

[Report 1936] / Medical Officer of Health, Portslade-by-Sea U.D.C.

Contributors

Portslade-by-Sea (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1936

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URBAN DISTRICT

of

PORTSLADE-BY-SEA

REPORT

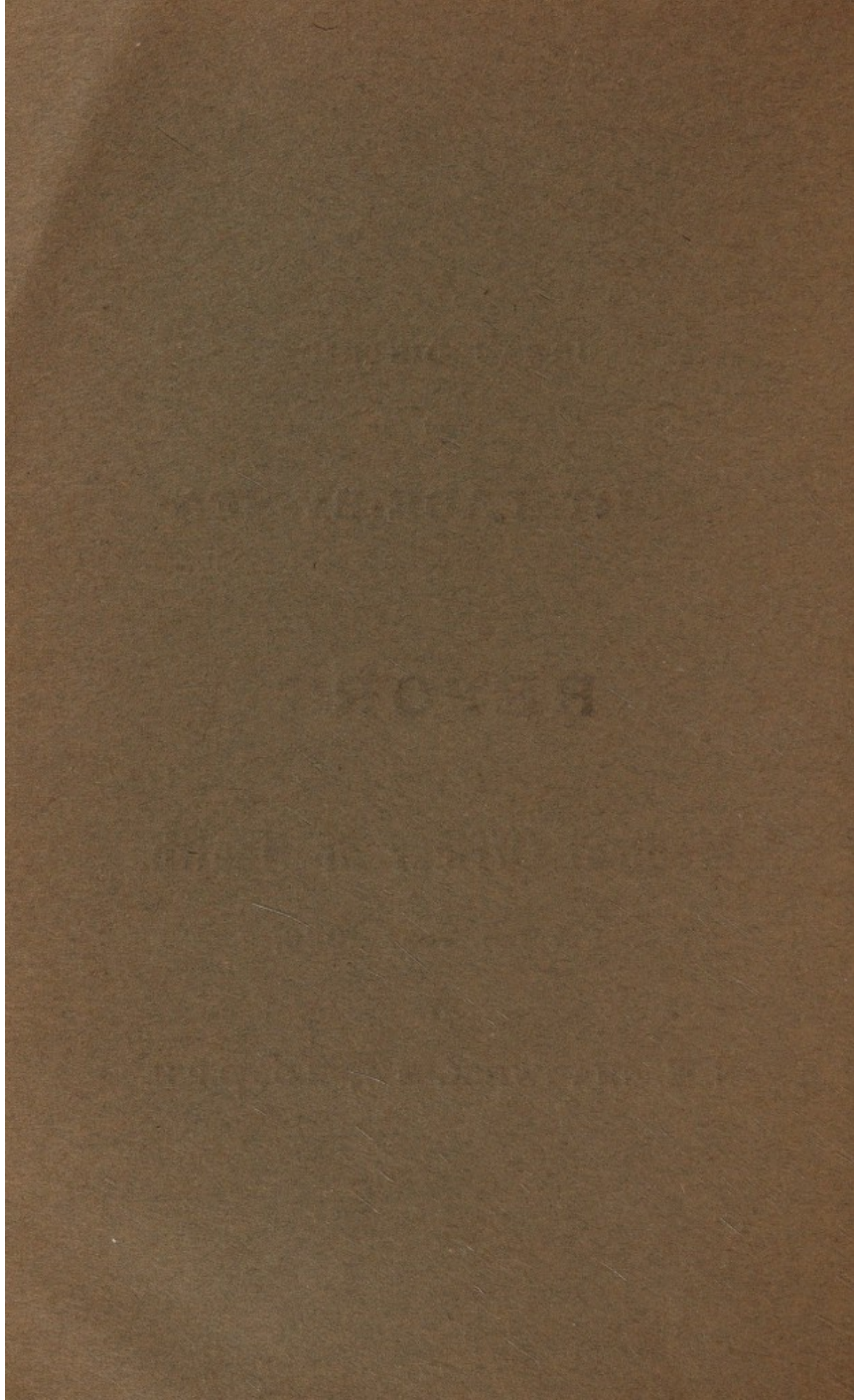
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year 1936,

BY

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.





