

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Portland U.D.C.

Contributors

Portland (England). Urban District Council. nb2006017178

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/cpqbs3mt>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
Health and
Sanitary Condition
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF PORTLAND
FOR THE YEAR 1925.



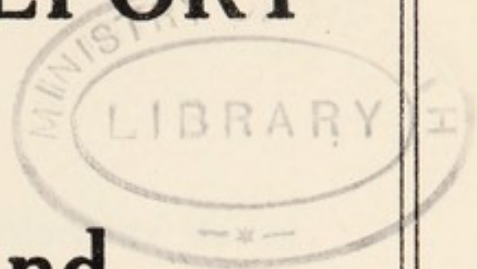
BY
THOMAS HOWARD, M.B.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
Health and
Sanitary Condition
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF PORTLAND
FOR THE YEAR 1925.



BY
THOMAS HOWARD, M.B.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Health and

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF PORTLAND

FOR THE YEAR 1935.




BY

THOMAS HOWARD, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Table of Contents.

	Page.
Report	5
Natural and Social Conditions of the Area	7
Vital Statistics	9
Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925	12
General Provision of Health Services in the Area ...	13
Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	17
Extract from Report of the Medical Officer of Health ...	29
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Urban District of Portland ...	34
Housing	36
Housing Statistics for Year 1925	42
Inspection and Supervision of Food	44
Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases ...	52
Bacteriological Work	58
Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1925	61
Tuberculosis—New Cases and Mortality during 1925 ...	62
Maternity and Child Welfare Ophthalmia Neonatorum	63
Administration of Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, Portland Urban District	64



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29994615>

Portland Urban District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Garland, and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present to you my 23rd Annual Report on the health of the District in compliance with the duty statutorily placed upon me. The Ministry of Health now only require a full report every fifth year and considerably abridged reports for the remaining four. This year a Survey Report is required in which it becomes my duty to review the public health activities of the District for the past five years.

The Vital Statistics for the period under review, with the exception of the birth-rate, are eminently satisfactory.

The general death-rate for 1921-1925 was 9·54, and for 1925 7·74 the lowest rate on record (when calculated on corrected resident populations).

The infantile mortality rate for 1921-1925 was 53·4. The infant mortality of 34·48 per 1,000 births for 1925 is also the lowest on record. The birth-rate for 1921-1925 was 15·4; for 1925, 13·4 per 1,000. The continued fall in the birth-rate is a matter of concern. In these days when expenditure of local Councils is keenly scrutinized, more especially of these Committees stigmatized as Spending Committees, it may not be inadvisable to

point out that although the Sanitary Committee does not contribute money towards the reduction of the rates, the money which it does spend has a much more lasting and useful effect, *viz.*, the improvement of the health and consequently the happiness of the people of Portland. I do not suggest for one moment that any particular health measure has had this or that result, but the sum of all the measures taken for the improvement of the health of the people has had that effect, especially when one compares the conditions existing and the rates to-day with those prevailing 25 years ago. I do suggest, however, that the money spent on all health matters has been well spent, and the seeds sown have borne good fruit.

The housing scarcity has caused much overcrowding, and although it is not possible to point to direct harmful effects on the public health, yet it must have a deleterious effect especially on the health of young children, and may even adversely affect the birth-rate.

I have again to thank the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee and the Members of the Council generally for the support they have afforded me and the consideration they have given to the proposals I have placed before them.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

March 25th, 1926.

THOS. HOWARD.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. The area of the district (land and inland water) is 2,905 acres.

Population. The population at the Census, 1921, was 12,431. The population as estimated for 1925 is 12,940.

Physical Features and General Character of the District. The Island of Portland is 4 miles in length and at its widest part $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in width. The Chesil Bank (one of the most remarkable formations of its kind), situated within one of the largest bays in the Kingdom, connects the Island of Portland with the mainland at Abbotsbury (a distance of $10\frac{3}{4}$ miles). On the north end the ground rises to a height of 495 feet, but slopes rapidly in a southerly direction, so that the Bill or southern termination is only 20 feet above the level of the sea at low water mark. The Island is clearly divided into two districts, *viz.*, the Tophill and Underhill. The Purbeck beds underlie the whole of the Tophill district and the natural slope already referred to affords splendid facilities for drainage. The Underhill district is low-lying with a clay subsoil—the houses in Chiswell Street are practically built on the bare clay. This portion of the district is liable to occasional floodings from the sea, and the ground water rises to within a few feet of the surface. One of the most unsatisfactory features of the Underhill district is its relatively small extent compared with the the number of its houses and population. There are no open spaces in direct connection with the houses, and these are, in my opinion, more immediately important as regards health than openness of the surrounding area. The general impression made on a casual visitor is such as to suggest to him that there is a considerable back street element. He may also get a glimpse of some of our narrow steep

streets, where the little houses stand in serried rows, each house occupying very narrow comparative space. Within the houses matters are less satisfactory, the space there being in many instances much too limited for convenient, respectable, and healthy life. The prevailing wind is West and the Underhill district is much protected from East winds by the Verne Hill.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921), 2,035.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 2,270.

Social Conditions. Portland is essentially a working class district and there are very few private residents. The following figures are taken from the Census Returns, 1921 :—

Fifty-two per cent of dwellings occupied by private families consist of 4-5 rooms or less (including kitchen), 365 private families representing a population of 1,051 occupy 3 rooms or less. The population in private families living under overcrowded conditions, that is more than two persons per room, was 294.

The average density for the whole County is 1.33 rooms per person. The area exhibiting the least favourable conditions was Portland with the lowest average for the whole County of 1.23 rooms per person. With the exception of Stone Quarrying and the preparation of stone for building purposes, there are no industries of any moment employing any large number of men in the district. Out of a County total of 594, there are 504 stone quarriers in Portland. There are also 211 masons and 61 stone cutters. These 776 men represent nearly one-fifth of the total male population over 12 years of age, excluding Naval and Military populations.

The stone worked is the well known oolitic limestone, named after the locality. The working of this stone appears to have no prejudicial effect on health, in fact, I should say, quite the reverse. The mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis per 1,000 living over

a series of 13 years was, for general labourers, 1·9; Stone Quarriers, 1·5; and Stone Masons, 1·4. These figures should be compared with those of the C.M.O. for Derbyshire 13·4 per 1,000 for persons employed in and about Grit Stone (95 per cent of free Silica) Quarries, and 1·2 for the general population of the Millstone Grit Area.

Water Transport Workers were 13 per 1,000 for the County, the districts chiefly concerned being Portland, Weymouth, and Poole, where seafaring men were 26, 20, and 14 respectively.

Workers in Personal Service (female) for the aggregate of Urban Areas in Dorset it is estimated to be 51 which is considered high. Portland is the lowest of all Urban Areas only 17 per 1,000. "The proportion of these to the total population is of much interest as an index to the Social Conditions."

The evidence of actual want or extreme poverty in Portland is considerably less at the present time than in times past but within the memory of the M.O.H. The general conditions of life have, without doubt, been considerably improved during the last 20 years.

The rateable value of the district for 1925-1926 is £44,927.

One penny in the £ yields for General District Purposes £177.

Vital Statistics.

Population. The Registrar General estimates the population as at the 30th June, 1925, for the purposes of death-rate to be 10,240. This has been based on the adjusted 1921 figures, after allowance for the varying rates of natural increase as evidenced by the births and deaths in each area and of migration. For birth statistics a different estimate of population has to be taken as a

basis than that required for death statistics, owing to transference of habitation due to movements of H.M. Ships, Army, etc. The figure supplied me by the Registrar General through the C.M.O. for calculating the birth-rate for 1925 is 12,940.

Births and the Birth-Rate. The births numbered 174 (82 males and 92 females), giving a birth-rate of 13·4 per 1,000, compared with 18·3 for the whole of England and Wales. For the period 1921-1925 it was 15·4 per 1,000. Two of the births were illegitimate. The birth-rate in Portland like almost every town in England is steadily declining. It is only fair to point out that the death-rate also shows a progressive decline. This progressive and marked fall in the birth-rate is viewed with apprehension or with comparative indifference from different standpoints. There can be no doubt that artificial restriction of the family obtains to a large extent, but whether more so than in former years is incapable of proof.

Deaths and the General Death-Rate. The number of deaths registered in 1925 was 84, giving a general death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants of 8·2 upon the Registrar General's population of 10,240. This 8·2 is the gross death-rate which "is allowed to be modified for comparison with all other death rates of England by multiplication with the factor ·945 and this being done the nett death-rate is reduced to 7·74. For the period 1921-1925 the death-rate was 9·54. The rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1925 was 12·2.

