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Annual Report  
— OF THE —  
Medical Officer of Health,  
A. F. ELLIOTT, B.A., M.B., Cambs.

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OUNDLÉ,

1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,  
THE OUNDLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

I present to you my Annual Report for the year 1925,  
as Medical Officer of Health to the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

*Scarlet Fever.*—Twenty-five cases were notified during the year.

Four from Hemington.

Twelve from Yarwell.

Six from Polebrook.

And one each from Ashton, Warmington and Fotheringhay.

The Yarwell epidemic continued for about six months.—There were a number of unnotified very mild cases—on one visit to the School in the summer I found three children, who shewed symptoms suggestive of their having had mild attacks. Three cases which occurred in Polebrook village, can, I think, be traced to members of a family from Yarwell, which probably had unrecognised Scarlet Fever in it.

The Fotheringhay case was imported from London and the Warmington case occurred independently.

*Diphtheria.*—Two cases were notified from the Northants. Portion and one from the Hunts. Portion of the district—None of the three was confirmed pathologically.

*Measles.*—There was a prolonged outbreak of Measles in Kingscliffe, Apethorpe and Woodnewton during the early months of the year. In December most of the children and a few adults in Wadenhoe suffered from this disease. I am quite sure closure of the schools has no effect in limiting the disease; the most infectious period being the four days before the occurrence of the rash. If I could be notified of the first case occurring in a school—It would be worth trying, to close the school for a week from the ninth to the fourteenth day—during which period the children infected from the first case would develop the Disease—and the remaining healthy children could then return to school; but even so the disease would probably spread outside the school.



*Chicken Pox.*—(This disease was made notifiable by the Council in April for a period of twelve months owing to the prevalence of Small Pox in a neighbouring area)—Nineteen cases were notified chiefly from Deene and Bulwick, all were of a very mild type.

*Epidemic Jaundice.*—During the Autumn about a dozen cases of Jaundice were reported from Kingscliffe—and four cases occurred in Elton—Those I saw were in young children, and, though quite definite, were of a mild type—in a number of cases the patient developed Whooping Cough on recovering from the Jaundice.

*Mumps.*—Was prevalent in Elton in the latter part of December—all the cases being among young persons over 12 years and under twenty-five. As far as I know no children under 12 years of age were infected.

*Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*—One case was reported and treated in Northampton Hospital—The child now has a fair vision with one eye ; but is practically blind of the other eye.

Following notification of Infectious Disease I have paid seventy-five visits to the homes of patients, contacts and to the various Schools concerned.

The disinfection of the homes and removal of bedding has been efficiently carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Broadbelt.

*School Closures.*—During the year Schools were closed by your Council on my recommendation as follows :—

January	Wadenhoe	10	days for	Colds & General	Sickness
February	"	"	"	"	"
"	Hemington	14	days for	"	Scarlet Fever.
"	Kingscliffe	30	"	"	Measles.
"	Woodnewton	21	"	"	"
"	Apethorpe	21	"	"	"
March	Barnwell	21	"	"	"
April	Yarwell	14	"	"	Scarlet Fever

Also the Schools at Winwick, Elton and Great Gidding were closed by the Hunts. County Medical Officer for General Sickness in February.

*Isolation Hospital.*—This Hospital has been occupied practically continuously throughout the year. Twenty-three cases of Scarlet Fever and three of Diphtheria having been admitted to and treated in the Hospital, and have required 130 visits from the Medical Superintendent. All the cases made good recoveries.



The new block and administration block have been painted. The old building used as Scarlet Fever wards requires painting, especially the roof.

Mr. and Mrs. Easy have carried out their duties with efficiency and care. Their work has been continuous and trying ; and often with three or four young children to look after, it has been difficult for them to arrange for the collection of fresh cases.

*Housing.*—During the year the Six Bungalows built by your Council at Warmington have been occupied and are proving satisfactory.

In connection with Housing I have paid, during the year, twenty-one visits by request of the tenants or on notification by the Sanitary Inspector. I reported Six Houses as unfit for habitation, and closing orders were made in respect of four by the Council.

Two cases of Nuisance by overcrowding were abated.

Five persons in Nassington applied to the Council for houses, and steps are being taken by the Council to erect four houses in the village.

There are only three condemned houses now occupied in the District. (Two at Nassington which will be closed when the new houses are built and one at Polebrook). But in several villages there are old thatched cottages which will soon become uninhabitable ; as they are generally incapable of being repaired. Nor is it desirable to perpetuate this type of house when it can be replaced by a more modern and sanitary type.

