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BOROUGH OF REIGATE.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

A. E. PORTER, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

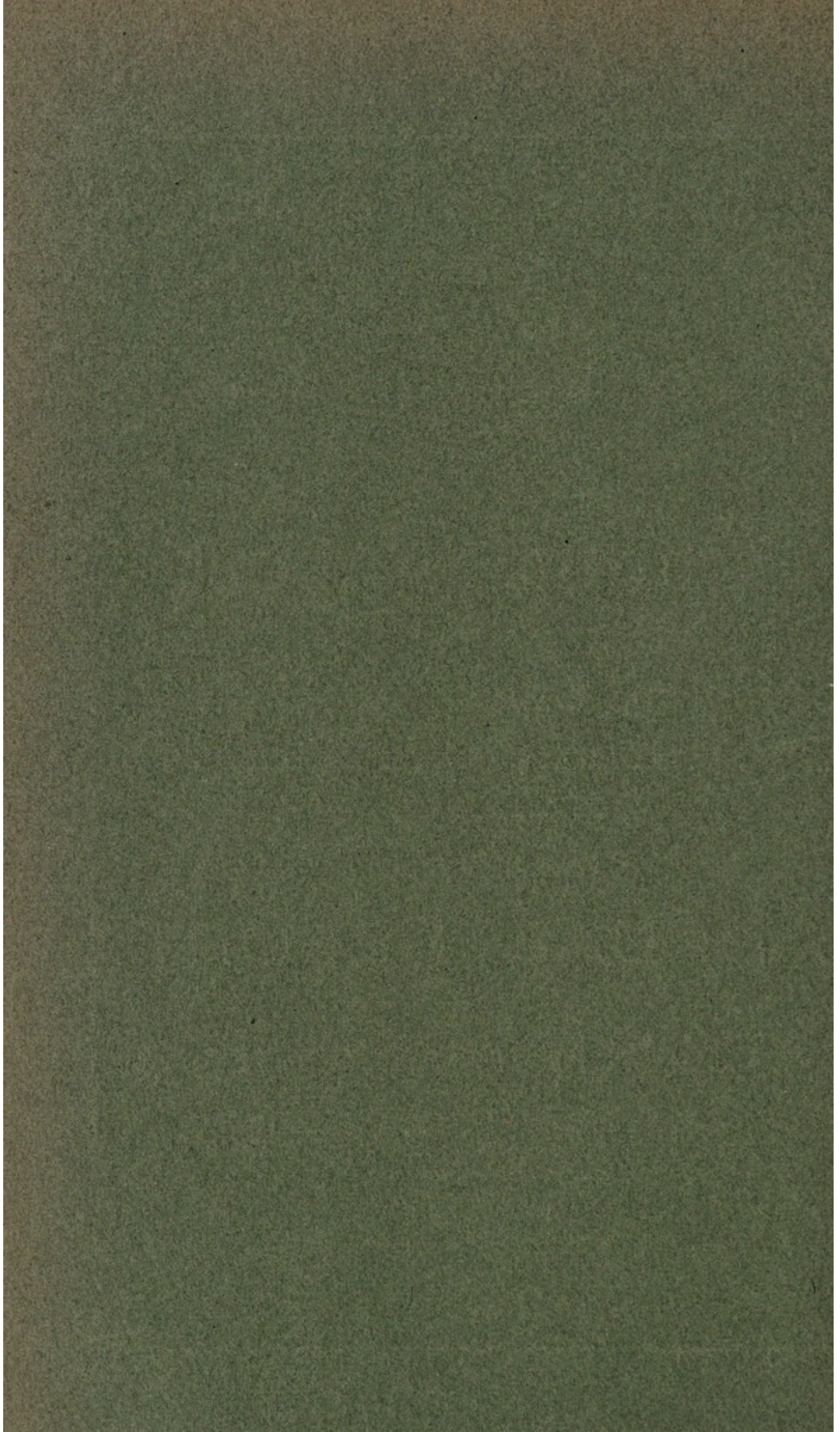
Chief Sanitary Inspector,

J. P. HUMPHERY, F.S.I.A.

1927.

REDHILL :

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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Abatement of nuisances, &c.	46
Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Regulations in force...	17
Ambulance facilities	14
Bacteriological Examination of Milk	23, 44
Bakehouses	42
Cancer	9
Clinics and Treatment Centres	14
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act	43
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	42
Diphtheria	26
Disinfection	30, 37
Factories and Workshops	19, 44
Food Supply	22, 40
Gut Scraping... ..	43
Hospital Accommodation	13
Housing	21, 48
Infectious Disease	24, 37
Isolation Hospital	13
Knacker's Yard	43
Legal Proceedings	50
Maternity and Child Welfare	30
Meat	24, 38
Midwives	16
Milk and Cream Regulations	24
Milk Supply	22, 42
Mosquitoes	19, 43
Notices issued (Public Health Acts)	47
Nursing Arrangements... ..	16
Office Work	50
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	29
Public Health Staff	15
Public Mortuary	47
River Pollution	17
Sale of Food and Drugs Acts	24, 41
Sanitary Inspections	18
Scarlet Fever	26
Scavenging	18
Schools	20
Sewerage	17
Slaughter houses	18, 39
Stable Premises	47
Summary of complaints received	46
Tuberculosis Order	39
Tuberculous Diseases	8, 29
" Milk	23, 44
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	28
Verminous Houses	43
Vital Statistics	7, 13
Water Supply	17

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1927.

*To the Chairmen and Members of the Sanitary and Maternity and
Child Welfare Committees.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As Acting Medical Officer of Health, I beg to present my Report for the year 1927 on behalf of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. E. Porter, M.A., M.D., who, having presented to you no less than 21 such Reports, has justly considered himself entitled to accept your kind offer of six months "leave of absence" in order that he may procure abroad that complete restoration to health which is the universally expressed wish in Reigate.

Speaking as a Medical Officer of Health of some experience, my first desire is to wish success to health propaganda which in this Country is at present moving along the lines of furnishing the information on those matters of health which the laity seem to require. The recent issue by the Scottish Board of Health, at a modest price, of pamphlets on the Schick and Dick tests for Diphtheria, on Encephalitis Lethargica (sleepy sickness) and on Ultra-Violet Ray therapy intended for the perusal of Local Authorities, is an effort towards the health education of lay representatives, while the health weeks and other special enterprises which are cordially aided by the Press bring under the notice of the general lay public the health problems of the day and suggest ways in which the public may co-operate for their solution.

The general plan of this Report follows precisely the scheme planned out in the previous ones, and it will be found to embody all requisite points of public interest. Special reference has been made to the vital subjects of Tuberculosis and Cancer, and a few comments are appended here and there on some important points in regard to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

In conclusion, I desire to tender to the Chief Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. P. Humphery) my most cordial gratitude for his very able, energetic and zealous assistance. I should also like to express my appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Staff.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. ASPINALL MARSDEN,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (Land and Inland Water)...	...	...	...	5,995 acres.
Population, Census 1921 (enumerated)	...	...	...	28,914
Do. ,, ,, (adjusted)	...	...	...	28,690
Do. (estimated by Registrar-General), 1927	...	...	...	28,430
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	...	...	...	6,052
,, ,, families or separate occupiers (1921)	...	...	...	6,825
Rateable Value (1927)	...	...	...	£244,943
Assessable Value (1927)	...	...	...	£229,995
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£925

Social conditions : Chief Occupations of the Inhabitants.