REPORT

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.D., also M.O.H. of Hove.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

D. V. HOWARD, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

ASSISTANT SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, A.M.Inst. & Cy.E. C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIAN TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRE—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

HEALTH VISITOR AND SCHOOL NURSE—

Miss I. O. LINTON, S.C.M., H.V's., Certificate.

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1936.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1936. It complies with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and follows the lines of previous years. The health of the town was exceptionally good, there being very little infectious illness—only 13 cases of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Diphtheria being notified during the twelve months.

It is a matter for congratulation that along with the very considerable rise in the number of births there has been a diminution in the number of infant deaths so that the Infant Mortality Rate is below that of the country as a whole. In the same way the deaths and death rates among adults are decreased.

In connection with School Medical Inspection I examined 400 children as Routines and 53 were found to be in need of treatment. In Nutrition 10 were classified as Excellent, 316 as Normal, and 74 as Subnormal, the majority of the latter are receiving milk in school.

During the year the assessment of the permitted number of persons per house according to the Housing Act, 1936, was completed, and as from the 1st January, 1937, overcrowding became an offence on the part of both tenant and landlord.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN E. CHADWICK.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, 1936.

Area (acres) 1,961.

Population—Census, 1931—9,527.

Resident Population for 1936—11,100.

Inhabited houses (1921)—1,527 : Estimated 1936, 2,926.

Families or separate occupiers—1936—estimated 3,288.

Rateable value—£93,777.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£391.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—The population is mainly working-class engaged in the Brighton and Hove Gas Works, factories and laundries. There are no unhealthy occupations; the employers are in nearly all cases keenly interested in the welfare of their workers.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female
Live Births	{ Legitimate	176	87	89
	{ Illegitimate	4	3	1

Birth-rate 17·1.

Stillbirths:—5. Rate per 1000 births—27·7

DEATHS	117	50	67
--------	-----	----	----

Corrected Death-rate 10·6 Standard Death-rate 10·49

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-birth:—
From Sepsis: none. From other causes: none.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—7.

Rate per 1000 births: Total 50·0

DEATHS from

Measles (all ages)	...	...	none
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	1

BIRTH RATE:

This has shown a very considerable increase from 13·6 to 17·1 which is actually the highest recorded since 1921. In spite of this increase in the grand total of births the number of infant deaths decreased from 9 to 7 with the result that the infant mortality rate is only 50 per 1,000 births as against 66 last year.

POPULATION :

The Registrar-General has estimated that the population in mid-1936 stood at 11,100, an increase of 810 over 1935. It is difficult to follow the methods involved in arriving at these figures but a great development in the Mile Oak and other areas must have resulted in very considerable additions to the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH :

In 1936 there were 29 deaths classified as due to Heart Disease, 28 to Cancer, and 8 to Apoplexy. There were only 3 deaths from Tuberculosis (all respiratory).

As was explained last year, the Corrected Death Rate, which is the total of deaths assigned to the district wherever they may occur, is not a true guide to the health of the area in comparison with other areas, because the age and sex distribution of the population vary very greatly between different parts of the country. The Registrar General, therefore, supplies a corrective factor (.99 in the case of Portslade) which, multiplied into the Corrected Death Rate, supplies the Standard Death Rate. Actually Portslade's Standard and Corrected Death Rates are almost identical, 10.6 and 10.49, and are lower than the whole country (12.1).

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) General and (b) for Infectious Diseases.

Full provision is made for nursing all cases, and for Midwifery by the Portslade District Nursing Association, affiliated to the Queen's Institute of District Nursing and East Sussex Nursing Federation, under whom the nurses mentioned above work.

Since April, 1930, the East Sussex County Council has been responsible for Midwifery, and the Nursing of Infectious Disease among Children.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS are made by the M.O.H. at the Hove Laboratory.