#### I.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	...	...	67,000
Population (estimated to June, 1925)					
Northants. Portion	...	...	...	...	6,536
Hunts. Portion	...	...	...	...	1,001
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	2,153
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers	...	...	...	...	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£65,961
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£146

The District is purely Agricultural, there are no Factories in it.

## 2. VITAL STATISTICS.

## NORTHANTS.

Births { Legitimate ... .. 96 } Birth Rate 15'1.  
 { Illegitimate ... .. 3 }

The Birth Rate continues to decrease steadily every year.

Deaths ... .. 80. Death Rate ... .. 12'2.

The Death Rate remains at about the same figure (12) during the past five years.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth *nil*

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

Legitimate ... 42'6. Illegitimate ... 0.... Total ... 4.

Deaths from Measles (All ages) ... .. 2  
 Whooping Cough ... .. 2  
 Diarrhoea (under two years) ... .. *nil*  
 Cancer ... .. 16

## HUNTS.

Births { Legitimate ... .. 19 } Birth Rate 19'9.  
 { Illegitimate ... .. 1 }

Deaths ... 13. Death Rate ... 12'9.

Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth *nil*

Deaths of Infants under one year per 1,000 births ... .. *nil*

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... .. *nil*  
 Whooping Cough ... .. *nil*  
 Diarrhoea (under two years) ... .. *nil*  
 Cancer ... .. 4

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1925.  
 (Combined Area).

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox ... ..	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>
Diphtheria ... ..	3	3	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	25	23	—
Enteric Fever ... ..	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia... ..	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ... ..	19	—	—



## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
0 ... ..	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>	<i>nil</i>
1 ... ..	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..	—	—	—	—
10 ... ..	1	—	—	—
15 ... ..	2	1	1	—
20 ... ..	2	—	<i>nil</i>	—
25 ... ..	2	—	—	—
35 ... ..	1	—	—	—
45 ... ..	2	—	—	—
55 ... ..	<i>nil</i>	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—
Totals.	12	1	1	0

*Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations 1925.*—No action has been necessary with regard to persons suffering from Tuberculosis engaged in an occupation involving handling of milk.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM CASES.

Notified.	Treated.	Vision Un-impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Deaths.
1	At home and Northamp'n General Hospital.		1	<i>nil</i>

*Poor Law Relief.*—There are practically no able-bodied men in receipt of Poor Law Relief. About 50 persons (0·6 of the population) are in receipt of Outdoor Relief per year, and are composed of old infirm people, widows and children.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN AREA.

*Hospitals provided by Local Authority:*—

Oundle Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases including Small Pox—situated in Oundle Urban District—containing two blocks, of two wards each, twenty-four beds, administrative block and offices.



*Ambulance Facilities :—*

(a)—Non-Infectious and Accident Cases—*nil*.

(b)—Infectious Disease—Horse Ambulance.

*Clinics and Treatment Centres.*—None in the District.

*Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.*—Sanitary Inspector  
—Part-time.

*Professional Nursing in the Home :—*

(a)—General District Nurses for most Villages.

(b)—Infectious Disease—*nil*.

Not provided by Local Authority.

*Midwives.*—Not provided by Local Authority—Number 9.

*Laboratory Work*—Carried out by Clinical Research Association

*Legislation in Force*—There are no Special Local Acts or Orders relating to public health in force in the Area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

*Water.*—Most of the Villages and Houses are supplied with Water from Shallow Wells, the supply being of good quality and sufficient in quantity.

The villages of Hemington, Great Gidding, Winwick and Thurning lying on high ground on Oxford Clay are dependent for their water on surface supply ponds, which is necessarily insufficient in quantity in dry weather, and not of good quality.

Lilford, Pilton, Ashton Estate and Elton villages are supplied by Reservoirs from the river Nene by private owners.

Benefield and Apethorpe are supplied from Springs by a privately owned Reservoir ; and Kingscliffe has a Water supply from the same source provided by the Rural Council.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—Most of the villages are either without drainage or only partially sewered with old stone drains and agricultural pipes.

Deene village has been well sewered with modern material.

As are also Apethorpe and Ashton villages.

Benefield, Lutton, Cotterstock, Woodnewton and Blatherwick also have sewers.

Stoke Doyle, Wadenhoe and Pilton have old stone drains and agricultural pipings.

Elton is partially drained by a stone drain.

Warmington—part by drain and part by open dike, part undrained.

Kingscliffe is part sewered.

Nassington has a pipe sewer.

Yarwell—surface water drain, no sewer.

Barnwell—drained by an open brook, has no sewerage system.

*Closest Accommodation.*—Mostly on bucket system or by vaults.

*Scavenging.*—Apethorpe has a private scavenging system, and scavenging is done at Kingscliffe by the Parish.