The Borough is essentially a residential area, and there are no occupations liable to influence the health of those engaged therein adversely.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

<i>Births</i> {	Total..	M.	F.	} Birth rate 14.3	
	Legitimate ...	396	218		178
{	Illegitimate ...	11	5	6	
				Birth rate, 1926 12.7	
				Birth rate 5 years 1922-26 14.0	
<i>Deaths (nett)</i>	Total.	M.	F.	} Death rate 12.8	
	... 1926	364	172		192
	Do., 5 years, 1922-6...	317
				Death rate 1926 11.0	
				Death rate 5 years, 1922-26 11.3	
<i>Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth.</i>					
				From Sepsis ... Nil.	
				From other causes ... 1	
<i>Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—</i>					
Legitimate, 42.9	Illegitimate, Nil.			Total 41.7	
				Total, 1926 52	
				Total, 5 years, 1922-26 ... 42	
<i>Deaths from Scarlet Fever</i>	...	...	...	1
<i>Deaths from Measles (all ages)</i>	...	...	...	—
<i>Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)</i>	...	...	...	1
<i>Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)</i>	...	...	...	—

Population.

With regard to the Registrar General's estimate of the population (on which the birth and death rates have to be calculated) the figure given is difficult to reconcile. The Census figure for 1921 was 28,690 ; last year the estimate figure was 28,880 ; this year it is 28,430—a reduction of 450. If the latter figure is correct,

it is evident that emigration must have been far in excess of immigration. This seems difficult to believe, seeing that there were 124 houses erected during the year and the demand for houses continues. There is also the fact that the Foundling Hospital moved from London into the Borough in November, 1926, bringing at least 400 people, consisting of staff and inmates.

Births.—The gross births registered in 1927 were 464, reduced to 407 nett, 223 being boys and 184 girls, as against 366 in 1926. Consequently, the birth-rate was 14.3 per 1,000 population, as compared with 12.7 in 1926, and a mean of 14.0 for the five years 1922–26. Illegitimate births formed 2.7 per cent. of the total, as compared with 3.3 in 1926 and 5.7 in 1925.

Deaths.—After deducting the deaths of “non-residents,” and adding those of Reigate persons who died elsewhere, there were 364 nett deaths, as compared with 317 in 1926, and 346 in 1925. The nett death rate on the population as estimated by the Registrar-General was 12.8 per 1,000, as compared with 11.0 in 1926, 12.1 in 1925, and a mean of 11.3 for the five years 1922–26. When adjusted for the age and sex distribution of the Borough population the nett death rate is reduced to a “standardised” death-rate of 10.5.

Deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards formed 56.8 per cent. of the total; 70 and upwards 47.8; 80 and upwards 19.8; and 90 and upwards 4.4. It has seldom happened that these proportions have been so high.

Bronchitis and pneumonia were credited with 59 deaths, as against 26 in 1926 and 50 in 1925. Deaths from heart disease were 50 as compared with 43 in 1926 and 55 in 1925. Those from influenza were 9 as against 1 in 1926 and 4 in 1925.

Deaths from tuberculous diseases were 19 in 1927, as against 23 in 1926, 26 in 1925 and 13 in 1924. Prior to 1918 the annual number of deaths usually averaged about 30.

The death rate of this disease has been heavily reduced since the discovery of the Tubercle Bacillus; but those of us who are intimately associated with the practical methods of prevention and treatment at Sanatoria and at the homes of the victims, are anxiously awaiting the institution of more up-to-date plans for

combating this disease. Early cases are too rarely seen at Sanatoria which are full of more or less *advanced* cases, the prognosis of which cannot be good, so that the heavy cost is not commensurate with the results; whilst the after Sanatorium treatment very often implies a return to the conditions which gave rise to the illness. Open-air treatment is often unobtainable in the present-day cottage and "good feeding" has to come through the Relieving Officer.

The existing Tuberculosis Dispensary stands in very urgent need of complete reformation upon lines which have been much discussed and have been generally accepted as desirable. It seems very difficult to understand why obviously necessary action is so delayed. We may be thankful that a serious attempt is at last being made to exclude Tubercle Bacilli from cows' milk, for this, if properly carried out, will imply the prevention of untold suffering by thousands of children. Again if parents only knew that their children under two years of age possess at this particular age practically no resisting power against this infection, and so are almost sure to contract a dangerous form of Tuberculosis if in contact with a consumptive person in the house, they would, I feel sure, endeavour to remove either the patient or the baby. If this were always done the general death rate of the Country would be reduced enormously. On post-mortem examination in adults of "other forms of Tuberculosis" than Pulmonary the disease can be frequently traced to infection in childhood, and yet these children rapidly recover under the influence of open air and good food, etc. What a very little we do at present for these poor children!

The beneficial effects of light therapy have been so clearly defined with regard to growth and nutrition, and I have myself witnessed in the East End of London such wonderfully beneficial results therefrom that I make bold to suggest that some of our very generous residents in the Reigate Borough might confer immense benefit on poor children by providing a suitable lamp for Ultra-violet Ray Treatment at the East Surrey Hospital.

Cancer in 1926 produced 55 deaths—the largest total ever reached in the Borough, and in the past year 48 deaths were registered from it, being one-eighth of all the deaths recorded in the year.

As in this Country about 48,000 persons die annually from the disease, something more than "Cancer Research" should be

attempted, and in my opinion, careful education of the public in "preventive," rather than "curative" measures, is imperatively demanded. "Chronic irritation" is the best "jumping-off place" for all cancer research, and by way of illustrating what is implied in the term let us take cancer of the lip, formerly very common indeed when clay pipes were in general use; but very rare now that these have gone out of fashion. Short, dirty, moist and hot clay pipes produced a small crack in the lip which never had a chance of healing owing to chronic irritation set up by the pipe and also to the fact that the lip is devoid of that absolute rest which is necessary for all healing wounds. One of three things happened:— (1) a cancer germ became introduced into the little sore crack; (2) nature baffled (not readily) in its attempts to heal the wound had recourse to other means, viz., originally all cells had all properties including reproduction so a resuscitation of this ancestral reproductive faculty took place and the local cells grew rapidly and independently producing a "growth," the cells crushing one another out of existence and so producing a fatal poison; (3) a chemical or mechanical irritant, in a way not yet understood, not only started the growth, but continued with it.

That brilliant observer—Jonathan Hutchinson was convinced that Arsenic caused cancer.

Prevent "chronic irritation" and you will avoid cancer, as will be observed in the following instances:—

- (1) Cancer of the tongue or mouth from the rough edge of a tooth—you can prevent cancer by the early removal of the tooth.
- (2) Cancer of the external ear can be prevented by careful washing away of irritating dust, etc., collected in an inaccessible position.
- (3) Cancer of the stomach follows neglected dyspepsia, gastritis or ulcer.
- (4) Cancer of the gall bladder follows upon the chronic irritation by gall stones, and these should always be removed.

- (5) Cancer of the bowels may result from the chronic irritation of neglected constipation which the free drinking of cold water will cure.
- (6) Chronic irritation produces a small crack at the base of Haemorrhoids which heals at once if these are removed, and thus cancer is prevented.
- (7) Cancer of internal parts following slight injuries at difficult confinements could be prevented by simple medical instructions.
- (8) Cancer of the breasts, resulting from injuries or from cracked nipples, may be prevented by the constant wearing of a very small piece of gauze.
- (9) Cancer of the skin (epithelioma), *e.g.* chimney sweeps, workers in chemical works, "mule" workers, wearers of furs of homely pets converted into sable and mink by the irritating dye "Ursol," etc.

The method of prevention is obvious—prevent the chronic irritation. Many other instances could be quoted to prove that the best way to prevent cancer is to prevent chronic irritation.

It is worth adding that the cancer mortality list by occupation is as follows (highest in order) :—waiters, cutlery grinders, tin and copper miners, cellarmen ; which suggests chronic irritation and alcohol predisposition ?

May I record my conviction that cancer should be a notifiable disease, in order that statistics may be collected about the lives of cancer patients.

The death rates for the four quarters were 18.0, 10.1, 9.1, and 13.9 respectively.

The excess of births over deaths was 43. In 1926 it was 49 and in 1925, 59.