The specimens examined in 1936, were :—

For Diphtheria :—primary to diagnosis	...	...	49
For Tuberculosis (sputum)	...	...	47

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.	Part III.	July, 1899
Private Street Works Act, 1892		January, 1900
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907		
Sections 15 to 24 and 26 to 33 of Part II., Part III., Part IV., Part VI.		March 12th, 1912
Public Health Act, 1925. Part II., (not Sec. 44 of Part II,) Part III., Part IV., Part V.		Sept. 1st, 1926
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.		Oct. 1933

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS WITH RESPECT TO—

Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	May, 1902
Nuisances	...	...	...	May, 1902
Cemeteries	...	...	revised	March, 1913
Recreation Ground	...	...	...	May, 1902
Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements				May, 1902
Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures used for human habitation		...	...	December, 1922
New Streets and Buildings	...			revised Nov. 1926

HOSPITAL SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR INHABITANTS.

GENERAL—All the voluntary Hospitals in Brighton and Hove are used by Portslade residents.

The Southlands Hospital, under the East Sussex Public Assistance Committee, is also available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. Under the scheme provided by the East Sussex County Council under Section 65 of the Local Government Act, 1929, Portslade's quota of beds allocated at the Hove Sanatorium is raised from 3 to 6.

SMALLPOX. Cases will be admitted to the special hospital of the Brighton Corporation at Fulking Grange, one bed reserved.

TUBERCULOSIS. Patients are sent to Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge: and some to the open air wards at the Southlands Hospital.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS :

Arrangements are made by the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association for emergency cases to be accommodated temporarily at the Brighton Refuge, 19 Wellington Road.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES (a) Infectious cases are removed by the Ambulance of the Hove Council. (b) For non-infectious and accident cases, ambulances can be hired from private owners.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

<i>Name and Situation</i>	<i>When held</i>	<i>Provided by</i>
Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, St. Nicholas' Hall	every Tuesday afternoon	County Council
Day Nursery	none	none
School Clinic for minor ailments St. Nicholas Hall, Portslade	Daily for 2 hours	County Council
Ditto, for teeth, ditto	once weekly	County Council
Tuberculosis Dispensary, Hove Hospital	Wednesdays at 10 a.m.	County Council
Venereal Diseases Clinic, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton	3 days weekly for men and women	County Council
Orthopædic, St. Nicholas Hall	once per month	County Council
Artificial light	no local clinic	

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

PORTSLADE INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1936

1. INFANT WELFARE CENTRE.

- (a) Total number of sessions held during the year 52
- (b) Total number of attendances during the year by children
 - (i) under 1 year of age 1871
 - (ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years 1538
- (c) Total number of children who first attended at the Centre during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance were—
 - (i) under 1 year of age* 113
 - (ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years 24
- (d) Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year were—
 - (i) under 1 year of age 97
 - (ii) over 1 year of age 135
- (e) Maximum number of all mothers who attended at any one time 77

* Excluding children who are known to have previously attended a Centre in another district.

2. ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SERVICES.

("Post-natal" refers only to the examination of mothers for some gynæcological condition).

	Ante-natal	Post-natal
(a) Total number of sessions held during the year	49	Seen at I.W.C. 51
(b) Total number of attendances during the year	445	21
(c) Total number of women who attend at the Clinic during the year	87	17

(d) (i) Is the Ante-natal Clinic held on a separate day or hour from the Infant Welfare Centre? At the end of the Infant Welfare Clinic. Yes.

(ii) Does the Medical Officer hold ante-natal consultations during the usual sessions of the Infant Welfare Centre? No, save for exceptional cases.

3. SUPPLY OF MILK AND FOOD. (Apart from that supplied under the County Council Scheme).

Indicate what arrangements are made for this service by inserting "Yes" or "No" in each space in the following Table:

Terms of Supply	MILK			OTHER FOOD		
	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under 5 years of age	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under 5 years of age
Free, or at less than cost price in necessitous cases	None other than that supplied under the County Council Scheme			Yes	Yes	Yes
At cost price in other cases (e.g. sale of dried milk at Centres)				Cod Liver Oil Yes	Yes	Yes

Date 1/1/37.

