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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL


OF

ROMSEY

For the Year 1920.

PORTSMOUTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT (Municipal Borough) of ROMSEY
FOR THE YEAR **1920.**

THE LIMES, ROMSEY,

May, 1921.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF ROMSEY, ACTING BY THE
COUNCIL AS THE ROMSEY URBAN SANITARY
AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

During the years of War the Reports I was able to submit to you were necessarily abbreviated, but it is now an obligation imposed by the Ministry of Health that Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be as comprehensive as possible and should provide for each District a survey of its sanitary circumstances and needs, as well as a statement of health conditions and vital statistics of the preceding year.

The information required is much the same as I was accustomed to provide in pre-war times, but the arrangement and order of the Report are somewhat different and follow a form suggested last year by the Ministry.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

Populaticn.

At the Census of 1911, 4,669. Population at the time of this Report, as estimated by the Registrar-General, 4,917.

The physical features of the district are easily described, its surface being an almost unbroken plane declining gradually to the River Test, which, except at one point, forms its western boundary.

The difference in altitude between the highest and lowest parts of the District is only about 20 feet, the mean height above sea level 55 feet.

The soil is for the most part gravelly and porous and is effectually drained by the several mill-streams which intersect the town, and which carry a large volume of water at considerable velocity to the main river.

A brewery, a jam factory, a tannery, paper and flour-mills, and one or two other small factories in the town, and, especially of late years, the railway works at Eastleigh, give employment to a large proportion of the population, and the rest of the inhabitants are mostly engaged in retail trade or in occupations common to all old market towns. There are very few private residents within the Borough boundary, and few houses to attract them.

There are no industries of special importance from the Public Health point of view

The District is uniformly and almost entirely Urban in character and is *very small* in area, the Borough being coterminous with the small parish of Romsey Infra, and embracing only 520 acres. It would therefore serve no useful purpose to attempt to differentiate as to sections of the town.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the many years I have been concerned with them as Medical Officer of Health, the Health Records as reflected in the Mortality returns and in the incidence of infectious disease have been rather favourable, and very constantly so.

The figures were formerly taken by the Medical Officer of Health from the returns of the local Registrar and corrected by the addition and subtraction of transferable

deaths, but they are now compiled by the Registrar-General, who also classifies the cause of death and supplies the estimated population basis for the calculation of Birth and Death rates for each district.

Vital Statistics for 1920.

The number of births registered during the year was 113; 57 males and 56 females, and this, on a basis of 4,917, gives a birth-rate of 23·1.

The birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales was 25·4, which is higher than it had been for many years.

The number of deaths was 64, 31 males, 33 females, yielding a death-rate of 13·0.

The death-rate for England and Wales was only 12·4, and was thus much lower than it had ever been before.

There were 9 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate per 1,000 births registered of 79.

The national infantile mortality rate for 1920 was 80, which again is the lowest figure yet attained. The average rate for this district in recent years is about 70.

The causes of death in 1920 are classified in Form M. 13 appended. There is nothing noteworthy therein.

The amount and extent of Poor Law relief I have no exact information on. The District forms part of the Romsey Union, and embraces about two-fifths of the population of that area.

Hospital accommodation is adequately provided by the Romsey Cottage Hospital and the Southampton Hospital.

In connection with the first named Institution, there is a District Nursing service, and there is also a Parish Nursing Association. The services of both Institutions are fully utilised.

There is no Isolation Hospital, and consequently no treatment other than domiciliary is ordinarily available for cases of infectious illness.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

Of the 1,080 houses in the town, about 830 are now supplied by the South Hants Water Works Company from their station at Timsbury. This water is pumped from the chalk underlying the Eastern slope of the Test valley, and the source and surroundings are themselves practically sufficient guarantee of purity, but I have made analyses from time to time, without ever having found any evidence of pollution. The supply is constant.

The remaining 250 houses still draw water from wells on their own premises. These wells are not in most cases more than 20 feet deep, but with a gravel subsoil and the general absence of house-drains where wells are in use, their liability to serious pollution is much less than might be supposed. As a matter of fact, I have generally found water from wells in Romsey of a higher degree of purity than samples taken from wells in the surrounding district, and in my experience cases of illness possibly attributable to water pollution are extremely rare. But there is not the same security against chance contamination that obtains with the South Hants supply, and for that reason, and because of the greater convenience of a pressure supply, the use of wells is gradually declining. Whenever suspicion attaches to any particular well I make chemical analysis by Thresh's method, and am guided by the results so obtained if they accord with the history of the well and the inference obtainable from observation of its position and surroundings.

There are no longer, I believe, any houses dependent on the river for water supply, the last remaining cases of the kind having been dealt with several years ago.

There is no local water of plumbo-solvent capacity.

Rivers and Streams.

The streams with which we are concerned are the main river Test, four large mill-streams (off-shoots of the Test), which flow through the Borough, supplying Burnt

Mill, Test Mill, Abbey Mill, and Town Mill, and which afterwards rejoin the main river, the Fox Mill stream (Tatburn tributary), and one small watercourse on the west side of Bell Street, which was apparently designed to serve as a sewer for a certain section of the town.