*Sanitary Inspection* of the area is dealt with in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

*Smoke Abatement.*—There is no nuisance caused by smoke in the area.

*Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations*—include Slaughter Houses, Dairies and Cowsheds.

*Schools : Elementary.*—In good Sanitary conditions and well supplied with water where possible.

Outbreaks of Infectious Disease are reported to the Medical Officer of Health, usually by the school master or mistress, and infected children are excluded from school.

School Medical and Dental treatment is under the County Council.

## HOUSING.

### 1.—General Housing conditions in the Area :—

- (i) General housing conditions on the whole are good, and in several villages very good ; there are a certain number of old thatched cottages which gradually fall into decay and become uninhabitable.

Apethorpe, Ashton Estate and Lilford Estate contain exceptionally good houses.

In Wadenhoe, Pilton, Stoke, Benefield, Bulwick, Deene, Warmington, Elton, Cotterstock, Fotheringhay, Hemington and Tansor the houses are mostly good.



Glapthorne, Southwick, Barnwell, Polebrook, Lutton and Winwick contain a number of old type thatched cottages which tend to fall into decay and are generally dark and damp.

The cottages in Gidding, Thurning and Lutton are not on the whole good type houses, but cannot be condemned.

(b) Measures taken to meet any shortage :—

Six houses have been built by the Council in Warmington, and four are in course of erection by the Council in Nassington.

Two houses have been built privately in the District during the last year.

(ii) *Overcrowding*.—None.

(iii) *Fitness of houses*.

(1) (a) *General Standard*.—Very good, good, fair.

(b) *General Character of defects found*.—Absence of light from small windows and dampness, gradual decay of beams and roofs in old thatched cottages.

(2) *Action taken as regards unfit houses*.

(b) *Housing Acts*—Closure, where other accommodation can be provided.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during year :—

(a) Total—8.

(b) With State assistance.

(i) By Local Authority—6.

(ii) By Other Bodies—1.

1.—Unfit Dwelling-houses :—

1.	Total Houses Inspected for Defects	...	...	175
2.	Number Houses Inspected and Recorded under Housing Registration 1910 or 1925	...	...	36
3.	Number of Dwelling-houses so Dangerous to Health as to be Unfit for Habitation	...	...	4
4.	Number of Houses Not in all respects Fit for Human Habitation	...	...	2

2.	Remedy of Defects in Dwelling-houses in consequence of informal Action by Local Authority ... ..	28
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
1.	Number of Houses in respect of which Notices were Served ... ..	3
2.	Number of Houses in which Defects were Remedied after service of formal Notice :—	
(a)	By Owners ... ..	3
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—	
1.	No. of Representations made with a view to Closing Orders ... ..	6
2.	No. of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	4
3.	No. of Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Houses having been rendered Fit ... ..	0
4.	No. of Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders made ... ..	0
5.	No. of Houses Demolished ... ..	0

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

*Milk Supply.*—Action with regard to Tuberculous Milk and Tuberculous Cattle :—

There is no Tuberculosis Officer appointed by the Council for the Inspection of Tubercular Cows.

The District Tuberculosis Officer appointed by the County Council Inspects Tubercular Cattle when he is notified of or suspects a case, but has no power to make a general inspection of the Cows in the district.

*Meat*—Meat Inspection and disposal of Condemned Meat is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector who is notified as to the time of Slaughter.

#### PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN DISTRICT.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	(Not in	9	9
Licensed	force).	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	9	9



Slaughter Houses were visited regularly

The Inspections made in the year numbered 95, and all the premises were found in very good order.

See Report of Sanitary Inspector.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE PERIOD SINCE 1920.

*Scarlet Fever* was prevalent in a few villages in 1921, 1924 and 1925, the number of Notifications being 14, 16 and 25 respectively. The disease has been of a mild type and unaccompanied by complications.

In 1925 there was one suspected return case of Scarlet Fever, the patient being found to have a small sore in one nostril.

*Diphtheria* has not been a prevalent disease, usually two or three cases notified each year, and of the notified cases only about half are confirmed pathologically.

*Eucephalitis Lethargica*.—Three cases were notified during 1920 and 1921, all of which died, one case made a partial recovery for some months.

The examination of pathological specimen has been carried out by the Clinical Research Association.

The Schlick test for Diphtheria was used on one case in 1925.

And this year, 1926, I have commenced using the Dick test for Scarlet Fever.

No Vaccinations or Re-vaccinations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health.

Vaccination is carried out in the district by the various Public Vaccinators appointed by the Poor Law Guardians.

During the last three years there has been a considerable increase in the number of vaccinations and re-vaccinations among adults and older children. But the number of infants vaccinated continues small.