The causes of death were as under:—

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
1 Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...
2 Small-pox ... ..	...	...
3 Measles ... ..	...	...
4 Scarlet fever	1	...
5 Whooping cough ... ..	...	1
6 Diphtheria ... ..	...	...
7 Influenza	1	8
8 Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...
9 Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	12	6
11 Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	...	1
12 Cancer, malignant disease	25	20
13 Rheumatic fever ... ..	...	...
14 Diabetes	2	...
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	11	17
16 Heart disease	27	23
17 Arterio-sclerosis	8	9
18 Bronchitis	8	17
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	18	16
20 Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	1
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	2	1
24 Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	...	...
25 Acute and chronic nephritis	3	7
26 Puerperal sepsis ... ..	...	...
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	...	1
28 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	4	5
29 Suicide ... ..	...	...
30 Other deaths from violence	7	5
31 Other defined diseases	26	24
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...
33 Senile Decay	15	30
Special Causes (included above) :—		
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...

Infant Mortality.—The nett deaths of infants under one year of age were 17, namely 6 males and 11 females, as against 19 in 1926, and 15 in 1925. The rate of infant mortality per 1,000 nett births was 41.7, as compared with 52 in 1926, and a mean of 42 for the five years 1922–1926. The causes of death were:—Congenital debility and premature birth (9), pneumonia (4), convulsions, bronchitis, marasmus, enteritis (1 case each).

Among the 11 illegitimate children there were no deaths.

Comparative vital statistics for 1927 are as follows:—

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Infant Mortality
England and Wales ...	16·7	12·3	69
155 Towns (1921 pop- ulations of 20,000— 50,000)	16·4	11·3	68
Reigate	14·3	12·8*	41·7

*This is the nett death rate. The "Standardised" rate was 10·5.

SECTION II.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

A (1) Fever.

During the year the Provisional Order of the Ministry of Health forming a Joint Hospital District, consisting of the Borough and Rural District of Reigate, was confirmed by Parliament.

The first meeting of the Hospital Board took place on September 15th. The nominal accommodation is about 70 beds.

(2) Smallpox.

The County Council have an estate at Clandon, near Guildford, containing the nucleus of a smallpox hospital, capable of expansion should the occasion arise. Reigate Borough is one of the contributory districts.

B (1) Tuberculosis.

Patients are sent at the cost of the County Council to various sanatoria and hospitals situated in different parts of the country.

The foundation-stone for the new Sanatorium at Milford, to hold 200 patients, was laid in May.

(2) Maternity.

The Surrey County Nursing Association have a Maternity Home situated in Woodlands Road, Redhill, with accommodation for six patients. The Borough Council contribute towards the weekly maintenance charges in necessitous cases.

(3) Children.

Arrangements have been made for the admission of cases of ophthalmia neonatorum into the East Surrey Hospital, the fees payable by the Borough Council to be 1/6 a day for the infant alone, and 8/6 a day for infant and mother.

(4) Other.

The East Surrey Hospital is the general hospital for the Borough and neighbouring area, and provides accommodation for about 80 patients. The Council makes an annual contribution.

Institutional provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children in the District.

There is no provision within the district for these classes, except at the Guardians' Institution.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases. A motor ambulance is maintained at the Isolation Hospital by the Joint Hospital Board.

(b) For non-infectious cases. The Council has a motor ambulance, in charge of the Police. The Borough of Reigate Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade also have two motor ambulances, which serve a large area.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Borough Council's Health Centre is used for Maternity and Child Welfare and for School Clinics. It is situated in Brownlow Road, Redhill, and five rooms are set aside for the purpose. The infant consultations are held twice a week and a doctor is in attendance. Ante-natal clinics are held about once a month, as occasion requires.

A child welfare Clinic is also held once a fortnight at a Mission Room in South Park, financed by a voluntary committee. There is no medical attendant. The Borough Council makes an annual contribution.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

The County Council's Dispensary is situated off London Road, Redhill.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Provision is made at the East Surrey Hospital, with a subsidy from the County Council.

Day Nurseries.

There are none in the Borough.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

These consist of :—

Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Reigate Rural District Council) ; holds the Diploma in Public Health.

Medical Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic ; part-time annual appointment.

Chief Sanitary Inspector (Certificate of Sanitary Institute).

Sanitary Inspector (Certificate of Sanitary Institute ; also Certificate for Meat Inspectors).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfecting Officer and General Assistant.

Clerk.

Two Health Visitors ; one whole-time, one also School Nurse. Both have the Certificate of the Central Midwives' Board.

Exchequer Grants are payable as regards the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health, the Medical Officer of the Clinic, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Sanitary Inspector, and the Health Visitors.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General and Infectious Diseases.

There are two private associations supplying trained nurses. The Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, affiliated to the County N.A., has a staff of five "Queen's" nurses who are also midwives, in addition to the Matron. The Borough Council have an arrangement with the Association to undertake the nursing of those classes of illness which have been recognised for this purpose by the Ministry of Health, a definite payment being made per visit.

In South Park there is a separate Nursing Association not subsidised by the Borough or County Councils. Their nurse is permitted to attend cases of measles and whooping-cough when not incompatible with her other work.

At the extreme South-Eastern portion of the Borough similar work is undertaken by the Salfords branch of the Horley Nursing Association.

Midwives.

There are now no midwives of the "bona fide" class practising in the Borough. The whole of the midwifery is carried out by the staff of the Reigate, Redhill and District Nursing Association, and that of the South Park and Salfords Associations mentioned above. The Borough Council pays 5/- a case for each confinement attended in a working class dwelling by the staff of the first-named Association. Except in emergencies the work is carried out by two of the staff only.

There are, in addition, midwives attached to the County Nursing Association Maternity Home, and to the Guardians' Institution. Ten midwives notified their intention to practise during 1928.

Chemical Work.

Samples of food and drugs requiring chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst Mr. E. Hinks, in London. The results of his analyses in 1927 are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report, and are referred to in Section V.

Legislation in Force.

Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	adopted	1890
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890	...	...	„	1890
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	„	1892
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	...	...	„	1907
Public Health Act 1925 Parts II to V	...	...	„	1925
Byelaws with respect to New Streets & Buildings	...	...	„	1926
„ „ „ „ Slaughter-houses	...	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Offensive Trades	...	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Nuisances	...	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Cleansing of footways, etc.	...	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Common Lodging Houses...	...	...	„	1891
„ „ „ „ Good Rule and Government	...	...	„	1905
Milk and Dairies Order	...	...	„	1926

The Surrey County Council Act, 1925, contains provisions with respect to Ice Cream and Maternity Homes, for a portion of the administration of which the Borough Council are responsible.

SECTION III.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The East Surrey Water Co. supply the whole of the Borough. Chemical and bacteriological analyses received during the year indicated that the water was of a high standard of purity.

Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy exercise supervision over the River Mole and its tributaries.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A description of the drainage of the Borough, and sewage disposal was given in my Report for 1925, which also referred to the position then reached between the Council and the owners of

a sewage disposal plant at "The Clears." In 1926 the Borough Surveyor was instructed to prepare detailed plans, specifications and estimates for the proposed new works. These, however, did not entirely meet the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

Amended plans have been submitted to the Ministry and have been approved. The necessary sanction for the loan has been obtained and tenders for the work are about to be invited.

Closet Accommodation.

All dwellings on the sewerage system and practically all those draining to cesspools, are provided with water closets. In some of the older premises these are hand-flushed, but the number is gradually decreasing as the result of inspection. During 1927 flushing apparatus were provided to 12 houses.

Scavenging.

Weekly removal of house refuse is aimed at by the Corporation. In most instances moveable bins are provided, but in some of the older properties fixed receptacles are found during inspection. During 1927 bins were provided at 46 premises.

The provision of a refuse destructor was under the consideration of the Council during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

To avoid duplication, reference may be made to the report of the Sanitary Inspector following this report.

Smoke Abatement.

No complaints were received, and no action was necessary in 1927.

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

These include one tannery, one gut-scrapers, 14 slaughter-houses, 15 cowsheds, and two common lodging houses. One of the slaughter-houses is subject to an annual licence, the remainder are registered; of the latter, two could not be used, owing to the requirements of the Meat Regulations. There are no houses let in lodgings, nor underground sleeping rooms.

