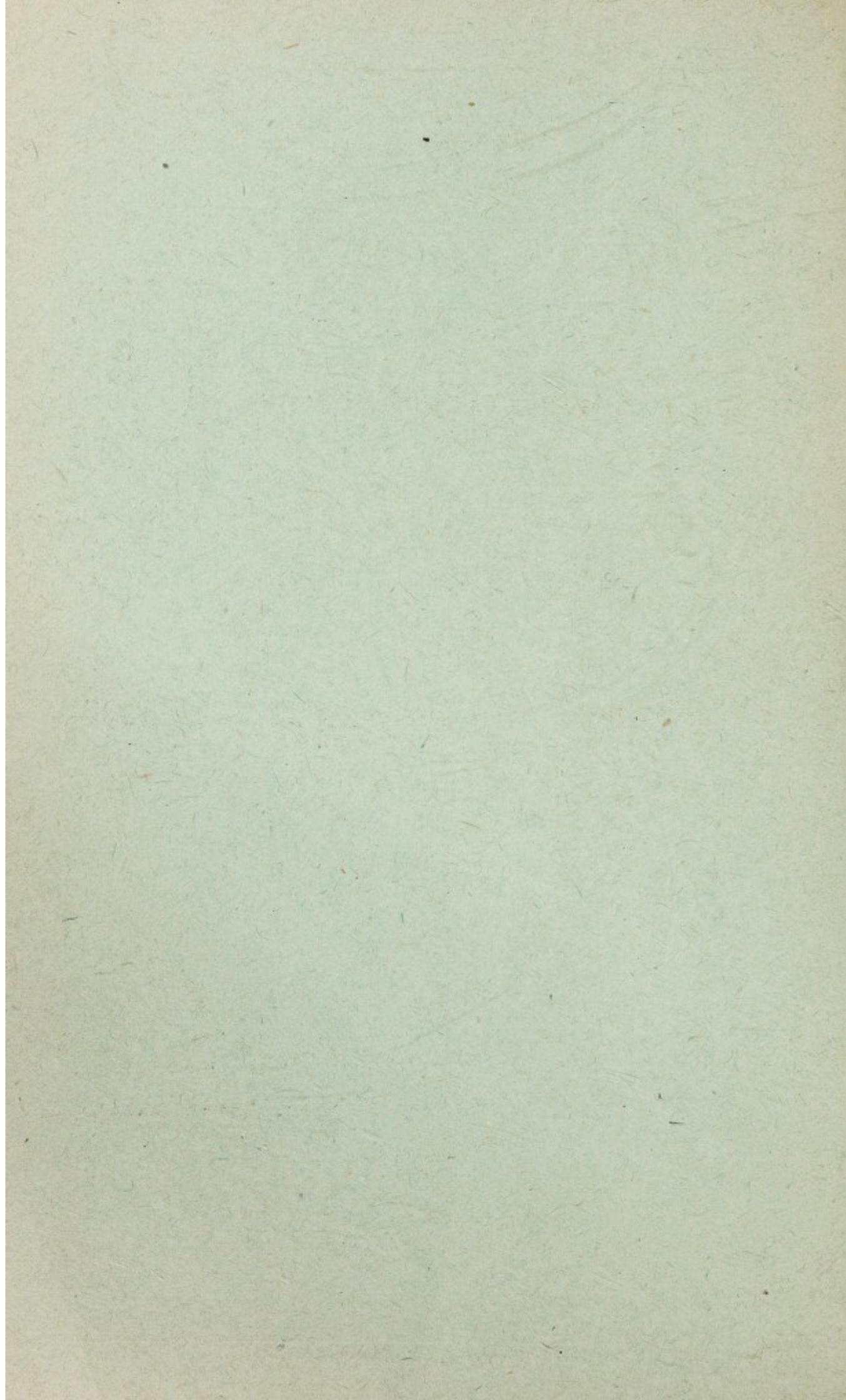
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1947.



**To the Chairman and Members
of the
Newmarket Rural District Council.**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1947, on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the Newmarket Rural District.

The Report is prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in Circular 170/47 issued by the Ministry of Health.

ARTHUR MORGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £61,113.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £247 1s. 4d.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 6,141.

Estimated population: 19,970.

The whole district is agricultural in nature.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS :

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	362	174	188
Illegitimate	....	14	7	7
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	376	181	195
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population 18.8

Birth Rate per thousand population
(England and Wales) 20.5

STILL BIRTHS :

		Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	....	2	—	2
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Totals	2	—	2
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per thousand total (live and still births) 5.2

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS :	266	142	124

Death Rate per thousand estimated population 13.3

Death Rate per thousand population
(England and Wales) 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

- (a) Puerperal sepsis Nil
- (b) Other Puerperal causes Nil

Rate per thousand live and still births Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	9	3	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	9	3	6

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

- (a) All infants per thousand live births 23.9
- (b) Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births 23.9
- (c) Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births Nil

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	41	27	39	34	47
Deaths from measles (all ages)	—	—	1	—	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	—	1	2	1	1
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	5	4	5	11	8
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	3	—	3	1

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1947.