Signed KATHLEEN M. YARRAD.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is supplied by the Brighton Corporation. The water is hard but of excellent quality, well ærated and very pure. The supply is constant.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the District are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

During the year estate developments by private enterprise has been extremely active, and it is pleasing to note that with respect to such development, the Council are insisting on the provision of surface water and foul sewers on such estates at the time the estate is developed.

The private development comprising the Paddocks Estate, Mile Oak Road, consist of approximately 115 houses, etc., drained to cesspools. These cesspools comply with the Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings.

Negotiations between the Council and the Developers of this Estate, with a view to making up and sewerage the roads thereon and connecting such sewers to the public sewer now available for the purpose, have been proceeding during the year. As no definite result has been achieved I am pleased to note that the Council have therefore decided to deal with the matter under the Private Street Works Act 1892.

When these private streets are sewered and made up, practically the whole of the houses in such area will then have main drainage available.

The achievement of these works will have the effect of considerably improving the sanitary conditions hitherto existing in such area, and at the same time remove one of the principal sources of danger of pollution to the water supply provided by the Brighton Corporation.

All sewerage is discharged into Intercepting Sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the Board.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

This work is carried out by direct labour by means of two "Dennis" 10 cubic yard petrol driven collecting vehicles and disposal by means of "Controlled Tipping" in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. This system of Collection and Disposal still continues to prove to be thoroughly satisfactory and economical.

Very few and only occasional complaints as to non-collection have been received, which, on investigation, have in all cases been found to be due to the fault of the occupier, generally speaking, owing to access to premises not being available at the time of call.

Owing to the position of the site of the tip being in the centre of the town (although not in a closely built up area) particular care has been taken to ensure that no reason for complaint can arise as a result of the method of disposal employed.

No complaints have been received during the year as to nuisance arising from this method of disposal.

The site of the tip is an old sand and flint pit which had been excavated to various depths, and was purchased some years ago, for firstly, disposal of house refuse in the manner indicated, and eventually for use as a recreation ground.

The work of collection has been efficiently carried out, the refuse being collected once weekly from the backs of the houses.

From experiments carried out and weights taken, the undermentioned figures have been obtained.

Weight per 1,000 population per day (365 days to the year)	...	...	9.9 Cwt.
			£ s. d.
Nett Expenditure per ton collection	...		8 8.35
" " " disposal	...		2 9.1
The total nett expenditure per ton (excluding loan charges and expenditure for new plant out of revenue)	...	...	10 4 75
Expenditure per 1,000 population per annum			
	Collection	78	0 0
	Disposal	25	0 0
Expenditure per 1,000 houses per annum,	Collection	288	0 0
	Disposal	91	0 0

	s.	d.
Rate in the £ for collection and disposal ...	3	50
Cost per bin for emptying (including loan charges)	1	38
" " " (excluding loan charges)	1	16

SANITARY INSPECTION. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices:—

Houses inspected under Housing Regulations ...	491
Houses inspected after complaints ...	153
Routine visits to various places ...	517
Other visits ...	757
Premises disinfected ...	21
Informal notices issued ..	109
Statutory notices issued ...	23
Houses found dirty ..	109
" " overcrowded ...	3
" " with insufficient ashpits or bins ...	40
Drains defective ...	17
Closets " 	28
Sinks " 	47
Roofs and Gutters defective ...	26
Paving of Yards defective ...	17
Minor defects ...	104
Kitcheners defective ...	47
Cesspools defective ...	33

RATS AND MICE. The Sanitary Inspector acts as Officer under this Act, 103 tins of poison with handbills were given free to applicants during the year, and during November an intensive campaign for Rat Week was carried out by the issue of posters, etc.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year two Council Houses were found to be infested and three Non-Council Houses. The whole of these houses were disinfected as follows:—
- (2) (a) Council Houses by means of stripping walls and supplying insecticide powder and disinfectant, and redecorating
- (b) Private Houses, in certain rooms stripping of walls and re-distempering the same, together with a liberal application of insecticide powder and disinfectant.

In the case of (a) the work has been carried out by the Council; In the case of (b) the work has been carried out by the landlord, the Council supplying, free of charge, supplies of insecticide powder and loan of bellows, and disinfectants.