Gut-scraping was added by the Ministry of Health to the list of offensive trades, scheduled under the Public Health Acts, on application by the Council.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.

Mosquitoes.

Judging from the complaints received it would appear that the work of spraying with paraffin the various pools, etc., has had a marked effect, and the co-operation of the public in this matter has been a great advantage. The best results were obtained in the early part of the season when the weather conditions were more favourable for spraying.

A Conference on this subject was held at the County Hall, Kingston, on March 3rd, and a discussion was opened by Mr. J. F. Marshall, Director of the British Mosquito Control Institute, Hayling Island.

Rats.

The services of the Assistant Rat Officer were continued, and yielded valuable results.

Factories and Workshops.

Inspections made and defects found are shown in the subjoined tables prescribed by the Home Office:—

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)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	8	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	171	2	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	9	—	—
Total	188	2	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Pro- secutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors... ..	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary { insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
accom- { unsuitable or	—	—	—	—
modation { defective ...	—	—	—	—
{ not separate	—	—	—	—
{ for sexes ...	1	1	1	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (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... ..	3	3	1	

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

3.—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES (SECTION 108). No action was necessary.

Schools.

There are several private boarding and day schools for boys and girls in the Borough, whose conditions are quite satisfactory. There are also Secondary Day Schools for boys and girls under the joint control of the Surrey County and the Borough Councils ; that for boys is the Reigate Grammar School. The new premises for girls have been completed and are occupied.

The Public Elementary Schools are twelve in number, comprising twenty-one departments, nine of which are "provided," and twelve "non-provided." The former are quite satisfactory in construction, surroundings, and sanitary provision. The latter vary considerably, especially as regards lighting, ventilation, warming, and equipment generally. The public water supply for washing and drinking is available in all, and the sanitary accommodation is sufficient.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and one of the Health Visitors is also one of the School Nurses. There is complete co-ordination between the two departments in regard to the prevention of spread of infectious diseases. The Memorandum issued in 1925 by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education jointly, is adhered to in its main details. A copy has been supplied to each of the Head Teachers.

SECTION IV.

Housing.

Housing Statistics for the year 1927.

The Surveyor informs me that 124 new houses were completed in 1927, 74 of them being considered working class dwellings. Of these, 46 were erected by the Borough Council, 16 by private enterprise, and 12 by private enterprise assisted by a subsidy. Fifty-eight further houses are contemplated by the Council for erection in 1928.

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	224
(b)	Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	149
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil.
(d)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (c) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	146

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	61
3. Action under Statutory Powers.	
A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	66
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	47
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
C. Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders...	Nil
(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

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

A classified list of producers and vendors of milk is given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report. In the Borough itself there are fifteen farms from which the public is supplied, the greater part being derived from farms outside, and principally from neighbouring parishes. The cows in the Borough, apart from private

herds, vary from 190 to 210 at different seasons. There has been no systematic veterinary inspection of cows during the year. As was reported last year, the application of this Authority to carry out this duty in place of the County Council was refused by the Ministry of Health.

Microscopical and Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year 109 specimens of milk were taken for this class of examination. They represented about 1,196 gallons, mainly of the morning milking, and covered every retailer's source of supply, being taken from the churns before manipulation by the retailers. The samples examined in 1926 were 95. Fifty-five of the 1927 samples were taken in the months of January, February, October, November and December, seasons when the difficulty of excluding dirt at the time of milking is greatest.

Tubercle bacilli were found after animal experiment in two samples, as against none last year. Thirteen contained streptococci, as well as an excess of leucocytes, presumptive evidence of inflammation of the udder; last year only one sample was found to contain these organisms. In one sample a very small number of bacilli somewhat resembling the tubercle bacillus were seen, but the animal experiment proved negative. The County Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector of the District whence the milk came were notified of the laboratory findings. Two further samples of the supplies which had been found to be infected with the tubercle bacillus were taken later in the year, and these were shown to be free from T.B.

Pus or blood were not found in any samples.

Vegetable detritus was found in 47 specimens, as against 22 last year and 57 in 1925. This foreign substance indicates to some extent uncleanliness in the milking process.

Leucocytes showed a slight excess in 28 and a decided excess in 8 samples, as against 11 and 3 in 1926 and 30 and 4 in 1925.

An excess of squamous cells was reported in 3 samples, as compared with 4 last year and 14 in 1925. Unless associated with pus or blood, these cells have little significance.

If the 109 samples taken truly represent the physical purity and cleanliness of the milk supply as it reaches the retailer, the improvement which has taken place each year these examinations have been undertaken has not this year been maintained. This

may be to some extent accounted for by the abnormally bad weather conditions which have prevailed throughout the year, and to the want of systematic veterinary inspection.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Licences were granted to two retailers to sell "Certified" Milk, the farms being situated outside the Borough.

(b) Meat, etc.

The action taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is described in the Sanitary Inspector's report, which also includes an account of unsound food destroyed and the inspection of premises where food is prepared. The Public Health Act, 1925, Sec. 72, and Part VII of the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, have added to the number of premises coming under supervision.

(c) Adulteration, etc.

Details of samples submitted to the Council's Analyst are given in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Milk and Cream Regulations.

Forty-three samples of milk, and 4 of cream, not sold as "preserved cream," were analysed, and preservative to the extent of 0.28 per cent. and 0.35 per cent. were found in two samples of cream. Four samples of "preserved cream" were also examined and found to contain preservative within the limits of the percentages stated on the label.

Condensed and Dried Milk Regulations.

Six samples were submitted for analysis. No infringement of the Regulations was observed.

SECTION VI.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases.

The Notifiable Diseases.

There were no notifications of small-pox, and no vaccinations or re-vaccinations were necessary under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention), Regulations, 1917.

TABLE I.

Ages.	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever.		Puerperal Fever.*		Enteric Fever.†		Pneumonia.		Other Disease.	
	Cases notified	Cases removed to hospital.	Cases notified	Deaths removed to hospital.	Cases notified	Deaths removed to hospital.	Cases notified	Deaths removed to hospital.	Cases notified	Deaths removed to hospital.	Cases notified	Deaths removed to hospital.
0-1												
1-2			1									
2-3	1								1			
3-4									1			
4-5	3		3									
5-10	22		20				2		1			
10-15	18		4						6			
15-20	17		3						1			
20-35	10		2						2			
35-45	2				4				3			
45-65					1				4			
over 65							1					
Total :	73	37	33	26	5	Nil	3	2	19	Nil	34	Nil

* Including Puerperal Pyrexia.

† Including Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to medical practitioners for prophylactic and curative purposes, and was used in 11 cases during the year.

Table I shows the notifications received in 1927; "Other Diseases" include 2 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, 5 of erysipelas and 1 of anterior poliomyelitis.

Scarlet Fever.

In all, 33 cases were notified during the year. They occurred in 28 different dwellings, and 26 were removed to Hospital. There was one death, a child aged one year and 10 months, who died on the third day. The cases occurred at the rate of from 2 to 5 each month, in various parts of the Borough. Several cases were discovered by Nurse Reese, whose services are invaluable, in the course of visiting children in school. One case originally thought to be German Measles, returned to school and was discovered by the School Nurse to be peeling and sent home.

Return Cases.

Thirty-five cases were discharged from the Isolation Hospital. In one instance a patient played with a child from a different house after return from Hospital, the latter falling with Scarlet Fever four days after the date of the patient's discharge.

Concurrent Diphtheritic Infection.

The throats of all hospital patients were examined bacteriologically during the year, and 9 were reported to have the diphtheria bacillus present—6 in the nose and 3 in both throat and nose.

Diphtheria.

The record low incidence of this disease in 1926 was, as foreshadowed, not maintained in the year under review. Seventy-three cases were notified, consisting mainly of three distinct outbreaks—(1) amongst children attending the Holmesdale Junior School; (2) amongst the inmates of the Philanthropic Farm School; and (3) the Royal Earlswood Institution. There were no deaths.