Infant Mortality. The death-rate of infants under one year old being estimated not on the population but upon the number of births is exempt from the effect of mistake in estimate of population. During the year 1925 the deaths of 6 children were recorded who had not at the time of their death reached the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 34·48 per 1,000 births, the lowest on record for Portland. The Infantile Death-Rate for the whole of England was 75. There was one death from Enteritis in January, but not a single death from summer diarrhœa occurred

within the district during the year. An Infantile Mortality Rate of 34·48 is a very remarkable record for an industrial district. No doubt the wet and cold summer was a factor of very considerable importance—very probably the deciding factor in bringing about this happy result—but the fact remains that last summer was not by any means the only wet and cold summer on record, nor yet the coldest and wettest. Never before, however, has there been such a low mortality. I cannot point to any particular health measure which has produced this result.

For the period 1921-1925 it was 53·4 which may also be regarded as exceedingly satisfactory.

The Zymotic Disease Death-Rate. From the seven chief Zymotic Diseases: Small Pox, Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Infantile Diarrhoea there were deaths only from Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea, one from the former and one from the latter disease. These two deaths give the Zymotic death-rate of '18 per 1,000 population for 1925, which is very low.

The Tuberculosis Death-Rate. The number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis was 7, and from all other forms of tuberculosis, one. The death-rate for respiratory Tuberculosis was '64 per 1,000 and for all tuberculosis cases together '73, which may be regarded as very satisfactory.

The Cancer Death-Rate. There were 14 deaths from Cancer which gives us the comparatively high rate of 1·3 per 1,000 considering that nearly six-sevenths of our population are under 50 years of age. Last year it was 1·4 per 1,000. The Cancer death-rate for Portland is unfavourable.

Respiratory Diseases Death-Rate. This includes 6 deaths assigned to Bronchitis, 4 to Pneumonia, and 1 to other forms of respiratory disease. The death-rate of all together was 1·07 per 1,000 living. Considering the prevalence of Influenza in the first quarter of the year the above rate may be regarded as highly satisfactory.

TABLE X.—Birth rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1925.

(Provisional figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

Birth- Rate per 1000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population										Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths		
	All Causes.	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years)	Total Deaths under One year	Causes of Death certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Pop- ulations 20,000— 50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0
Portland	13.4	7.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.45	0.27	5.7	34.4	—	—	—

Gratuitous Medical Relief. There is no hospital within the district and gratuitous medical relief is represented by the Royal Portland Dispensary, the Workhouse Infirmary (Weymouth) and the usual outdoor medical relief of the Weymouth Union. The Medical Officers of the Royal Portland Dispensary visit the sick persons in their own homes. About 120 patients, mainly children of the poorer working people, are treated annually. It is sad to think that a modest Charity like the Royal Portland Dispensary does not receive the appreciation or support in the district to which it is entitled. Like all Institutions in the present day which steadily persist in affording indispensable services without sounding their own trumpets, it is apt to escape due recognition.

Poor-Law Relief. The amount of Poor-Law Out-Relief paid in the Parish of Portland during the year 1925 was as follows:—

Normal Relief, £1,818.

Relief on account of Unemployment, £428.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or by the County Council:—

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| (1) Tuberculosis | Weymouth and District Hospital for Surgical Tubercular cases subsidized by the County Council, outside the District. |
| (2) Maternity | Weymouth and District Hospital subsidized by the County Council for maternity cases, outside the District. |

(3) Children	Weymouth and District Hospital also subsidized by the County Council, outside the District.
(4) Fever	Port Sanitary Hospital in the Weymouth Rural District, provided by the Port Sanitary Authority, of which Portland is one of the Constituent Authorities.
(5) Small Pox	None
(6) Other Hospitals	None
Any Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the District.	The only provision is the Union Infirmary, which is outside the District.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) **For infectious cases.** The Local Authority have provided a Motor Ambulance and supply a driver for infectious cases.

(b) **For non-infectious and accident Cases.** The Local Authority's Ambulance has been much used for the removal of accident and sickness cases to hospital. The St. John's Ambulance Brigade render voluntary service in connection with the removal of non-infectious cases to Hospital.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres (Consultation and Treatment)	None
Day Nurseries	None

School Clinics

None

Tuberculosis Clinic

A Tuberculosis Dispensary is maintained at New Street, Weymouth, by the County Council, and it is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Venereal Diseases Clinic

A Clinic is held every Wednesday at the Port Sanitary Hospital, Wyke Regis, from 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m., and is also maintained by the County Council. Six beds are available.

Professional Nursing in the Home:—

(a) General

None

(b) For infectious diseases

None

Midwives.

One Midwife (who also acts as Health Visitor) is subsidized by the County Council. This is the only midwife practicing in the District.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—T. Howard, M.B., B.S.

Sanitary Inspector—E. Houghton, Cert. R.S.I. and Special Meat Certificate.

Part-time man (J. Saunders) from Surveyor's Department to assist in disinfecting and drain testing.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time Officer and the Sanitary Inspector a whole-time Officer.

Contributions to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector are received through the County Council.

Chemical Work. The Medical Officer of Health is allowed to make arrangements for such Chemical work as he considers necessary. During the period under review the only Chemical work done was analyses of samples of water (public supply) which were carried out by the Clinical Research Association. Appended is a statement supplied by the C.M.O. of the samples examined by the Public Analyst during 1925.

Legislation in Force.

The following is a list of the general adoptive Acts and Bye-laws relating to public health, in force in the area.

Acts.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889. Adopted March 13th, 1895.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Acts, 1890. Adopted July 24th, 1895.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890. Adopted March 13th, 1895.

Private Street Works Act, 1892 Adopted July 24th, 1895.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Adopted December 16th, 1908.

Bye-Laws.

Bye-Laws relating to New Streets and Buildings. Adopted June 2nd, 1899. New Bye-Laws allowed December 29th, 1925.

Bye-Laws with respect to the Decent Conduct of persons using Sanitary Conveniences. Adopted February 8th, 1899.

Bye-Laws as to Houses Let in Lodgings. Adopted March 22nd, 1899.

Bye-Laws as to Common Lodging Houses. Adopted March 2nd, 1899.

Bye-Laws as to Slaughter Houses. Adopted July 22nd, 1899.

Bye-Laws as to Nuisances. Adopted July 22nd, 1899.

Bye-Laws with respect to Tents, Vans, and similar structures used for Human Habitation. Adopted March 6th, 1908.

No Statutory Notices have been served under any of the above Acts but free use is made of the Sanitary and infectious disease provisions of the P.H.A Acts 1890 and 1907. Sections 25, 45, 49, and 57 of the latter Act are much used.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The water supplied to the District is derived from a 24-in. bore hole sunk to a depth of 310 feet. The boring passes through the Purbeck beds to the source of the water in the Portland sands. A subsidiary source of supply is obtained from a deep well (old supply) in the lower chalk. No filtration is necessary. The water is pumped to a Covered Reservoir situated near Upwey from whence it flows by gravity to the district.

The bore hole and well are in the Weymouth Rural District near the Village of Upwey, and about 10 miles distant from Portland.

The supply is copious and constant. The waterworks are the property of the ratepayers.

The average daily consumption is about 310,000 gallons or including Naval, Military, etc., supplies about 450,800 gallons.

Samples of water are sent each quarter, and more frequently if considered necessary to the Clinical Research Association. The report on the last sample taken on December 10th was as follows :—
“The sample shows no evidence of pollution and is quite satisfactory from a bacteriological point of view.”

Although the service is a constant one and the supply ample and pure, I desire to call your attention to certain matters in connection with your water supply which have a vital importance. You have at present two sources of supply, the 24-in. bore hole (28,000 gallons per hour) reinforced by a 10-in. bore hole (10,000 gallons per hour). The 2nd source of supply is from the old well situated at Gould's Bottom. The machinery in connection with this well is rather antiquated and at certain periods of the year there is also rapid diminution of the volume in the well. On an average it can be relied upon to deliver about 10,000 gallons per hour. You will see, therefore, that you have only a single plant capable of dealing with the required consumption. This machinery has now been running continuously for over 12 years and as can only be expected repairs to this plant have become frequent of late years. In 1913 it was clearly shown that your subsidiary plants could not supply the required amount of water. The Surveyor has already called attention to this matter in a Special Report in 1924. In the event of a serious breakdown of the plant at the 24-in. bore hole we would have to revert to an intermittent supply which may be fraught with serious consequences to the public health. Apparently the only remedy is to sink a further bore hole and provide machinery which will have a capacity to deal with future demands. This is a matter which deserves the serious consideration of the Council.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The whole of the roads in the district are sewered with the exception of a few short lengths. The houses draining into cesspools

are dealt with under the heading of "Scavenging." There is no Separate System in the district, rain and soil water being conveyed by the sewers.

The sewage of the district is discharged into the sea by three separate outfalls. The sewage in the Underhill district gravitates to the outfall in the West Bay with the exception of two small low-lying areas, viz, Chesilton and Castletown, from whence the sewage has to be raised. The sewage from Castletown is lifted by means of Schones' ejectors. The sewage lift at Chesil has been augmented by an Adamson's pneumatic ejector operated from the existing compressor station.