- (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses are that all premises and furniture of persons about to move into Council Houses are inspected prior to removal
- (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out :—
- (a) In Council Houses by the Council.
- (b) In Private Houses by the tenant or the landlord.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1930.

New houses and flats erected during the year :

Total	...	...	...	268
With State Assistance by Local Authority	...	...	...	0
" " " by other persons	...	...	...	0

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES

1. *Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—*

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 491
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 634
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1935 and 1932. 224
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 525
- (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 170

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	181
---	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**A-Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act 1930*

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By Owners | 0 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |

B-Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 109 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners | 23 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |

C-Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling houses unfit for habitation | 2 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders | 0 |
| (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :— | |
| (a) To render the house fit for human habitation | 2 |
| (b) As to usage other than for human habitation | 0 |

D-Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act 1930

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 0 |
| (2) Number of separate tenement or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | 0 |

The total number of houses in the area is estimated to be 2926. Many of these houses in the older parts of the town are not up to modern standards, but with continued inspection remain quite serviceable.

There is no evidence of any widespread overcrowding although a considerable number of families continue to live under inconvenient and unsuitable surroundings. The waiting list for Council Houses to date amounts to 32 applicants living in rooms and 58 applicants who are householders.

FITNESS OF HOUSES. There has been no difficulty in dealing with the defects found in houses ; water supply and drainage are sufficient. All houses with the exception of 13 have water-closets

BYE-LAWS. Are sufficient : No difficulty has arisen in their enforcement. No case of illness due to housing faults has come to my notice.

A large number of other properties were improved in consequence of action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

HOUSING ACT, 1935. OVERCROWDING SURVEY.

The "B" Survey was completed during the year and the Report to the Ministry incorporating Form "C" was submitted to the Ministry of Health on 23rd April, 1936.

At the end of the year the position was again reviewed when the undermentioned figures were ascertained.

NON-COUNCIL HOUSES.

EXTENT OF OVERCROWDING

2 persons in 3 houses.	(None required houses definitely)
1½ " " 2 "	1 requires house definitely
1 " " 2 "	2 require houses definitely
½ " " 7 "	1 requires house definitely
14	4

TYPE OF HOUSE REQUIRED

2	4 bedroom non-parlour
2	3 " "
4	

COUNCIL HOUSES.

EXTENT OF OVERCROWDING

2½ persons in 3 houses				(3 require houses definitely)			
1½	„	„	3	„	3	„	„
1	„	„	2	„	1	„	„
½	„	„	4	„	1	„	„
12				8			

TYPE OF HOUSE ESSENTIAL

4	5 bedroom parlour type
3	4 „ „ „
1	4 „ non-parlour „
8	

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES, 1930

1—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries).	29	2	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	33	2	None
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	0	0	None
TOTAL	62	4	None

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other Nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary Accommodation {	2	2		
	1	1		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (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	5	5	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. There is only 1 farm in the district from which milk is supplied ; this is kept in a satisfactory condition.

There are 4 Dairies in the District, 1 Cowkeeper, 1 vendor of skim milk only, 15 small shops where milk is sold in bottles only : and 22 Retailers and Dairymen who deliver milk in this District, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

MEAT. There are two slaughter-houses in the district ; 28 visits of inspection were made, no notice served for default. No unsound meat was found.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1936.

DISEASE	Total	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Re- moved Hospit'l	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	13		1		4	3	2	2	1						
Erysipelas ...	9						4			1	2	2			
Pneumonia ...	8					1			1	2	3	1			
Diphtheria ...	1								1						
Puerperal Fever	1									1					
Puerperal Pyrexia	2									2					
Encephalitis ...	1						1								
	35		1		4	4	7	2	2	4	3	5	3		

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1936.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 ...	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
35 ...	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7	3	2	3	2	—	—	—

Of the 15 new cases notified during the year 12 received in-patient treatment at various Sanatoria. Portslade comes within the area of the Hove Dispensary, and in that connexion I paid 6 visits to patients in their own homes, and the Health Visitor 50

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS
AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 SECTION, 62

No action was necessary under these powers