Cases of diphtheria among children attending Holmesdale Junior School, and their families began to occur in February, and continued until the beginning of September. In February and March there were 9 cases in 7 different houses. These include

one case of nasal diphtheria in school, and one missed case at home discovered in the course of enquiries, and two further slight cases found by the School Nurse in following up absentees.

There were no attacks in April; but in May and June five cases in four houses, one being a mother infected by her boy, aged 6, who was then found to be suffering from nasal diphtheria. This child had probably been infectious for a considerable time; had been irregular in attendance at school, and had been under medical care. His tonsils and adenoids had been removed a few days before his mother was attacked.

In July there were five cases from three houses. One attended the Senior School. In the house with three patients one attended the Junior School. The department was closed on July 11th, anticipating the summer holiday by a fortnight, and a circular was distributed to a member of each family calling the parents' attention to the necessity of obtaining medical advice in cases of sore throat or discharge from the nose.

In August there were two cases, a father and son, the latter attending the Junior School.

In September there was one case.

In addition, there were other cases in the neighbourhood which could not be traced to the Holmesdale Schools; but which were probably indirectly connected therewith.

In spite of the number of carriers and missed cases detected, as the infection still showed prospects of spreading, preliminary arrangements were made in September with Dr. Cates, County Medical Officer of Health, to have the children tested for susceptibility by the "Schick" method, and for those proved susceptible to be immunised.

Fortunately, it was unnecessary to put these arrangements into operation, as after the school re-opened for the winter term, except for the case which was notified at the beginning of September, no further cases occurred.

The outbreaks at the Institutions above named were the subjects of special reports.

The outbreak at the Philanthropic Farm School comprised 12 notifications, all boys between the ages of 12 and 17, and they were treated at the Borough Isolation Hospital. The cases occurred between the 9th and 21st May. The origin of the outbreak was not discovered. After consultation with the Medical Officer of the

School it was decided that all the boys and such members of the staff as consented should be tested for susceptibility by the "Schick" method, and those found to be susceptible immunised. This was carried out by the County Medical Officer, and he stated that the total number tested was 108, of them 55 were found susceptible, and of these 46 received the full three doses of immunising material.

At the Royal Earlswood Institution the outbreak appears to have commenced on or about May 12th, when a boy aged 15 was attacked with sore throat, which, though not confirmed bacteriologically, resembled diphtheria clinically. The number of patients attacked was 25, and the last cases were reported on June 2nd. After consultation with the Resident Medical Staff, arrangements were made for all the inmates to receive successive immunising doses of the preparation of mixed toxin and anti-toxin. The staff were also examined bacteriologically, and 3 carriers were detected.

There appeared to be no connection between the outbreaks of the two Institutions, and their occurrence simultaneously would seem to have been a coincidence.

During August a girl attending a Girl Guides Camp on Reigate Hill was attacked with Diphtheria and removed to the Isolation Hospital. The Camp consisted of 45 girls, mainly from the East End of London, and was due to break up two days after the case occurred. Prompt measures were taken to have swabs examined from the throats of all the girls. Negative reports were received in all cases but one, and this girl was also removed to the Isolation Hospital. The girls were then allowed to return to their homes, the Medical Officer of Health of the districts concerned being notified.

Enteric Fever.

Three cases of this disease were notified during the year. They were shown by blood tests to be infected by the Para-typhoid Bacillus B. One case occurred in June in the Frenches Road district and two in November at Earlswood. The origin of the cases could not be traced.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No cases were reported during the year.

Pneumonia.

There were 19 cases notified during the year.

Puerperal Fever : Puerperal Pyrexia.

Five cases were notified, one being a woman who came into the Borough from the Rural District, for her confinement, and was treated at the Guardians' Institution. Of the remaining four, three were treated at home and one at the Guardians' Institution.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two notifications were received during the year.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

There were no cases of this disease during 1927.

Tuberculosis.

Table II includes all cases notified for the first time, namely :— 31 cases of pulmonary and 9 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis ; also four patients who died of pulmonary tuberculosis, but who had not previously been notified. Of these two were elderly ladies, aged 78 and 69 respectively, a man of 69, the nature of the disease only being discovered shortly before death, and a man of 40 who only arrived in Reigate from another area two days before death.

TABLE II.

<i>Age Periods</i>	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	<i>Pulmonary</i> M.	F.	<i>Non- Pulmonary</i> M.	F.	<i>Pulmonary</i> M.	F.	<i>Non- Pulmonary</i> M.	F.
0								
1								
5	2		1	2				
10	1	1						
15	1							
20	1	1						
25	8	2	1	2				
35	5	1		2				
45	5	1						
55	2	1						
65 & upwards ...	1	2		1				
Totals	26	9	2	7	12	6		1

The organs affected in the non-pulmonary cases were the glands of the neck (6), spine (1), kidney (1), fistula (1). The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths was 4 out of 19.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Sec. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Disinfection.

The disinfection of textile articles is carried out at the Corporation's station, where facilities are also available for the cleansing of verminous persons. These facilities were not made use of in 1927.

The disinfection of houses and other premises is carried out by one of the Sanitary Inspector's Staff. Particulars of the work done in 1927 are given in his report.

SECTION VII.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Health Centre.

Except during the month of August, and at Easter and Christmas, consultations were held each Tuesday and Thursday during the year, a doctor being in attendance each day. On the 88 days when the consultations took place the attendances of infants amounted to 4,768 as against 4,088 in 1926, establishing a record. The number of individual infants attending was 405 as against 413 in 1926 and 351 in 1925; of the 4,583 attendances 1,696 were those of infants below the age of twelve months.

There were 280 attendances of expectant mothers at the infant consultations.

There are needlework classes, and a dental club at the Centre. At the needlework classes 221 attendances were made by 28 mothers.

Antenatal Clinic.

During the year twelve sessions were held, at which 51 individual expectant mothers attended. The total attendances were 82. The corresponding figures in 1926 were 39 and 98 respectively.

Domiciliary Visits.

Two hundred and ninety-eight primary, and 1,983 subsequent visits were paid by the Health Visitors to infants under the age of twelve months, and 1,498 visits to infants between the ages of 1 and 5. Seventy-seven primary, and 241 subsequent visits were paid to expectant mothers during the year. There were 980 visits of a miscellaneous character, in addition to 14 to cases of measles, 49 to cases of whooping-cough, 12 to cases of pneumonia, 32 to cases of chicken pox, and 8 to cases of puerperal fever, or puerperal pyrexia.

South Park Weighing Centre.

The Centre was open on 26 occasions, 717 attendances being made by individual infants.

Nurse Banks, who acts as Health Visitor in this parish, paid 29 primary, and 171 subsequent visits to infants under the age of 12 months; 218 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5; 28 primary, and 124 subsequent visits to expectant mothers. Other visits were 1 to case of whooping-cough, 3 to cases of measles, and 3 to cases of chicken pox.

The Centre is managed by a Voluntary Committee, and their area includes a small portion of the adjoining parishes of Reigate Rural District. The Corporation contribute £15 a year towards their expenses, and in recognition of the useful domiciliary work carried out by Nurse Banks.

Midwifery Provision.

The Council paid the agreed subsidy in connection with 104 midwifery and 109 maternity nursing cases.

Dental Treatment.

The collection of subscriptions towards extractions and provision of dentures is managed by the voluntary workers through a provident club at the Health Centre. The Council contributed towards the cost in seven instances.

In addition, the Voluntary Committee assist out of their funds mothers belonging to the Club whose fees are £1 or less and who require fillings or a few extractions only. The scale of assistance is :—

2d. in the shilling for a charge up to 10/-.
3d. „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ £1.

A scheme was approved by the Ministry of Health, whereby mothers and infants could receive dental treatment on the lines arranged between Approved Societies and the British Dental Association. A panel of the dentists willing to carry out the work was formed, in addition to the Dental Dispensary.

Maternity Home.

There was only a moderate demand for accommodation at the Surrey County Nursing Association's Home. The Borough Council agreed to contribute to the expenses of maintenance in three instances.