The Chesil lift in the past gave much trouble and was a source of considerable nuisance. During re-construction much difficulty was experienced owing to the flooding of the works with surface water and sewage. These engineering difficulties were successfully overcome by the Surveyor to the Council and I am pleased to report that since the beginning of 1924 the lift has worked satisfactorily and there have been no further complaints.

The remainder of the sewage gravitates to the outfalls at the East Bay and Freshwater Bay. In my report for 1920 I referred to the fouling of the foreshore to the extent of 26 feet at Freshwater Bay. This outfall has since been extended with cast iron pipes to low water Spring tides. There has not been any further fouling of this foreshore noticed.

A very much needed improvement has been effected by the provision of new sewers at Mallams, King Street, and Artist Row. The condition in which the sewers were found was dealt with in my Annual Report for 1922. As these streets are very narrow, congested, and with a clay subsoil, it was decided to re-lay the new sewers in concrete. I again advise that other sewers in the district should be surveyed and reported on, not waiting until defects become so manifest as to compel amendment to avoid serious nuisance.

A source of much complaint and nuisance in the past, was the discharge of crude sewerage into the Harbour and the fouling of the foreshore at the Mere. A group of houses (13 in number) were discovered by the Surveyor in 1924 from which sewerage was discharged into the old barrel drain—a surface water drain which emptied on to the Mere. These houses have now been connected with the public sewer.

The sewers are flushed periodically by means of hydrants fixed near the heads of the sewers. Two automatic flush tanks have been placed at Southwell and one at Easton Square. These have been found to be more efficient.

The sewers are ventilated by means of 18 upcast shafts. The surface ventilating grids have been closed up owing to complaints of nuisances.

Closet Accommodation.

With few exceptions the Sanitary System of the district is entirely one of water closets with adequate flushing by separate cisterns. The number of small houses using a W.C. in common has been greatly reduced and only a few instances remain where any sort of house has not its own accommodation. There are still about 11 houses without proper flushing cisterns and an effort should be made to reduce this number during the coming year.

Scavenging.

The house refuse is removed once a week, but more often than this when there is evidence of nuisance or complaint is made. In the case of fish and other shops dealing with perishable stocks it has been the rule for the Sanitary Inspector to make frequent visits, as to the removal of refuse and the prevention of nuisance.

The refuse since August, 1924, has been chiefly collected by covered motor lorries and few complaints have been received during the year.

I have frequently pointed out the necessity of the more frequent removal of garbage in the summer time, and suggested that this should be done at least twice a week in the more congested parts of the district. It has also been urged that there should be more frequent cleansing and watering of the streets and yards as the dust nuisance has been a source of much complaint, more especially in the Underhill District.

There are no fixed or built ash bins in the district. The percentage of houses which had neither covered or suitable ash bins varies in different parts of the district from 64 to 94%. The littered Street and Alley are evidence on collecting days of old pails, broken boxes, leaking baths, buckets, etc., in fact, anything which is now useless for the purpose it was originally intended is used as a refuse bin. These receptacles stand outside the houses exposed in the public streets for hours, and open to wind, flies, cats, dogs, vermin, and other distributing agencies.

No effort whatever has been made to enforce the Law dealing with this matter.

The following represents the houses in the district draining into Cesspools :—

Tophill District.—Six houses in Church Ope Road ; Six houses in Moorfield Road ; Three houses in Grove ; Two houses in Wakeham ; Two houses in Easton Lane.

Underhill District.—Two houses in New Road.

During the period under review six houses in St. George's Estate, one house in Weston Road, and one house in Channel View Road have been connected with the public sewers.

Pail Closets are in use at three houses in Easton Lane, two in New Street, one in Grove Fields, one in Avalanche Road, and one in Wide Street. These houses are generally situated in parts of the district where the sewers are not readily available.

None of the above that I have inspected have been constructed in strict conformity with the Bye-Laws controlling them. There is no systematic cleansing of either Cesspools or Pail Closets. The former are allowed to become quite full before they are emptied. The householder disposes of the contents of the pail closets when and as he thinks fit. A number of Cesspools drain into the Purbeck beds and consequently rarely require emptying—the liquid matter soaking into the soil, where it may find access to surface water supplies.

Disposal of Refuse. The house refuse, together with the contents of such Cesspools as are emptied is conveyed to Wide Street where it is tipped into a Quarry situated about 250 yards from the highway and in close proximity to a Factory. Complaints have been made as to the noxious smell arising therefrom, and also that it serves as a harbourage for rats. The nuisance arising at times from this dump is considerable and I have again to call your attention to the urgent necessity that exists for a Refuse Destructor.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. E. Houghton) in accordance with Article 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1922, submits the attached tabular statement,

It will be seen from that statement that the amount of actual work done is not up to the usual standard. This has been due to dislocation of the sanitary work caused by changes of Sanitary Inspectors. I desire to call your attention to the fact that although about 20 per cent of the total houses in the district are without an internal supply of water, nothing has been done in this direction during the year. These houses are also without trough sinks. The nuisance arising from the want of a proper sink trough is obvious.

There are also a small number of houses still remaining in the district without proper flushing cisterns to the closet. A W.C. without a flush cannot be other than insanitary and highly unsatisfactory. An effort should be made during the coming year to see that the number of W.C's. without flushing cisterns is reduced.

During the period under review the effect of high cost of materials and labour was deterrent to the execution of the work ordered to be done. The conditions now seem to be easing in this respect. A general fall of prices would much facilitate the work. In the Inspector's statement will be found the number of inspections made and the results.

1. Number and nature of inspections made during 1925.

Total number of inspections made	2,415
----------------------------------	-----	-----	-------

Nature of Inspections.

Visits to houses and inspections of nuisances, etc., in the course of abatement	...	...	...	1,095
Visits in connection with infectious diseases	...	...	...	254
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	74
Visits to Milkshops	...	...	...	21
Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	...	120
Visits to Food Shops	...	...	...	235
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	19
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	21
Visits to Workshops	...	...	...	63
Visits in connection with the Rats and Mice Destruction Act	...	...	...	87
Miscellaneous visits, service of notices, interviews with owners of property, house agents, builders, etc.	...	...	...	426

2. Number of Notices served during the year.

Statutory notices served	...	...	...	16
Informal notices served	...	...	...	124

3. The result of the service of such notices.

Statutory notices complied with ...	...	...	14
Informal notices complied with ...	...	...	111
Work in hand ...	...	...	5
Being estimated for ...	...	...	4
Work not commenced ...	...	...	4

During the year 178 complaints as to nuisances were received, at once investigated, and action taken to secure the abatement of the nuisances.

Tabular Summary of the Sanitary Work done during 1925.

Drainage.

Tests applied to new drains ...	...	...	17
Old drains smoke tested ...	...	...	7
Drains cleansed and repaired ...	...	...	153
Drains reconstructed ...	...	...	4
Defective gulleys ...	...	...	6
Broken gulley gratings ...	...	...	5
Defective vent pipes ...	...	...	6
Defective fresh air inlets to drains ...	...	...	3

Water Closets.

Cisterns repaired and renewed ...	...	...	10
Defective W.C. roofs repaired ...	...	...	8
W.C. doors repaired ...	...	...	4
Additional W.C. built ...	...	...	1
Basins renewed ...	...	...	7
Flushpipes repaired or renewed ...	...	...	8

Houses.

Cleansed or limewashed ...	...	...	7
Roofs repaired ...	...	...	38

Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	11
Spouting cleansed and repaired or renewed	...	...	...	32
Fallpipes cleansed and repaired or renewed	...	...	...	14
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	8
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	32
Defective sink wastepipes repaired	...	...	...	11
Defective sinks renewed or repaired	...	...	...	5
Defective doors repaired	...	...	...	8
Defective walls repaired	...	...	...	12
Damp gable walls rendered in cement	...	...	...	6
Defective fireplaces repaired	...	...	...	7
Defective chimneys and pots	...	...	...	9
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	16
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	15
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	11
House floors repaired	...	...	...	14
Nuisances arising from keeping of animals, etc.	...	...	...	3
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	1
Defective coppers repaired	...	...	...	6
Refuse receptacles renewed	...	...	...	9
Defective or dangerous steps or stairs	...	...	...	3
Urinals repaired	...	...	...	3

Inspection of places where food is prepared.

Number of visits to food shops, total	...	...	235
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	74
Amount of meat surrendered and destroyed	...	...	204 lbs.
Number of visits to fish and poultry shops	...	...	8
Number of visits to fried fish shops	...	...	19
Number of visits to hawkers' carts, etc.	...	...	12

Bakehouses.

Number of factory bakehouses on register	...	...	4
Number of workshop bakehouses on register	...	...	6
Number of visits made	...	...	22
Number of notices for limewashing	...	...	2

Number of notices to remove manure	...	...	2
Number of notices for defective drains	...	...	2

Slaughterhouses.