	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Birth Rate	15.2	13.8	12.3	13.3	13.7	14.5	14.6	18.5	17.1	16.1	18.3
Death Rate	11.9	11.5	12.7	13.7	12.8	11.1	12.0	12.5	13.2	11.0	13.3

NOTE: The death rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	3	6	9
1 and under 2	—	1	1
2 " " 5	1	1	2
5 " " 15	1	—	1
15 " " 25	—	2	2
25 " " 35	3	1	4
35 " " 45	5	—	5
45 " " 55	8	9	17
55 " " 65	23	18	41
65 " " 75	32	17	49
75 and over	66	69	135
Totals	142	124	266

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There is no particular alteration to record in any of these services.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY :—

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for the other Rural Areas in the County of Cambridgeshire.
- (b) Since the 1st May, 1947, Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., has held the combined appointment of Chief Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Housing Officer. There are also two additional Sanitary Inspectors, the offices during 1947 being held by Mr. G. Blenkinsop and Mr. F. H. Mason. Mr. Blenkinsop left the service of the Council on the 30th November, 1947, having secured a similar appointment with the Spennymoor Urban District Council.

Mr. W. H. Couperthwaite and Mr. F. H. Mason are qualified Inspectors of meat and other foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :—

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, make all bacteriological examinations that are required in cases of infectious diseases, etc.

HOSPITALS :

There are no General Hospitals situated within the area. Cases of infectious diseases are treated at the Council's Isolation Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY :—

With regard to the Regional Water Scheme referred to in my last year's Report, the only progress to record is that a Public Inquiry was held by one of the Ministry of Health's Inspectors on the 16th of April, into the Council's proposal for sinking a trial well at Chippenham and for extending the mains to the parishes of Wicken, Snailwell and Chippenham. A tender for the sinking of a trial well at Chippenham was accepted in November, but no actual work in connection with the scheme as a whole had been proceeded with up to the end of the year.

11,250 yards of 3" and 4" mains were laid in the parishes of Dullingham, Bottisham, Swaffham Bulbeck and Westley Waterless. At Brinkley the existing 3" main was extended for 333 yards in order to supply certain outlying properties.

A constant supply is maintained from the Council's five waterworks, but difficulties have again been experienced at the Soham and Saxon Street Waterworks, in obtaining sufficient water to meet ordinary demands.

The Soham Waterworks is connected by a main with the Swaffham Prior Waterworks and any deficiency has been made up from the latter source. At Saxon Street special pumping arrangements have been necessary.

Samples of the water from each of the waterworks were taken monthly and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. 132 samples were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory.

Automatically controlled chlorination plants are installed at the three largest waterworks (Swaffham Prior, Soham and Saxon Street) and tests for residual chlorine are carried out as a routine.

The following particulars relate to the various parishes supplied from the public water mains and indicate the number of houses and estimated population supplied by connections to the houses or by stand-pipes.

PARISH	SUPPLY DIRECT TO HOUSES		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPES	
	No. of houses	Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Estimated Population
Ashley	22	66	117	351
Bottisham	135	436	49	163
Brinkley	29	111	11	45
Burrough Green	30	90	35	105
Burwell	442	1398	149	478
Cheveley	329	790	76	182
Dullingham	68	227	60	227
Fordham	343	1258	101	373
Isleham	237	820	165	580
Kirtling	28	101	47	169
Lode	64	192	110	331
Soham	1306	4671	40	150
Stetchworth	34	119	96	335
Swaffham Bulbeck	101	323	60	192
Swaffham Prior	126	376	106	320
Westley	8	28	10	36
Woodditton	182	599	67	220
TOTALS	3484	11605	1299	4257

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:—

It is hoped that the District Council will, before very long, be able to proceed with that part of the Regional Sewerage Scheme that deals with the parish of Soham. The state of affairs in this parish has been referred to so often during the last quarter of a century that it is unnecessary to recapitulate.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:—

There is no alteration to record in the arrangements outlined in my Report for last year.

The refuse collection service has continued to function efficiently under the direction of the Salvage Officer (Mr. A. J. Petrie).

Disposal was effected by controlled tipping at the Burwell tip and no nuisance was caused.

The income from the sale of salvageable materials during the year amounted to £795 15s. 4d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the number of inspections made during the year:—

Slaughter-houses and butchers' shops	92
Bakehouses	92
Fried fish shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	142
Shops	168
Knacker's yard	9
Factories	118
Cowsheds and Dairies	343
Refuse Tips	20
Infectious Disease	10
Rooms disinfected	16
Disinfestations (rooms)	29
Public Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	262
Dwelling-houses	774
Re-inspections of dwelling-houses	243
Nuisances	104
Building Bye-laws—New Drains tested	67
—other Inspections	312
Miscellaneous	2,187

Samples taken :

Water—149.
Ice Cream—11

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

168 inspections of shops were made for the purposes of Section 10 of the Act. Where necessary, informal action has been taken to ensure that all premises comply with the Act.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Two dwelling-houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year, and eleven rooms and a quantity of furniture in store were disinfested by the use of D.D.T. powder, or a liquid insecticide.