Provision of Milk.

This is undertaken to a limited extent, and only in necessitous cases, by the Voluntary Committee. Forty-three mothers were so provided.

Birth Notification.

Of the 475 births (gross), 464 were duly notified, or 97.7 per cent. Doctors were responsible for 151 notifications, doctors and nurses for 107, midwives or nurses for 205, and parents for 1.

Among the 11 unnotified births 3 occurred in private nursing homes and 2 in large residences. One of the mothers came into the Borough from an outside district for her confinement, and may have been notified in that district. The 6 unnotified births, occurring in smaller houses, were attended by as many different doctors.

Still Births.

Eleven notifications were received, 6 being males. They were derived from doctors in 6 instances, from midwives in 3, and from doctors and nurses in 1 instance, and 1 was unnotified.

Maternity Homes.

The inspection of homes registered under the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, is delegated to the Borough Council. Four premises are on the Register, of which two are private nursing homes, one the Surrey County Nursing Association Home, the fourth being a cottage, where a mother is occasionally received for her confinement.

No infringement of the Act or Bye-laws occurred.

Widows, Orphans and Old Age Contributory Pensions Act, 1925.

Administration of Section 41 of this Act, so far as it refers to orphans under the age of 5, was delegated to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. No action was necessary during the year.

The Rhondda Shield Essay.

Fifteen mothers entered for this Competition. Prizes were given from the Voluntary Workers' Fund to the writers of the three best essays.

Competitions.

In July various competitions were held at the Infant Welfare Centre, which proved interesting and instructive, prizes being given by the members of the Voluntary Workers Committee.

The popularity of the work at the Centre, and the favourable results obtained, are largely due to the devoted and continuous attention given by the ladies who are good enough to serve as Voluntary Workers.

The following is an extract from the Annual Report of the South Park Centre for the year 1927, which, however, does not terminate on December 31st:—

“The Centre was open on 26 occasions, 708 attendances being made by 78 children. Nurse Banks, who acts as Health Visitor in this part of the Borough, paid 146 visits to infants under 1 year, (27 being first visits) and 240 visits to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. Also 26 primary and 134 subsequent visits to expectant mothers.

“Twenty-six new children have attended the Centre during the year. Fourteen have started school, 3 have gone away, 4 have ceased attending, and 1 has died. Fifty-six are still attending.

“**Clothing Club.**—There are 14 members. Payments received from them during the year ending on September 30th, 1927, amount to £15 3s. 6d. Withdrawals by members have amounted to £13 8s. 11d. The sum of £1 1s. 11d., received from tea money, has been paid in bonuses (1d. in the shilling). Mr. Knight of Reigate also allows a discount of 1d. in the shilling to members. Balance in hand is £14 1s. 3d.

“**Dental Club.**—Three members have received dental aid both from the Borough and our Samaritan Fund. Payments from members during the year have amounted to £6 18s. 6d.”

BOROUGH OF REIGATE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1927.

Sanitary Department,
Municipal Buildings,
REIGATE.

March 13th, 1928.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

MRS. POWELL AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you herewith my Thirty-first Annual Report, and in doing so again desire to express my appreciation of the uniform kindness and consideration I have received at your hands.

I again desire to express my deep indebtedness to the Medical Officer of Health, for his help, and also to express my sincere appreciation of the loyal and painstaking work of my Staff, who have cheerfully carried out a considerable amount of work after the usual office hours and on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.

I also have to acknowledge with appreciation the kind co-operation of the other officials and of Mr. T. Kyle (Food and Drugs Inspector, Surrey County Council) who has gone to considerable trouble on many occasions in assisting me in tracing adulterated milk to farms outside my district.

My thanks are also due to Mr. R. H. Thompson, the Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

I am, Mrs. Powell and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. HUMPHERY,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Infectious Illness.

At 8 houses invaded by infectious illness the laundry work was not done on the premises. The persons who had been doing the laundry work were immediately notified, and not allowed to receive any more until disinfection had been carried out.

Where cases have been treated at home, the premises have been frequently visited to ensure of isolation being practised, and each week, where it has been desirable, the laundry work has been steeped in disinfectants by one of the staff before being sent to be washed; 809 articles have been dealt with in this way.

The flushing of drains of infected premises (which during the year numbered 91) is also undertaken by the Department, so that thorough cleansing has been ensured, which is impossible when disinfectants are given to the tenants.

Notices have been issued to the School Medical Officer and the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools, informing them of all infected houses, and requesting them to exclude children from such until further notified. After disinfection is completed, and a suitable interval has elapsed, they have been advised thereof. If the members of the family are found to be engaged in any business bringing them into close contact with a number of people or foodstuffs, their employers are at once notified, and every precaution taken at once to stop, through contact, the spread of the disease.

Of the 200 rooms disinfected, 83 were in consequence of Consumption, 55 of Diphtheria, 42 of Scarlet Fever, 7 of Typhoid Fever, and 13 of miscellaneous diseases. Disinfection was also carried out at 11 Public Institutions.

Bedding, clothing, etc., that requires disinfection by steam or special fumigation, is removed by the Staff, under my supervision, to the Disinfecting Station. When mattresses and palliasses have to be treated, all the leather tufts are taken off and destroyed, and new tufts put on before the articles are returned to their respective owners.

Six hundred and five visits have been paid to houses in connection with infectious illness.

During the year under review 3,611 articles, in 224 lots, were removed for disinfection, and the following is a summary of them :—

Beds	69
Mattresses	284
Palliasses	78
Bolsters	188
Pillows	642
Sheets	73
Blankets	510
Quilts	71
Counterpanes	122
Carpets	16
Rugs	109
Cushions	80
Toilet Covers	88
Towels	52
Wearing Apparel	781
Curtains	84
Mats	88
Miscellaneous pieces	276
	3,611

In addition to the above the following disinfection has also been carried out :—

Borough Police & St. John Ambulances ...	10 times.
One Elementary School throughout, and 6 Dormitories.	
For the Fuller's Earth Union	1,000 sacks.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

I have again to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the butchers in carrying out the above Regulations. The satisfactory work reported last year has been continued.

The slaughtering has increased during the year and the following are the details of the animals slaughtered and the action taken :—

Seven Cows, 897 Steers and Heifers, 506 Calves, 4,107 Sheep, 712 Lambs and 4,208 Pigs. Total, 10,437.

The following animals were surrendered and destroyed :—

14 Pigs	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
3 „	...	...	...	Swine Erysipelas.
1 Pig	...	...	...	Acute Peritonitis.
1 „	...	...	...	Decomposition.
1 „	...	...	...	Multiple Abscesses.
1 Cow	...	...	...	Tuberculosis.
1 Calf	...	...	...	„
2 Sheep	...	...	...	Acute Inflammation.

In addition, the following livers and internal organs, etc., were also surrendered and destroyed :—

Ox livers	...	...	...	...	30
„ heads	...	...	...	...	3
„ lungs	...	...	...	...	5
Sheeps' livers	...	...	...	...	105
Pigs' livers	...	...	...	...	10
„ heads	...	...	...	...	29
„ plucks	...	...	...	...	17

Almost all the inspections above referred to were made after the recognised office hours, as the slaughtering in this Borough is generally conducted in the late afternoon and evening.

There are 14 slaughterhouses, 13 of which are registered and one licensed. In order to meet the requirements of the Meat Regulations, two of the slaughterhouses were unable to be used.

I have experienced a great difficulty in properly disposing of carcasses and offals that were found to be unfit. However, the Council are now considering the advisability of erecting a refuse destructor, and I hope when that matures that a plant will be attached for dealing with organic waste.

The vehicles used by the butchers are kept exclusively for the purpose of carrying meat, and are closed. Generally speaking they receive attention with regard to cleanliness.

There are no meat stalls within the Borough.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

During the year six cows have been notified as being affected with tuberculosis. The animals were slaughtered and post-mortem examinations were made, with the result that in two cases “ advanced

tuberculosis" was discovered, in three cases "tuberculosis," and in the sixth case the post-mortem examination revealed that the animal was slightly affected with "tuberculosis" and was also suffering from "Johne's Disease." In all instances the carcasses were destroyed.