Number on register	...	...	1 registered
(No licensed slaughterhouses).			
Number of inspections	...	...	74

Factory and Workshops Act, 1902.

Number of Factories on register	...	...	12
Number of Workshops on register	...	...	62
Number of Workplaces on register	...	...	5
Number of visits to Factories	...	...	14
Number of visits to Workshops	...	...	81
Number of notices issued for defects, and complied with			10

Infectious Diseases.

Number of houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease (Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria)	...	...	20
Number of houses disinfected after Phthisis	...	...	21
Number of houses disinfected after other diseases	...	...	2
Number of houses fumigated, etc., for vermin	...	...	3
Number of articles disinfected	...	...	559
Number of articles destroyed	...	...	7

Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Number of cowsheds on register	...	...	19
Number of milkshops on register	...	...	7
Number of inspections of cowsheds	...	...	104
Number of inspections of milkshops	...	...	18
Number of notices for limewashing	...	...	8
Number of notices for removal of manure	...	...	4
Number of notices to empty cesspools	...	...	6
Number of notices complied with	...	...	18

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

These comprise one slaughterhouse, eighteen cowkeepers, seven dairies and milk shops. These will be referred to again under "Inspection and Supervision of Food."

Common Lodging-Houses. There are none within the district. When the Fleet is in the Harbour, a number of houses take in liberty men for the night. Frequent complaints have been made as to overcrowding. It is questionable whether such houses should not be treated as Common Lodging-Houses.

Houses Let in Lodgings. The Council considered the question of Registration of houses let in lodgings in 1913, but decided to take no action under the bye-laws owing to legal difficulties. There are no "farmed-out houses" for the control of which places the bye-laws were chiefly required. A large number of houses are sub-let (probably over 20 per cent of the total houses) and are occupied by members of more than one family. Considerable overcrowding of apartments in consequence exists. No action can be taken owing to the dearth of houses.

Underground Sleeping Rooms Housing Act, 1925, Section 18 (1). One underground sleeping room occupied by a large family (eight in number) which contravened the above Section was discovered in 1923. A "Closing order" was made by the Council and the premises have since been used as a kitchen. This was the first instance that came to my notice. As a rule the basements of the dwelling houses are used as kitchens or store rooms.

Offensive Trades. No offensive trades as legally defined are carried on within the district, but during the period under review premises were discovered where bone boiling, tripe boiling, and fat rendering were carried on. These businesses were on a small scale

and were immediately discontinued when notice was given to the occupiers by the Council.

Many complaints as to nuisance and much difficulty has been experienced in connection with the premises of a rag and bone dealer. It is imperative that such businesses should be regulated by bye-laws. I desire to again call the attention of the Council to the necessity of making application under Section 51, P.H.A.A., 1907, to declare the (1) businesses of dealers in rags, bones, animal skins, or other putrescible matter (2) the trades of Tripe boiler and of a Nettlings or Chitterings boiler (3) the trade of a fish frier (4) the trade of a fat melter or fat extractor (5) the trade of a gut scraper (6) and of a bone boiler, to be offensive trades.

Public Mortuary.

I am pleased to state that in 1923 the Council erected a public Mortuary. A mortuary for the district was urgently needed, and its usefulness has been amply demonstrated since its erection.

Schools.

Cases of infectious disease occurring amongst the scholars are notified to me by the Head Teachers.

Under the heading of "School Intimations of Disease" I have dealt with the question of school notifications of infectious disease. Whenever there is a suspicion that diseases are being spread by means of the school, the Medical Officer of Health visits the particular school in question and examines and excludes those children he thinks necessary. Any suggestions he has made in this respect have always been carried out.

The Sanitary Condition of the Schools was the subject of a Report to the Sanitary Committee at their monthly meeting in February, 1926, and an extract from that Report is now appended.

Extract from Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

Public Elementary Schools.

As the Ministry of Health require me to deal with the Sanitary condition of the Schools I thought I should take this opportunity of bringing certain conditions found during the course of inspection to your notice which require prompt amendment. There are six Public Elementary Day Schools in the district, one of which is of modern construction. A new School is in the process of erection which will replace the Easton Council School. The four old Schools do not approach to anything like a modern standard. It is doubtful whether they could be improved as regard ventilation, light, heating, etc., to be regarded as satisfactory.

All the Schools are connected with the Sewerage System.

School Cleansing.

This is very far from satisfactory. For the past 20 years I have been pointing out the importance of preventing a dusty atmosphere in the schools. This year I have again to report that on visiting the schools during the so-called "Cleansing" process, the atmosphere was like a fog. No real attempt has been made to prevent dust from being scattered over the desks, shelves, walls, and floors. As a result I found the walls, windows, furniture, and floors in a dirty condition. The tops of some of the school furniture were so caked with dust that they had the appearance of having never been cleansed.

One cannot be surprised of the amount of Impetigo, Ringworm, and Verminous conditions which prevail, and with which we are so familiar in this district. It would be far preferable to clean the schools properly once a week than to go through such a farce as is now represented by the daily "Cleaning." The Schools are only scrubbed out with soap and water three times a year. This should be done once a month. The school cleaners informed me that to

carry out such cleaning of the schools as I consider necessary would mean more work and longer hours. They appear to be inadequately paid and under such circumstances it is not possible to get the work properly done. The Schools also should only be used for the purpose for which they were intended, namely, the teaching of elementary school children in school hours.

The following are some of the conditions found on a recent inspection :—

Sanitary Appliances, Grove Schools.

Trough Closets (Girls) in a filthy condition. Trough full of faeces and smelling offensively at some distance.

Infants.

Trough half full of faeces and smelling offensively.

Boys.

Trough Closets offensive but no faeces in trough. Lavatory basins generally in a dirty state. Cloak-rooms in a dirty condition. Floors wet and dirty. The boy's cloak-room was locked at the time of my visit, and on asking the reason I was informed it was to prevent the boys using water. In the corner of this cloak-room was a very dirty looking basin. The walls of the class-rooms require cleansing and re-decorating. Windows dirty.

Underhill Council School, Boys.

Three W.C's without seats. Urinals inadequately flushed.

Girls.

W.C. Back and side of one W.C. require cleansing and colour washing.

Wesleyan School.

Lavatory basins (boys) in a dirty state. Basins defective and plugs out of order. Floor wet and dirty from leakage. Plaster behind basins perished and in foul state.

Lavatory Basins (Girls). Basins and plugs defective. Floor under basin very wet and dirty. Girls and Infants W.C's: out of six W.C's the rim seating was absent or defective in four. Boys W.C's: no chains to two W.C's. Small urinal without a flush, larger urinal offensive, concrete on floor of urinal defective. Defective floor in cloak-room which is very badly lighted. Pool of water draining along playground owing to leakages from overflow pipes of flush tanks.

St. George's School.

Cloak rooms, floor, and walls, very dirty. Infants' lavatory basin adjoining the trough closets in a filthy condition. Drinking cup very dirty. Floor space of W.C. accommodation littered with rubbish. Urinal—defective sides, offensive.

Water Supply.

Water is laid on directly to the W.C's, urinals, and lavatory basins of the schools from the Council's mains, with the exception of the Underhill Council School where a cistern is provided for the water necessary for the lavatory basins. A plentiful supply of drinking water should always be accessible in schools and playgrounds. Children require a frequent drink of water and their health suffers if such is not available, yet the arrangements for the children having access to plenty of fresh water at all times in the schools are most unsatisfactory. I have been informed by the parents that children have not been allowed to have a drink of water when they are thirsty.

After an inspection of the Public Elementary Schools in this district, one feels how hopeless is the task of trying to persuade the Milk producer how important it is to prevent dust and dirt in the cowshed; that a plentiful supply of water is necessary in order that the cows' udders and the Milkers hands may be scrupulously clean and that his milk vessels should be sterilized. One can visualize how antagonistic the butchers must be to carrying out the most elementary hygienic precautions with a view to preventing con-

tamination of meat by dust, dirt, and flies. Of what value is it, to talk of the curative value of light when the rays sometimes spoken of as the ultra-violet rays, which are the most important, are largely excluded by dirty windows.

New School.