CAMPING SITES, ETC.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

SCHOOLS.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

HOUSING.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Owing to staffing difficulties it was again found impossible to complete the Housing Survey during the year.

505 dwelling-houses were inspected and the necessary details recorded.

The following is a summary of the number of dwelling-houses found to be in the various categories:—

CATEGORIES.

1	2	3	4	5	Total
14	218	230	—	43	505

The total figures since the commencement of the survey being as follows:—

463	1062	1094	—	187	2806
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HOUSING—GENERAL.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	774
Number of re-inspections made	243
Number of Informal Notices served	37
Number of Formal Notices served Section 93, (Public Health Act, 1936)	1
Number of Building Licences issued for Repair, Maintenance, or Improvement of Dwelling-houses	347
Number of new Permanent Houses completed during the year:	
By the Local Authority	38
By Private Enterprise	26
(N.B.—No temporary houses have been erected by the local authority).	
Number of dwelling-houses repaired as a result of action taken:	
Informal action	13
Formal action	1

Owing to the shortage of building labour and materials it was not practicable to press the owners of working class dwelling-houses to carry out extensive repairs or reconditioning, but any such proposals submitted received consideration, and where the work was regarded as essential, a building licence was issued. The undermentioned summary includes schemes of improvement undertaken by owners of dwelling-houses on their own initiative.

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Dwelling-house roofs repaired	84
Eaves guttering and rainwater piping repaired or renewed	41
Chimney stacks repaired	23
Dwelling-house walls repaired (external)	28
Dwelling-house walls repaired (internal)	10
Dwelling-house ceilings repaired	11
New ceilings constructed	38
Dwelling-house doors repaired	28
Dwelling-house floors repaired	16
New floors constructed	7
New windows fixed	12
Dwelling-house windows repaired	48
Existing sanitary conveniences repaired	3
New closet buildings constructed	1
Closet conversions	2
Washing coppers provided	1
Washing coppers repaired	1
Outbuildings repaired	2
Lavatory basins provided	13
Register stoves provided	12
Register stoves repaired	1
New sinks provided	9
New lavatory pans provided	16
New baths provided	7

Every effort has been made to secure compliance with the requirements of The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947. 11 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination. The samples were examined by the Methylene Blue Test, 1 sample being reported as grade 1, 2 as grade 2, and the remaining samples as grade 4.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 24 bakehouses in the district, and 92 inspections were made during the year.

A high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The requirements of this Act are strictly enforced, and 34 licences were granted during the year.

FACTORIES.

The following is a summarised report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, in the district.

Number of Factories on the register:

Factories with mechanical power	56
Factories without mechanical power	12
	—
	68
	—

INSPECTIONS, ETC.

118 inspections were made, and 19 written notices served which were remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories or Legal proceedings.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There is little to comment upon under this heading, Measles and Whooping Cough (made notifiable in 1939) having accounted for most of the notifications. The total number of notifications of the principal infectious diseases during the last ten years (Civilian cases only) is shewn, for purposes of comparison, in the following table.

Year:	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Scarlet fever	46	23	52	18	22	39	58	20	12	6
Diphtheria	2	2	2	5	2	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	—	—	106	627	2	249	23	134	36	143
Whooping Cough	—	10	127	29	47	9	2	82	32	46
Pneumonia	7	4	3	12	19	15	2	6	1	5

It will be noted that there has been no particular incidence of any of the major infectious diseases during these years. The last of any importance was an outbreak of diphtheria in 1931, mainly confined to the parish of Soham. In so far as diphtheria immunisation is concerned the arrangements outlined in my report for the year 1942 have continued to function satisfactorily. During 1947 215 children were immunised and it is estimated that approximately 85% of children under 5 and 83% of those between the the ages of 5 and 14 have been fully protected. The child population in these age groups (mid 1947) is about 1,536 and 2,762 respectively.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under age groups.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	AT AGES--YEARS.												Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.		
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-				
Scarlet Fever ...	6			1			2	3								4	
Measles ...	143	3	8	12	9	10	83	17	1								
Whooping Cough ...	46	4	4	6	2	7	22	1									
Pneumonia ...	5						1			1		1			2		8
Totals ...	200	7	12	19	11	17	108	21	1	1	1	1			2	4	8

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	1				1			
1 ...								
5 ...			1	3				
15 ...		2	1	1		2		
25 ...	4	1		1	1			
35 ...	3				1		1	
45 ...	2	1			2	1	1	
65 & upwards	1				1			
Totals ...	11	4	2	5	6	3	2	

There were three deaths of persons not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis. No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