One stable, 2 cowsheds, 32 stalls, 2 lairs and 1 slaughterhouse from which the animals were removed were disinfected by the Disinfecting Officer.

Food Supply.

Under Section 72 of the Public Health Act, 1925, 165 inspections have been made of the shops where food supplies are stored and sold, with a view to completing a register of all such premises.

Generally speaking the food is stored and handled under cleanly conditions, and in several cases alterations have been carried out in order to improve conditions, such as cleansing of storage accommodation, provision of lavatory basins for the use of employees and improvements in drainage.

Tradesmen show willingness to comply with requirements which may be made under this Section; but unfortunately the powers given are somewhat restricted as they do not apply to premises which are controlled by the Factory & Workshop Act.

Power has now been given under Section 79 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1925, for regulating the manufacture of ice-cream, and during the year under review 35 premises have been inspected.

The following articles of food have been surrendered and destroyed (these figures are exclusive of those mentioned under the "Meat Regulations") :—

Beef	...	...	...	...	340 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	15½ lbs.
Liver	...	...	...	...	32 lbs. (1 box).
Pigs' Fats	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	15 cartons.
„	...	...	...	...	12 tins.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(Ed. Hinks, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., Public Analyst.)

FOODSTUFFS.	SAMPLES TAKEN.				Total.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Third quarter.	Fourth quarter.			
Tinned Milk ...	...	6	...	...	6	6	...
Margarine ...	6	...	...	...	6	6	...
Milk ...	10	18	8	7	43	38	5
Butter ...	6	...	...	...	6	6	...
Cream ...	...	...	8	...	8	6	2
Cheese ...	...	...	...	6	6	6	...
Cocoa ...	...	...	...	4	4	4	...
Brawn ...	...	...	...	2	2	1	1
Sausages	...	...	...	4	4	4	...
Breakfast Sausage ...	...	...	...	2	2	2	...
Beer ...	...	...	...	8	8	8	...
Lard ...	...	6	...	...	6	6	...
Sugar ...	...	6	...	...	6	6	...
Coffee ...	...	4	...	...	4	4	...
TOTAL ...	22	40	16	33	111	103	8

Of the five samples of milk adversely reported upon one was reported to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 4 per cent. This milk being derived from a farm outside the Borough, the County Inspector was informed and the Vendor was cautioned.

The second was reported to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 3 per cent., and at the Vendor's request, 2 "appeal to the cow" samples were taken, which proved to be genuine. The Vendor in this instance was also cautioned.

The third (taken in transit) was reported to contain 2 per cent. of added water, and to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 2 per cent., this deficiency being accounted for by the presence of the added water. The percentage being so small, legal proceedings were not instituted; but the Vendor was cautioned.

The fourth was reported to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 6 per cent. As the milk was derived from a farm outside the Borough the matter was taken up by the County Inspector.

The fifth was reported to be deficient in milk fat to the extent of 7 per cent., and after consultation with the Public Analyst it was decided to caution the Vendor.

Of the 2 samples of cream adversely reported upon, one was taken informally and was reported to contain Boric Acid, or preparations thereof expressed as Boric Acid 0.28 per cent.

As no legal proceedings can follow on the result of an informal sample, a formal sample was taken from the same supply, and this was reported to contain Boric Acid, or preparations thereof expressed as Boric Acid 0.35 per cent. The Vendor was asked for an explanation of the matter and same was laid before the Sanitary Committee on September 13th, 1927 and it was decided to caution the Vendor in view of such explanation.

The sample of brawn adversely reported upon was found to contain Boric Acid or preparations thereof expressed as Boric Acid 0.05 per cent., being contrary to the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1927. The Vendor was cautioned.

Bakehouses.

During the year 7 new bakehouses were entered on the Register, bringing the total to 26, 10 being termed workshops, *i.e.*, without mechanical power, and 16 factories, *i.e.*, with mechanical power. All the premises have been cleansed every six months.

The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

In accordance with the above Order, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1926, a Register is now kept of all persons carrying on the trade of cowkeeper or dairyman, and of the farms and the premises used as dairies. An additional Register is kept of retail purveyors of milk, as required by the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

There are on the former Register 45 entries, 15 being cowkeepers.

The Register of retail purveyors contains 39 entries, 10 of which are of persons whose premises are outside the Borough.

Two dairymen are licensed to sell "certified milk" in bottles.

The milk supply of the Borough, apart from that derived from the cowsheds within, comes from the following places:—Balcombe, Betchworth, Blechingley, Charlwood, Duxhurst, Dorset, Earlswood, Edenbridge, Gadbrook, Horley, Leigh, Lingfield, Lowfield Heath, Merstham, Newdigate, Norwood Hill, Nutfield, Outwood, Salfords, and Three Bridges.

Considerable amendments have been carried out at the various premises in order to bring them into line with the Order, more

particular attention being given to the methods of handling milk than to structural alterations.

Mosquito Control.

An endeavour was made during the past year to check the hatching of mosquitoes in stagnant pools and low-lying land in the Borough by spraying with petroleum. This work necessitated a considerable number of visits to the different places, as the hatching of the larvae varies somewhat with atmospheric conditions. However, a considerable amount of spraying was carried out during the latter part of the month of April and early in May, and again in the latter part of August and early in September.

Several letters were written to people who have stagnant water on their premises, asking them to give permission for the spraying to be carried out ; the permission, however, was declined in many instances. I, however, am of the opinion that as the mosquito nuisance becomes more acute, this permission will be more readily given.

Knacker's Yard.

There is a licenced Knacker's Yard at Whitebushes, which has been frequently visited and found to be in a satisfactory state.

Gut Scraping.

There is one Gut Scraping business—the premises adjoin the Knacker's Yard. No complaints have arisen.

Verminous Houses.

Twenty-nine rooms infested with vermin have been treated with Solution "D," this being a spraying preparation for the destruction of vermin. This work is carried out under Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act.

The Order of the Board of Agriculture, issued in February, 1912, directing the disinfection of all vehicles removing swine from the markets, has not yet been revoked.

The Order necessitates attendance at the Redhill Market each day until the last pig has been removed, and during the year 337 vehicles have been dealt with under the Order.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

In the Medical Officer of Health's Report will be found particulars of 109 samples of Milk, taken for bacteriological examination, by the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

The taking of these samples entailed a considerable amount of work that does not appear on the surface. The majority were taken between 6 and 8 a.m. (in specially prepared bottles) on the arrival of the milk in the Borough, and when obtained, carried immediately to the Clinical Research Association, Ltd.

Factory and Workshop Act.

Owing to the changes in occupation that are continually taking place, the keeping of a complete Register of Workshops is a difficult matter.

One hundred and seventy-one visits of inspection were made, and ten workrooms measured. Plans of the workrooms have been made, and the cubic contents ascertained. Cards are supplied to hang in the rooms giving the number of persons that may be employed during the day and overtime. Generally speaking, the premises have been found well kept.

Three lists of outworkers were received affecting three outworkers, *i.e.*, persons who receive from the occupier of any factory or workshop work to be done in their own homes.