In consequence of a number of complaints I visited the site of the New School which is in course of erection. This school will have accommodation for 520 scholars and is a two storey building. I have had no opportunity of seeing the plans of this, nor so far as I am aware have the Sanitary Authority been consulted as to site or plans. It seems rather absurd to request the Medical Officer of Health to make systematic inspections of the schools already constructed in the district in order to discover defects and insanitary conditions, when in the same district the plans of new schools are never seen by him. In the case of all other inhabitable buildings which he has later to inspect the plans are submitted to him so that faulty conditions may not be perpetuated which the inspection is designed to eliminate. The site on which the school is built is the worst possible in the whole tophill district. No builder would for a moment consider the question of building dwelling houses in the same situation. The ground water in this area rises to within a few feet of the surface. In wet periods followed by a hard frost the whole surface has been covered by a sheet of ice. An attempt has been made to direct the subsoil water by means of agricultural pipes to the side of the public roadway. These pipes are laid at a depth of 2 feet in the sifting rubble. That they were not very effective was demonstrated by the fact that at the date of my visit, February 18th, the depth of water in the trench in proximity to the school where the drain pipes were laid was $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The basement of the building where the heating apparatus is to be placed looked like a large swimming bath. There was a depth of water here of 5 to 6 feet. I was informed that the water had risen to greater height. It seems very deplorable that the district has to suffer financially and the health of the children be endangered, for no amount of damp proofing can remedy the disadvantage of building

a school on a site which is in fact a swamp. With co-operation between the County Authority and the Sanitary Authority, the present site should not have been selected.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Under Section 132 of the above Act the Medical Officer of Health is required to report specifically on the administration of this Act and to send a copy of such report to the Secretary of State. The chief points to be reported on are as follows:—

(1) Sanitary condition of Workshops including (a) ventilation (b) cleanliness of floors and walls (c) lighting (d) water closet provision (e) overcrowding (f) drainage of floors where wet processes are carried on (2) Special Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses (3) Home Work (4) The Keeping of a Register of Workshops.

There are now 13 Factories, 62 Workshops, and 5 Workplaces on the Register. The visits to Factories (14 in number) related chiefly to inspections as to the condition of the sanitary conveniences.

81 visits were made to Workshops and ten notices relating to various defects were given. All these are stated to have been satisfactorily complied with.

No special records for the inspection of Workshops have so far been used, but instructions have been given that such records shall be kept during the coming year.

No lists of outworkers have been supplied to me and I cannot obtain information that any such workers are employed in the district.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Urban District of Portland

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	14	—	—
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	81	4	—
Workplaces ... (Other than Out-workers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	95	4	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3	—	
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	
Want of drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	
Other nuisances ...	7	7	—	
Sanitary accommodation :				
{ insufficient ...				
{ unsuitable or defective	—	—		
{ not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101) ...				
Other offences ...				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921.)	—	—		
Total ...	10	10		

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Housing.

1. General Housing Conditions in the area.

(1) There are 2,035 dwelling houses in the district of which about 1,700 are working class dwellings. The standard of the housing accommodation may be judged when I state that 64 per cent of the total dwellings have a rateable value of £10 or under. No new houses have been erected during the year.

2. Extent of Shortage.

(a) The total number of dwelling houses erected in the past 5 years has been only four. I estimate the number of working class houses required in the next five years to :—

(1) Meet the unsatisfied demands for houses (taking account of growth of population overcrowding, etc.)	...	...	...	...	50
(2) Re-house persons to be displaced by clearance of unhealthy areas	...	...	...	...	10
(3) Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation, and cannot be made fit	...	...	...	...	20
(4) Replace other houses which although they cannot at present be regarded as unfit for human habitation fall definitely below a reasonable standard	...	...	...	...	70
(2) (1) Deduct working class houses set free as the result of any decrease in population during next 5 years	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Working class houses likely to be built during the next 5 years by persons other than the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	10
Net estimate of number of houses required	...	...	...	...	140

In the Underhill District the housing shortage is most acute. Every house that can be considered habitable by the lowest standards is now occupied.

2. (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet the Shortage.

Owing to the decrease of staff at H.M. Borstal Institution 11 houses formerly occupied by Prison Warders are now let at rental by the Prison Commissioners. These 11 houses afford accommodation for 22 private families. The selection of occupiers for these houses is subject to the approval of the Council. This measure has to some extent relieved the housing difficulty in the Tophill district.

The Council during the year have considered various schemes for the building of houses, and have devoted much time to the question of sites, cost of land, building, etc. The result so far in connection with providing the necessary houses is nil. A circular letter was received from the C.M.O. in June pointing out that Sherborne Urban District were building houses which can be let at a rental of 7/6 per week with no charge falling on the rates. The C.M.O. further stated that "Local Authorities have no reasonable excuse for failing to undertake housing schemes when they can provide and let houses at the *subsidized economic rent*. They are evading their obligations and responsibilities under the law."

The reluctance of the Council to face anything in the shape of a practical housing scheme may be ascribed to the following reasons :

(1) A very large number of working people in the district, over 33 per cent, own their own houses. They have acquired their homes as the result of hard work and thrift. At the present time Portland is exceedingly prosperous and wages have never been higher in the stone trade. It is only natural that house owners (and they are not inarticulate) should resent the

building (with rate assistance) of houses for a similar class who can if they are prepared to make the necessary sacrifices provide houses for themselves.

(2) The cost of building in Portland owing to the hilly nature of the district would not permit houses to be let at an economic rent of 7/6 per week.

(3) The rents in Portland are very low—the average rental is between 4/6 and 5/6 per week. There would be no voluntary move to better class houses at a higher rental unless it was stimulated by compulsory closing of the worst class of houses. The Council consider that the housing problem of Portland is to improve the dwellings of a considerable number of families who occupy the worst class of houses in the district. Unfortunately this has not been done, as will be seen from my further observations.

3. There is not likely to be any important alteration in the nature of the population in the near future.

(ii) Overcrowding.

(1) Extent. There is undoubtedly a large amount of overcrowding in the district. The extent may be gauged in some degree at least when I state that hundreds of houses originally intended for one family are now occupied by two or three.

(2) Causes. The main cause of overcrowding is of course lack of houses.

(3) and (4) Even in very gross cases it has been found impossible to take action owing to the lack of accommodation. Twelve cases of overcrowding have come to my knowledge during the year, only one of which was satisfactorily dealt

with. It is very difficult at present to deal with overcrowding caused by members of the same family. Generally speaking this work has been in abeyance, simply because of the uselessness of trying to obtain a conviction in face of the abnormal shortage of houses and the inability to find other accommodation.

3. Fitness of Houses.

1. (a) General Standard of housing in the area.

The general standard of working class houses in the district is decidedly poor. Generally speaking the worst houses are the four roomed houses with miniature yards and the water closet outside. About 93 per cent of the total houses in the district are without proper food larders and about the same percentage without fixed baths. 37.5 per cent of private families occupy four rooms or less, and 62.4 per cent occupy five rooms or less.

(b) Many of these houses are too small and too ill found in conveniences to be suitable according to modern views for healthful habitations. They are let at low rents as they need to be to suit the ability to pay of those who occupy them. The unfit houses existing in the District are the very old houses which were built long before any bye-laws were in force. The principal defects are deficient ventilation, low ceilings, defective lighting, insufficient window space, damp walls of living and sleeping rooms, lack of conveniences for decent living *e.g.* proper facilities for cooking and storing food and washing accommodation.

(c) There is very little supervision of property by owners in the district. Many houses have become quite unfit for occupation owing to the filthy and destructive habits of the tenants. On the other hand it is surprising the great efforts

some tenants will make to ameliorate the bad housing conditions under which they are compelled to live. Many will re-decorate their rooms and houses and even carry out minor repairs, but they cannot be expected to renew window sashes and frames, repair roofs, and plaster work.

2. General Action Taken as regards Unfit Houses.

(a) Action under the Public Health Acts has been practically confined to dealing with urgent nuisances *e.g.* leaky roofs, defective cooking ranges, washing coppers, floors, etc.

2. (b) No action has been taken under the Housing Acts during the year. No attempt has been made to carry out thorough repairs.

(3) There is great difficulty in getting ordinary repairs done owing to the cost of labour and materials. Again owing to the Restriction of Rents Act, landlords have no money for repairs. To get anything like thorough repairs done to some of the old cottages let at a rental of 3/- to 4/- per week would mean more than the market value of the house. As Medical Officer of Health one feels diffident in taking action for effecting the necessary repairs, when one knows that a landlord whose only source of income is from rents of a certain number of houses, finds it exceedingly difficult to live himself. Instances have come to my notice from time to time where, owing to the high wages and cost of materials, even the abatement of an urgent nuisance has meant depriving the owner of any return from his property.

At the monthly meeting held in February of the present year I called the attention of the Sanitary Committee to the fact that out of 41 houses inspected during the first seven months of the year, 18 were recorded as more or less damp. Yet there was no record that the defect was remedied or any subsequent action taken.

Again, on examining 124 Housing Record Cards dealing with the inspection of houses in the past 18 months, I found that 40 were recorded without defects and 84 defective. In only ten cards was there any note of subsequent action.

Article iii., Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, states that "Records of the dwelling houses, etc., shall be prepared under the direction and supervision of the Medical Officer of Health." It is obviously quite impossible to carry out this work unless the M.O.H. is supplied with clerical assistance.

In view of the slow pace at which house building proceeds together with the high cost of repairs and the very low rents in the district, I fear we must recognise that a lower standard of housing has to prevail for many years to come.