*Non-notifiable Diseases*.—Measles, Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox have broken out in different villages throughout the last five years. The diseases have been of a mild type without complications as a rule.

In 1925 there was a small outbreak of Jaundice of an infectious type in the villages of Kingscliffe and Elton. In 1922 there was a similar outbreak at Benefield in which thirty-five children were attacked.

*Cancer.*—The returns of causes of death shews a steady increase in the number of Deaths attributed to Cancer,

*Disinfection.*—The disinfection of bedding and clothing of patients suffering from notifiable disease and from Cancer is carried out by super-heated steam at the Joint Hospital.

*Tuberculosis.*—There are no dispensaries situated in the district, patients in Northamptonshire suffering from Tuberculosis attend at Kettering—under the Northants. County Tuberculosis Officer ; and in the Huntingdonshire portion of the district are under the care of the Medical Officer of Health for that County.

Cases requiring Sanatorium Treatment are treated in the County Sanatoria of their respective Counties.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE.

There is no venereal disease in the district beyond an occasional isolated case coming into the district. There is no scheme for dealing with any cases which may occur.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is appended.

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

ARTHUR F. ELLIOTT, M.B.,

*Medical Officer of Health,*

*The Oundle Rural District Council,*





MARCH, 1926.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST. 1925.  
TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SIR,

I herewith submit my 13th Annual Report of the work done during the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The District has been systematically visited in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

During the year 267 nuisances were discovered, and 252 abated. In almost all cases the work was carried out after verbal arrangements, or after an informal letter had been sent. Only in one case was it necessary to send a Statutory Notice. Sixty-five informal letters were sent during the year.

Tabulated Statement of Visits and Work carried out :

Statutory Notices sent	...	...	1
Informal Letters	...	...	65
Personal Visits	...	...	73
			<hr/>
			139

*Houses Examined for—*

Infectious Diseases, including Tuberculosis and				
Cancer	...	...	...	26
Overcrowding	...	...	...	5
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	3
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	65
Defective Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	15
Defective Roof and Eaves Spouting	...	...	...	12
Damp Houses	...	...	...	19
Water Supply	...	...	...	3
Other Causes	...	...	...	27
				<hr/>
Total Houses examined	...	...	...	175

*Additional Visits paid for—*

Work in progress	...	...	...	52
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	36
Slaughter houses	...	...	...	97
Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...	...	42
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	36
Nuisances already found	..	...	...	43
				<hr/>
Total Visits paid	...	...	...	306

*Housing and Town Planning Acts—*

Number of Houses inspected	...	...	36
Number of houses found Unfit for Habitation	...	...	4
Closing Orders made	...	...	4
Number of Houses in which defects were remedied without Closing Orders	...	...	2
Number of Houses rendered fit after Closing Orders were made	...	...	0
Number of Houses Demolished	...	...	2

(The two Demolished houses were in Warmington).

## NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year more houses were built than for some considerable time previous. The District Council has built six houses of the Bungalow type at Warmington, where houses were badly needed. These houses are let at 4/6 a week, inclusive of rates. Each has a good living room, scullery, and 3 bedrooms. Similar houses are being erected at Nassington. Two other houses were erected, one at Elton and one in Warmington, with the aid of the Government Subsidy, making eight in all.

## WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no new development during the year; one or two samples have been taken. The King's Cliffe supply has been well maintained.

## SEWERS AND DRAINAGE.

The Village of Deene has been completely re-sewered by the owner, and about 20 houses connected thereto. Elton (Station Road) was re-sewered, and 28 houses connected. In several other parishes the Sewers have been extended.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION.

Cases of Infectious Disease occurred in 23 houses; 28 cases in all. Most of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and in every case the houses or rooms were thoroughly disinfected, and disinfectants were left, with instructions as to use.

Several cases of Phthisis and Cancer were notified, and here houses and bedding were also disinfected.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Four new Cowkeepers were registered during the year, and each Cowshed was visited and put into proper condition where needed.

The whole of the Cowsheds within the District have been kept in a very fair condition.



## WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

Forty-two Visits have been made to the above, and all were found in a clean state.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Ninety-seven Visits were made to the Slaughter-houses, all of which have been well kept. Since the Meat Regulations which came into force on April 1st, 1925, this work has considerably increased. Butchers have fixed days for killing, so as to facilitate inspection. Any animal killed other than on those days selected, has to be notified to me. In almost all these latter cases I have visited. Three Carcases were found to be affected with Tuberculosis (2 cows and 1 steer) and were destroyed. Several Sheep and two Pigs were also destroyed.

There are nine Slaughter-houses scattered throughout the District ; and about 150 stones of meat were condemned.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

SAMUEL BROADBELT,

*Sanitary Inspector.*