The following list gives the number of the various business premises in the Borough that come within the scope of the Act, and in which there are approximately 1,674 persons employed:—

<i>Business.</i>	<i>Factory.</i>	<i>Workshop.</i>	<i>Workplace.</i>
Art Leather Worker		1	
Art Needleworker		1	
Bakers	16	10	
Book Binder	1		
Boot Makers and Repairers		19	
Breweries	2		
Brick Makers, etc.	3	2	1
Carpenters, Cabinet-makers, etc.	5	36	
China Glass Rivetter		1	
Coach Builders	2	6	
Corn Merchant	1		
Cycle Makers	3	9	
Dairyman	2		
Distemper Manufacturer		1	
Dressmakers and Milliners		41	
Engineers	2		
Firewood Works	2	1	
Gas Works	1		
Jam and Essence Makers	1		
Laundries	2	10	
Mantle Makers		1	
Metal Workers	1		
Mineral Water Manufacturers	1	1	
Motor Car Repairers	4	3	
Photographers		6	
Pianoforte Repairers		2	
Picture Frame Makers		2	
Plumbers		10	
Polish Powder Manufacturers	1		
Printers	11	2	
Restaurants			18
Saddlers		5	
Sand Pit			2
Seedsman	1		
Sheet Metal Workers		3	
Shoeing and General Smiths		6	
Stables			14
Stonemasons	1	2	
Sugar Boiler	1	1	
Tailors		15	
Tanner	1		
Timber Merchants	4		
Tin Plate Workers		1	
Umbrella Makers		1	
Undertakers		3	
Upholsterers		8	
Vulcanising and Cycle Repair		1	
Watchmakers		8	
Wheelwrights		2	
TOTALS ...	69	221	35

Summary of Complaints received. Total, 112.

No.	Purport.	Action taken.
16	Insanitary condition of premises	Investigated and Notices issued.
10	House Drainage	Ditto.
29	Non-removal of house refuse	Referred to Borough Surveyor.
3	Foul accumulations	Nuisance removed.
54	Miscellaneous	Investigated, and, where possible, action taken.

Abatement of Nuisances, etc.

The following summary gives some particulars of the amount of work in connection with nuisances and defects dealt with. It is, however, impossible to tabulate a number of minor works of improvement that have been effected, or the number of visits that were made in supervising the carrying out of these improvements :—

Drains examined and tested	...	...	223
Drains relaid	...	...	19
Interceptors fixed	...	...	8
Drain ventilation improved	...	...	15
New W.C. apparatus provided	...	...	12
W.C. apparatus repaired	...	...	8
New soil and ventilating pipes fixed	...	...	5
Waste pipes trapped or repaired	...	...	44
Sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	46
Back yards paved or repaired	...	...	15
Sinks renewed or repaired	...	...	15
W.C. flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	...	...	13
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	11
Leaky roofs repaired	...	...	26
Eaves gutters and stack-pipes repaired	...	...	16
Sculleries paved	...	...	4

Ventilation and Light of Rooms improved	...	12
Rooms cleansed	... ..	212
Ceilings cleansed	... ..	42
Accumulations removed	... ..	17
Dampness remedied	... ..	23
Overcrowding suppressed	... ..	6
Plastering of walls and ceilings repaired	...	17
Fireplaces or coppers repaired	... ..	15
Window-frames or sash-cords repaired	... ..	21
R.W. gullies cleansed or repaired	... ..	6
Floors repaired	... ..	23
Cesspools cleansed	... ..	2
Pollution of Brook remedied	... ..	3
Screening of Lavatories	... ..	1

Notices Issued.

	<i>No. issued.</i>	<i>Com- plied with.</i>	<i>Out- stand- ing.</i>
(a) Preliminary Notices	142	89	53
(b) Sec. 36, Public Health Act, 1875...	20	9	11
(c) ,, 91, ,, ,, ,, ,, ...	92	50	42
	254	148	106

(a) Calling attention to conditions found on inspection.

(b) To provide "sufficient" closets and ashpits.

(c) To abate nuisances of various sorts.

Public Mortuary.

During the year there have been 15 bodies deposited in the Public Mortuary for the following purposes:—

Post-Mortem Examination and Inquest 14, Convenience, 1.

Stable Premises.

During the year the Register of Stable Premises has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. There are now 88

such premises on the Register, and generally speaking they have been well kept. Two hundred and eighty-four visits of inspection have been paid during the year.

Systematic Inspection of Houses.

The particulars obtained and recorded of each house inspected contains *inter alia* a block plan (to scale) of the house and drainage system, aspect, soil, ventilation round premises, size of each room, window area in relation to floor space, ventilation of rooms, number of occupants, conditions as to cleanliness, details of all sanitary fittings, state of walls and roof, dampness, conditions of yard and outbuildings, result of the test applied to the drains, and particulars of works of amendment ordered and carried out.

As soon as inspection is complete, a preliminary notice is sent to the owner calling his attention to the defects discovered. If this is disregarded, or the requirements named therein are only partly complied with, the circumstances are reported to the Sanitary Committee, and a statutory notice is issued. If this is not complied with, the facts are again reported to the Committee, and legal proceedings ordered.

An enormous amount of time is absorbed in interviewing owners and persuading them to carry out the work without resort to legal proceedings, and in addition, rapid progress is very considerably hindered by the majority of the small houses being on combined systems of drainage, and the consequent difficulty of getting the various owners to agree to do the work.

The following tables give some particulars of the conditions found on inspection under the systematic inspection. The houses referred to are working-class dwellings, and are situate at Clarendon Road, Common Road, Cromwell Road, Earlsbrook Road, Earlswood Road, Garlands Road, London Road (Reigate), Lyndale Road, Monson Road and Smith Road.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	149
Rooms measured	...	...	...	...	212
Rooms without fireplaces	...	...	...	...	17
Houses occupied by one family	...	...	...	...	82
" " " two families	...	...	...	...	45
" " " one family and lodgers	...	...	...	...	22
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	5
Houses supplied direct from public main	...	...	...	...	140
" " " " wells	...	...	...	...	9

Improper water closet	...	...	...	13
Ventilation of Water Closets			{ Good	... 120
			{ Fair	... 28
			{ Bad	... 2
Light of Water Closets	...		{ Good	... 113
			{ Fair	... 34
			{ Bad	... 2
Defective Sinks	...	...	...	6
Untrapped waste pipes	'	...	...	45
Dampness by	...	...	{ Roof	... 13
			{ Windows	... 3
			{ Dampcourse	1
			{ Drift	... 13
Yard Paving and Drainage			{ Good	... 124
			{ Fair	... 23
			{ Bad	... 2
Outbuildings (<i>i.e.</i> , sheds, etc. in back yards)	...	...	...	70
Improper dustbins	...	...	...	42
Defective drains	...	...	...	6
Air circulation round houses			{ Good	... 146
			{ Fair	... 3
			{ Bad	... —
Defective eaves, gutters and stack pipes			...	11
Cleanliness of premises for which owner is responsible	...		{ Good	... 132
			{ Fair	... 16
			{ Bad	... 1
Cleanliness of premises for which Occupier is responsible			{ Good	... 128
			{ Fair	... 21
			{ Bad	... —

The above figures include re-inspections of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations.

Miscellaneous.

There were 224 dwelling houses inspected. One hundred and forty-nine of these were inspected under the systematic inspection of houses, the remainder having been partially inspected for some special reason.

Office Work.

The following is a summary of part of the work ; it is, however, impossible to tabulate all that is done.

Calls and communications received and entered	3,853
Letters written	713
Communications to S.M.O. (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	134
Communications to S.A.O.	16
Communications to Head Teachers of Sunday Schools (<i>re</i> infectious illness)	25
Letters to Bakers (<i>re</i> cleansing)	36
Reports and letters sent to Medical Officer of Health	253
Report to Chairman (<i>re</i> infectious illness) ...	62
Reports made to Committee	11
Dust Complaints received and forwarded to Borough Surveyor	19
Notices issued	193
Entries made in Nuisance Journal	87
Entries made in Nuisance Register	147
Entries made in Food and Drugs Register ...	111
Entries made in Cowsheds and Milkshops Register	12
Scarlet Fever Precautions sent	22
Booklets <i>re</i> Feeding of Infants despatched ...	362
Circulars <i>re</i> Infantile Diarrhœa despatched ...	412
Circulars <i>re</i> Fly Danger despatched ...	2,810
Circulars <i>re</i> Care of the Teeth despatched ...	2,810
Reports and Letters sent to Health Visitor ...	47

Legal Proceedings.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Nature of Offence.</i>	<i>Date of Hearing.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
1	Selling Unsound Meat ...	Nov. 10th, 1927.	Case dismissed without costs.