(4) About 20 per cent of the houses in the district have no internal water supply. The water has to be fetched from an outside tap or standpipe.

Pail closets are in use at eight houses, otherwise the water carriage system is general throughout the district. The disposal of house refuse is dealt with under "Scavenging." There is no record of any action taken in connection with providing an internal supply of water to houses during the year.

(iv) Unhealthy Areas :—

No action has been taken during the year under I. and II. of the Housing Act, 1890, in regard to unhealthy areas.

No complaints were received as to any unhealthy area during the year.

(v) Bye-laws relating to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—

(1) These have been dealt in the Report on page 17. :

(2) Bye-laws made under Section 6 (1) Housing Act, 1925, would be of much help in the district.

(vi) General and Miscellaneous :—

Nil.

Housing Statistics for Year 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(A) Total (including numbers given separately under B)	...	...	...	Nil
(B) With State assistance under Housing Acts :—				
(I) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	Nil
(II) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	Nil

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	114
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	78
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	33
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	15
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action Under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	Nil
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11
--	-----	-----	-----	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	8
---------------	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

There are now 18 Cowsheds in the occupation of 18 Cowkeepers, and 7 Milkshops on the Register. One Cowkeeper has given up keeping Cows in Portland but obtains his milk from outside sources, and the use of one cowshed has been discontinued in consequence of action under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922. Nearly 50 per cent. of the milk sold in the district is brought from outside areas. As a rule milk produced in the district is distributed within a few hours of production to customers in the vicinity. As will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's Statement 104 inspections were made during the year and 18 notices given (8 for limewashing, 4 for removal of manure, and 6 to empty cesspools). There is no need for the cowkeepers to take fright or complain that any of the above requirements are too drastic.

In 1924, a special report (after a very thorough inspection) was presented to the Council on the various cowsheds and dairies

in the district. This report dealt more particularly with the methods in use and certain recommendations were made with a view to obtaining reasonably clean milk. Since that report there has been a slow, a very slow improvement in the condition of the premises, but as regards methods the amount of improvement is negligible.

I recognise that the difficulties of the small producer, who is also a retailer, are considerable, and that he needs sympathy and help to surmount them. These difficulties are not lessened by suggesting that the conditions in the cowsheds are satisfactory or that a dirty manure laden milk may not be nice, but that it does no harm. My utmost sympathy is, however, extended to him when it happens that those who are supposed to supervise his methods have but a hazy appreciation of what clean milk means.

The Cowkeeper has to conduct his trade on business lines—that is he wants to produce milk at the lowest possible cost and sell it at the highest possible price. He gets no more for clean milk than dirty milk, and consequently the balance swings in favour of dirty milk. It is up to the Local Authority to make the scales tip the other way. It has been suggested that there should be a degraded milk—Grade C Milk below any reasonable standard of purity, and should be marked “inferior quality milk which should be boiled before use.” As a matter of fact I should say that there are very few people in the district who do not boil their milk although everyone knows that boiled and heated milk is not the equal of raw pure milk.

I recently paid surprise visits to some of the sheds during milking time and the conditions under which it was produced in the majority of these inspected was as follows:—

Cows plasters with manure, udders dirty. Cows milked by men or boys in their ordinary clothes, milkers' hands dirty. Milkers seated on filthy milking stools and every time they shifted the stool

refouled their hands. In every case the cows were milked into open pails which no doubt received a certain amount of manure from the manure covered flanks of the cows. In two instances the milk was poured into a churn standing in the same dusty sheds.

These conditions are not satisfactory and further efforts will have to be made to secure grooming of the cows, washing of the udders, and cleansing of the milkers' hands before milking.

The Committee on the Production and Distribution of Milk presented to the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1919, a report on the question of handling milk at the cowshed, during transit, and at the place of distribution.

At the cowshed, apart from the construction and proper arrangement of the premises and the cleanliness of the milkers, two great factors have to be considered, the contamination from dirty udders and the contamination from dirty vessels. The contamination from dirty udders is diminished to a very large extent by the cleansing of the udders immediately before milking and by the use of the covered milking pail. Contamination from milk vessels can be reduced to a minimum by thorough cleansing, with a plentiful supply of warm water, to which some washing soda has been added, and by the final use of steam. Milk cannot be handled properly at the cowshed without a supply of steam. This may appear at first sight to be difficult and costly in the case of small premises but as I have shown in my special report, that a sufficient amount of steam can be supplied at a reasonable initial, and a very small running cost.

(i) No action so far has been taken in regard to tuberculous milk, but it has been arranged to have a number of samples of milk examined during the coming year for the presence of tubercle.

On November 23rd, the Sanitary Inspector called my attention to the fact that he had noticed a much emaciated cow in one of the sheds. On examination I found this cow far advanced in calf, much

wasted and coughing, but which was not giving milk at the time. I gave instructions that this animal should be isolated from the remainder of the herd pending examination by a Veterinary Surgeon. It was subsequently examined by a Veterinary Surgeon and later slaughtered. The animal was found to be extensively affected with Tuberculosis. This cow was stated to have been sold by another milk producer in the district a few months previously without any disclosure of the condition.

To detect such cases reliance has to be placed upon notification to the County Authority (Tuberculosis Order, 1925), by the owners of the animals or by Veterinary Surgeons in the course of their practices. Yet this animal must have been spreading tubercle in the shed at least for months before it was detected.

(ii.) The M.O.H. advised that the registration of eight retailers should be revoked owing to the condition of the premises or the methods practiced thereat. The retailers came before the Committee and agreed to carry out certain works, etc., in connection with their premises. In no instance was the registration revoked but as a condition in one case it was agreed that the use of one shed should be discontinued.

(iii.) No licences have been granted under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923.

(iv.) The following shows the summarized results of the bacteriological examinations of ten samples of milk :—

Bacteria under 30,000 per 1 c.c.	...	...	1
„ „ 200,000 „ „	...	...	3
„ over 200,000 „ „	...	...	6

Bacillus Coli :—

negative 1/10th c.c.	...	...	0
„ 1/100th c.c.	...	...	1
„ 1/1000th c.c.	...	...	4
positive 1/1000th c.c.	...	...	5

Only one sample came up to the standard laid down by the Ministry of Health for Grade A milk.

(b) Meat.

(i) There is only one slaughter-house in the district. Notices are sent to the M.O.H. each time of slaughtering. The actual inspections are however carried out by the Sanitary Inspector unless he is not available, when the M.O.H. inspects. Specific instructions have been given that in all cases of doubt or difficulty the M.O.H. must be informed. So far the Regulations have worked quite smoothly and there have been no causes for complaint. 74 visits were made to the slaughter-house. The Inspector or the M.O.H. was present each time slaughtering took place.

The following represents the number of animal carcasses inspected respectively at the slaughter-house since April 1st, 1925 :—

Beeves	...	50
Calves	...	7
Sheep	...	50
Pigs	...	53
Goats	...	1
Total		<hr/> 161 <hr/>

Unsound and diseased meat destroyed during 1925 :—

Beef	...	108 lbs. unsound
Livers and Lungs		94 lbs. diseased

The condemned meat is dealt with by burying at the Council's refuse tip.

Soon after the Meat Regulations came into force, two cases came to my knowledge of killing pigs on unlicensed premises and selling the carcasses to local butchers. It is an offence under the Public Health Acts to slaughter on premises which have not been registered or licensed for that purpose, except in cases of persons feeding or

slaughtering animals for consumption by themselves or members of their households. In such cases the surplus meat may be sold, provided such killings are occasional and not carried on as a regular business. The position was explained to the pig keepers and they agreed to discontinue slaughtering.

(ii.) Immediately before the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, came into force a conference of the M.O.H.'s and Sanitary Inspectors of the adjacent areas was suggested by the M.O.H. of Weymouth. There was later a meeting of the Meat Traders' Association. As a result there was general agreement as to what should be the minimum requirements to be insisted upon in these areas.

Copies of the regulations were sent to all persons affected and all the meat traders' premises in the district were visited by the M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector. What was required in the way of protecting the meat exposed for sale from dust, flies, or other means of pollution, was explained. I laid particular emphasis, in my talks with the Butchers, on four points likely to cause trouble. (1) The wearing of a head cap when lifting meat (2) protection of meat from flies (3) the closing of Butchers' shop windows (4) the provision of proper galvanized or enamelled iron sanitary bins provided with covers for trimmings and refuse.

The first part of the Regulations aim at ensuring that meat supplied to the people shall be free from disease or unsoundness and the second part that meat shall be preserved from dirt or contamination until it has passed into the hands of the consumer. It is only in connection with the latter provisions that any difficulty has arisen.

Owing to changes of Sanitary Inspectors in the past year, the latter part of the Regulations has been allowed to become a dead letter. I cannot observe any more effort on the Butchers' part to protect their meat from contamination than before the Regulations were issued. Portland is a notoriously windy district—"the dust bloweth where it listeth," yet I am told it cannot by any possible

means blow on to the meat, even when the windows are open. It is not possible for me personally to make the necessary and continuous observations, but I have demonstrated that in existing circumstances contamination is inevitable. It must be shown that it is actually occurring. It will then become the duty of the Local Authority to see that it is reduced.

(iii.) The following table shews the number of slaughterhouses in use at the dates mentioned :—

		In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	...	2	1	1
Licensed	...	—	—	—

The present slaughterhouse is an old building quite unsuited for the purpose of slaughtering. On nearly every occasion I visit the premises I have to call attention to the want of facilities for washing the hands, or of clean towels for drying them.

In 1919 an effort was made by the Council to acquire the necessary land to provide a Public Abattoir for the district. The land was the property of the Woods and Forests Department. By some strange process of reasoning that Department refused permission (on æsthetic grounds!) to allow the land to be used for the purpose of building an Abattoir.

(c) Other Foods.

The inspection of fish, fruit, and vegetables is not subject to such difficulties as that of meat; unsoundness is more obvious and more difficult to disguise. The various fishmongers, greengrocers, provision shops, and other places where food is prepared or sold were frequently visited during the year.

Voluntary surrenders or seizures of unsound food stuffs during the year were nil.

Bakehouses. At the end of the year there were seven workshop bakehouses and four factory bakehouses in occupation

within the district, of these ten are above ground and one under ground. These places have been regularly inspected. As a result of a recent inspection the following points were noted :—In three instances the ovens are fired from the front or sides within the bakehouses, and consequently uncleanness arises from coal dust and ashes. Better facilities for washing the bakers' hands should be provided at two bakehouses. Ventilation defective at two bakehouses. Arrangements are being made to improve the conditions. One bakehouse is seriously defective as regards ventilation, light, etc., and pressure is being brought to bear on the occupier to acquire new premises. On the whole the bakehouses are kept in a cleanly condition.

The present method of storage and distribution of bread affords many opportunities for the spread of disease. I have often seen loaves of bread replaced in a basket after they had fallen on the road. Steps should be taken to secure the protection of bread, and as far as possible all confectionery, by sealing the articles in paper. This is done to some extent at present by the Co-operative Society.

Vegetables are also found stacked at the entrance to retail shops where they are exposed to dirt or the attention of passing dogs. Sweets, confectionery, and sugar may be seen exposed for sale in shop windows during the summer time and rendered unclean by the presence of dead and living flies and their excreta. Action might be taken in these cases under Section 116, P.H.A. 1875, but it is doubtful whether a conviction would be obtained.

The wrapping of meat, fried fish and chip potatoes in old newspapers or previously used paper should cease—only clean white paper, preferably grease-proof, should be allowed to come in contact with the food. Existing powers to deal with places where foods are manufactured or cooked are quite inadequate. There are no powers for dealing with such places except in so far as the conditions come under the Nuisance Clauses of the Public Health

Act. Beyond giving advice as to the necessity for cleanliness, which advice may or may not be followed by the worker, we have no power in these matters.

It therefore appears that the time has arrived when further steps should be taken to secure cleanliness in the sale and distribution of food.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Notifications during	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	26	26	2	21	19	75	3
Diphtheria ...	7	4	8	—	4	18	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	2	—	—	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	6	18	6	12	6	1	25
Erysipelas ...	3	1	3	4	1	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	19	15	18	9	9	?	32
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	2	4	6	6	6	?	3
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	2	2	1	1	1	—
Malaria ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	1	1	1	1	2

Small Pox.

No cases of Small Pox were notified in the past five years. I desire to again point out that the most outstanding and pressing need of the district is that provision should be made for the isolation of Small Pox. At present we are not in a position to deal with a single case of Small Pox. It must not be forgotten that precautions in dealing with the introductory case or cases are of infinitely more value and effectiveness than all the most elaborate arrangements when the inevitable geometrical increase of a neglected first case has begun. Year after year I have called attention to the risks to which the inhabitants of the district are exposed by having no provision for the isolation of Small Pox. In view of the fact that Small Pox is exceedingly prevalent at present in certain parts of England, and continues to increase, it seems almost criminal that the present conditions of unpreparedness should be allowed to continue.

Portland is notoriously badly vaccinated—over 80 per cent of the younger members of the community are unvaccinated—so that even with Hospital provision an outbreak of Small Pox amongst this susceptible class would be difficult to confine to moderate limits.

There is but one preventative action against Small Pox which is of any use whatever, namely, re-vaccination. Adults who neglect to take this precaution have only themselves to blame if they become infected and parents who neglect to take advantage of the opportunities offered incur heavy responsibilities. Small Pox is the only infectious disease which can really be said to be preventable. In the case of other infectious diseases any person in contact runs great risk of becoming infected, no matter what precautions he or she may take. It is quite the reverse with Small Pox. Given a recent successful re-vaccination the risk is nil and one can almost certainly guarantee that no contact or attendant will contract the disease.

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Scarlet Fever.

The chief difficulties experienced were in connection with (1) suppressed cases (2) mild or unrecognised cases, and (3) carriers. The latter was well illustrated in connection with an isolated outbreak during 1925. Four cases in the same household were definitely traced to another member of the family who was stated to have had a suspicious rash three months previously. On three occasions I carefully examined this "carrier" but could find no evidence beyond a slightly sore nose. I think it is the general experience with regard to Scarlet Fever that the exact source of only a small percentage of the cases can be traced. All notified cases are personally visited by the M.O.H. as well as suspected cases reported from the Schools. When two or more cases are notified from a department of a School, that School is visited and the children examined.

During the period under review there was nothing to suggest infection through milk. There were three deaths among 94 cases, so that the death rate per cent of cases is 3'2. Arrangements have been made for using the Dick test for diagnostic purposes.

Diphtheria.

There has been a steady decrease in the number of cases notified during the past five years. The total number of cases notified during the above period was 23, of which 3 were notified from Military married quarters. It has been the experience here that as the incidence of Scarlet Fever increases, the incidence of Diphtheria diminishes. There was one death so that the death rate per cent of cases is 4'3. Anti-toxin was not administered, the patient had been ill for a week and was actually dying when a medical man was called in.

Swabs are taken as a routine measure from all contacts and whenever the notifications show that a School is implicated, that School is visited by the M.O.H., the children examined, and swabs taken from all suspicious cases.

So far no use has been made of the Schick test nor of the artificial methods of immunisation.

"Carrier" Cases. Instructions are given to parents as to treatment and the cases are kept under observation. This method was found to be very unsatisfactory and a report was made to the Sanitary Committee in 1920, suggesting that arrangements should be made for the daily treatment of such cases, but no action was taken.

"Return" Cases. There were no "return" cases under the heading of Diphtheria. The throats of all children are examined bacteriologically before discharge from Hospital.

There were two "return" cases of Scarlet Fever. One case was notified from the same house 25 days after the previous case was discharged from Hospital. The first case had no complications in Hospital, and none supervened after its return home.

In the second instance there was also an interval of 25 days. A week prior to notification the patient had occupied the same bed as a "Carrier" who had not been in Hospital, and there was no evidence whatever to show that infection had been conveyed by the cases discharged from hospital. Had I not been aware that infection had previously occurred from the same source, this so-called "return" case would be ascribed to the cases going out of Hospital. The "return" case to my mind means nothing more than that the second case has occurred in the house within a month after the return to that house of a case of Scarlet Fever discharged from Hospital cured.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid.

Only one case of Typhoid and two of Paratyphoid B have been notified since 1920. The source of infection in the genuine case could not be traced. There were no deaths. Contacts in the affected household were inoculated with typhoid vaccine. Blood was also obtained from other members of the household for Widal's reaction.

Puerperal Fever.

Only one case was notified during the above period. The patient was removed to Hospital and recovered.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Three cases were notified. There were two deaths. Post mortem examinations were not made. The third case was transferred to a Mental Hospital and recovered.

Acute Polio-Myelitis.

Only one case was notified in the past 5 years, a boy aged 6 years, who recovered, but with resulting paralysis of leg.

Dysentery.

Only one case was notified. The blood examinations were negative and there were no bacteriological examinations of the Stools. The diagnosis was not very definite.

Malaria.

Two cases were notified. The disease was contracted abroad. No anophele mosquitoes have been discovered in the district.

Pneumonia.

The total number of cases notified during the past 5 years was 48. There were 25 deaths so that the death rate per cent of cases was 59.5.

All cases of Pneumonia are visited and if the conditions or premises are unsatisfactory they are offered treatment in Hospital. Only one case was removed to the Infectious Hospital.

Influenza.

A special enquiry was made in 1922 as to the incidence and mortality of Influenza in the Tophill and Underhill districts, and the epidemics of 1918 and 1922 were compared as they affected the Tophill and Underhill Districts respectively.

It was noted that the deaths of females from Influenza in 1918 were nearly double that among males, while the male deaths in the 1922 epidemic were double that among females. It was also shown that the 1918 epidemic fell with special severity on young people, 29 out of 35 deaths were under 45 years of age, while in the 1922 epidemic nearly 50% of the deaths were over 58 years of age.

The mortality as it affected the Tophill and Underhill Districts respectively during the epidemics of 1918 and 1922 is compared in the following table :—

Tophill District	No. of Deaths from Influenza	Rate per 1000
1918	22	3·6
1922	1	0·17
Underhill District	No. of Deaths from Influenza	Rate per 1000
1918	13	2·6
1922	8	1·8

It will be seen that the Tophill District which suffered severely in 1918 escaped very lightly in 1922, while the reverse was the case in the Underhill District. Careful enquiries made at all affected households from whence cases of Pneumonia had been notified, showed that none of the sufferers had been attacked with severe pulmonary symptoms during the 1918 epidemic. I have given a number of instances in my Annual Report for 1922 demonstrating that illness and recovery from Influenza with severe pulmonary symptoms confers immunity (at least for a number of years) against attacks of a similar kind.

Whooping Cough.

This disease was very prevalent during 1921, 1922, and 1923. There were seven deaths. Whooping Cough is not a disease which affects school life to the same extent as Measles since it occurs in younger children, many of whom have not reached that tender (and in my opinion much too early) age at which they are received into the Public Elementary Schools. A trained nurse would be an invaluable acquisition in dealing with outbreaks of Whooping Cough.

Measles.

There were sporadic outbreaks during the period under review, only one death was recorded. Suitable cases are removed from unsatisfactory homes to the Isolation Hospital. This was only necessary once during 1924. The need for the help of a trained nurse in connection with outbreaks of measles is referred to under the heading of School Notifications.

Hospital Accommodation.

The district has no Isolation Hospital of its own. By an arrangement with the Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority of which Portland is one of the Contributory members, we are allowed to send our infectious cases to that Hospital. Only one type of infectious disease can be isolated there at the same time.

Bacteriological Work.

The bacteriological examinations of specimens are undertaken by Professor Hewlett, Dreadnought Hospital, London, and the following table shows the number of specimens examined in the past 5 years :—

Disease Suspected.				Specimens.	
Diphtheria	154
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	74

Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	2
Malaria	...	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	<u>239</u>

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied at the expense of the Council in the cases of poorer patients. The Serum is always at hand at the Council Offices, or in cases of emergency at the residence of the M.O.H. or Sanitary Inspector. Outfits for taking Swabs from suspicious throats or noses can be obtained just as readily, and are examined free of charge.

The following notifications of Infectious Diseases, through the courtesy of the Medical Officers, were received from the Royal Naval Hospital and H.M. Borstal Institution :—

Royal Naval Hospital.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
Scarlet Fever	24	—	2	1	2	29
Diphtheria ...	3	0	1	—	—	4
Enteric Fever	1	—	1	—	—	2
Pneumonia ...	9	5	4	5	9	32
Erysipelas ...	—	—	2	3	—	5
Malaria ...	2	2	—	1	—	5
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	—	1	—	3
Measles ...	—	4	3	1	2	10
German Measles	—	4	—	2	2	8
Chicken Pox	1	—	2	—	—	3
Influenza ...	5	117	1	—	—	123
Mumps ...	6	5	—	6	2	19
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	9	2	8	10	40
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	1	—	1	2

In the same period two cases of Diphtheria, one of Pneumonia, and one of Erysipelas were notified from H.M. Borstal Institution.

These notifications are apart from those notified as occurring amongst the families of the Officers which are included in the notifications of the District.

School Intimations of Disease. There has been on an average over 400 notifications of infectious or suspected infectious diseases received from the Head Teachers of the Public Elementary Schools each year. These notifications included Measles, Chicken Pox, Mumps, Whooping-Cough, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Sore Throats, and other diseases. As far as possible cases of suspected infectious disease are visited by the M.O.H., but it is quite impossible to carry out the work of visiting non-notifiable diseases unless I obtain the assistance of a trained Nurse. The Teachers have certainly a very decided grievance in the matter owing to the fact that they are compelled to notify numbers of cases to the M.O.H. and yet very few of these cases are investigated or reported on.

The Council may appoint a Nurse for infectious diseases under the Amendment Act of 1907, or under the Special Regulations for Influenza, Pneumonia, Dysentery, etc. Unfortunately, there is no grant in aid. It is becoming more evident every day that the best results for the Public Health are to be obtained by carrying instruction into the homes and there is no one more suited for this work than a trained nurse. The work now carried out by the Sanitary Inspector with regard to notified infectious diseases could be replaced by the enquiries and advice tendered by a trained nurse, and in this way the Inspector would be relieved of his enquiry work and have more time for the General Sanitary Work of the District. All non-notifiable infectious diseases reported from the Schools could be visited by the Nurse for the purpose of investigation as to source of origin, etc. A nurse could undertake the supervision and treatment of contacts. Without the help of a trained nurse it is quite impossible to deal satisfactorily with an outbreak of measles, for it would be necessary to have someone who would be responsible for the watching and reporting any illness amongst the contacts, also the nurse would be available for nursing in the home when need arose. Sir Geo. Newman, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry,

lays particular stress on the value of trained nurses in giving advice with regard to disease in the home, and states in his report—"It is essential that Sanitary Authorities should have a call on the services of nurses for home nursing whenever the need for utilizing them arises." The question of providing a nurse for the district is a matter which should receive the serious consideration of the Council.

Cleansing and Disinfection. There are no facilities available in the district for the cleansing of verminous persons, but permission has been obtained to remove such persons to the Port Sanitary Hospital for bathing and disinfection. Bedding and clothing of such persons are also removed there for disinfestation.

Articles of bedding and clothing which have been exposed to infection are removed in the Council's Motor Ambulance to the Port Sanitary Hospital for disinfection. The infected rooms are cleansed and sprayed with Formalin under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1925.

Disease			Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	19	16	—
Diphtheria	...	...	4	4	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	6	1	4
Other diseases generally notifiable :—					
Erysipelas	...	...	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	1	—	1
Malaria	...	...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	—	—

Three of the above cases of Diphtheria occurred amongst soldiers' families at the Verne Citadel.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Aged Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmon-ary		Non-Pul-monary		Pulmon-ary		Non-Pul-monary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	5	4	2	4	3	1	—

All cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified before death. A case of Tubercular Peritonitis was not notified. The patient died in a hospital outside the district and the first intimation was from the quarterly return of deaths transferable to the district. Failure to notify in such cases arises from the difficulty of arriving at a correct diagnosis. The notification of Tuberculosis may be regarded as efficient.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken under the above Regulations during the year.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

No action has been taken under Section 62 of the above Act.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Epidemic Diarrhœa.—Only two deaths have been recorded in the past five years from Epidemic Diarrhœa. The general measures advised for the prevention of Epidemic Diarrhœa were:—the prompt removal of animal and vegetable refuse (the breeding place of flies), and the more frequent cleansing and watering of streets and yards to reduce dust. Notices to be distributed calling attention to the necessity of keeping food properly stored and covered. I can say, that none of these measures could have contributed in the slightest to the remarkable decrease in this district of Epidemic Diarrhœa during the past five years. I am inclined to believe that the decrease in the death rate from this disease is chiefly due to the relatively cold and wet summers we experienced during the above period.

The other infectious diseases of parturient women and young children are dealt with under Infectious Diseases together with the methods suggested to diminish mortality and permanent injury to health caused by these diseases.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases.			Vision	Vision	Total	Deaths
Notified 1921 to 1925	Treated		Unim- paired	Impaired	Blind- ness	
	At Home	In Hospital				
	8	1	9	—	—	—

Four of the above cases were treated as out patients of the Port Sanitary Hospital and in some instances received treatment two or three times a day.

A Midwife, who also acts as Health Visitor, was appointed for the District in 1924. Her influence in relation to the care and treatment of the eyes in the newly born baby will be of immense value.

Administration of Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. Portland Urban District.

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

Dear Sir.

The following is a statement of the Samples taken in your District during the past year :—

Sample.	No.	If adulterated.
Brandy	1	—
Cider	1	—
Cocoa	1	—
Cream of Tarter	1	—
Fruit, Tinned	1	—
Tincture of Iodine	1	—
Macaroni	1	—
Milk	6	(1) Yes.
Rice	1	—
Salmon, Tinned	1	—
Shredded Suet	1	—
Tapioca	1	—
Tea	1	—
Vinegar	1	—
Whiskey	1	—

Adulterated Sample—Milk.

Action Taken—Prosecution. Dismissed on payment of costs.

Yours faithfully,

J. ELLIOTT ROBINSON,

County Medical Officer.

The Medical Officer of Health,

Urban District, Portland.