There is no serious pollution of any of these by trade refuse. They all receive a certain amount of sewage—mostly by direct connections from houses—but except in the case of the small channel just spoken of, the quantity of water is so great that there is no obvious sign of pollution, and as the river water is not used for drinking anywhere in or below Romsey, it is perhaps of no great consequence.

The small channel on the west side of Bell Street is still a nuisance in summer, although it has to some extent been mitigated of late years by more frequent and more thorough flushing.

The cure of the evil awaits the adoption of an improved system of sewers.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Sewers of old construction are laid through all the thoroughfares of the town, but less than half the houses are connected with them. The main line leads first to a small precipitation tank, and then on to the river Test.

The other lines discharge their contents into one or other of the tributary streams passing through the town.

For some 30 years a legal injunction has been in force restraining the Council from making any fresh connection with the sewers until some means of purifying the effluent before its discharge into the river has been devised.

The consequence is that most of the smaller houses among the older ones, and all of the newer houses, are unconnected with the sewers. They either have drains emptying into cess-pits on their own premises, or, as is more commonly the case, they are served on a conservancy system by pails provided and collected by the Authority.

It was the aim of the Council for many years to secure a site for the erection of works to which the whole of the sewage of the town could be conveyed by gravitation. With such a site in view, plans and estimates were prepared as long ago as 1903, for the complete resewerage of the town, and for the installation of purification works on the Septic tank and filter-bed principle. It then transpired that the proposed site could not be acquired, and this being the only place that could be reached by gravitation, and the alternative of pumping adding so enormously to the prospective cost, the undertaking has ever since remained in abeyance.

Personally, I have always regarded a complete new Sewerage and Sewage purification system as necessary and inevitable, and I think it a pity the difficulty was not faced while it was still not insuperable. At the present time the cost of such an undertaking may well be regarded as prohibitive.

Closet Accommodation and Excrement Disposal.

The system that applies to about half the houses in the Borough is the use of pails, which are collected and replaced during the night twice weekly, the town being divided into three districts for that purpose. The contents of the pails are taken to a field outside the town, where earth is added, and the produce is ultimately sold for manure.

Although the system may not be directly injurious—and I am not prepared to say it is even prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants—it is, I think, at best an unsatisfactory expedient. The offensiveness of the collection and the whole proceeding are necessarily objectionable.

The number of closets so provided is about 577, and the number of houses dependent on them rather more than 600, there being some cases, but now comparatively few, where there is only one closet for two adjoining houses.

To obtain exact information of the number of water-closets and privies of all kinds in the Borough, a visit to every house in the district was made by the Sanitary Inspector or by myself near the end of 1914, and a complete census on the point was taken. The result was—and there has been practically no change since then—that to provide for the 1,080 occupied dwelling-houses, the several small factories and workshops, the Elementary Schools and Public Buildings, it was found there were 1,207 closets, of which 420 were tank-flushed, and 46 hand-flushed water-closets (mostly connected with the public sewers, but some of them with cess-pits), 577 were provided with pails on the conservancy system, 66 were privies with vaults, and 98 were privies situated directly over one or other of the streams running through the town.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report, which is herein inserted, deals with Scavenging, Sanitary Inspection of the District, Premises controlled by Bye-laws, Schools, etc.

It was not found necessary at any time in the year under notice to advise the closing of any of the Elementary Schools on account of Infectious illness, the individual exclusion of scholars from infected households sufficing in the few cases requiring it.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TOWN HALL,

ROMSEY,

May, 1921.

TO DR. R. C. BARTLETT, MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH.

Sir,

Acting upon your request to render my report for the year 1920, I now beg to submit it in a form almost identical with that of the previous year, and trust that the course now adopted will meet with approval.

On Table V., details of Inspections under the Act, fumigations, and general work, appear in a classified form, the "general" ones being necessarily of a highly miscellaneous nature.

Following these will be found (each under a separate heading), the work as set out in the Ministry of Health's Memorandum, so far as my duties were concerned.

Scavenging.

Following custom, the removal of house refuse was a direct undertaking by my Council, and not through a Contractor, as in earlier years.

This was the natural result of the Local Authority's decision to maintain its own stables, team, and carters. The departure took effect in 1915, and has been continued to date, each successive year proving the wisdom of the policy.

The division of the Borough into three Districts, and making each one of these subject to two weekly collections of day scavenging, and an equal number of nightly collecting and changing of sanitary pails, continued throughout the year.

The united products were hauled to the Sanitary Fields, Budds Lane. The "tips" are situate in the centre of a stretch of meadow lands, well away from any domestic buildings.

The scavenging proper was sorted as tipped, and all portions found capable of combustion promptly burnt.

Incombustible materials were ultimately disposed of by their use in packing wheel tracks, the filling of ditches, and various methods.

Excreta was tipped into covered brick bays, broken down with ashes, stiffened by the addition of street sweepings (mainly grit), and ultimately disposed of to farmers for the dressing of arable and pasture lands.

The Authority, on call, loaned to owners of property within the Borough, proper covered vehicles; in these the contents of vaults, privies, and cesspools were collected and removed.

It should be mentioned that ashpits come directly under the head of "refuse," because the scavenger's work embraced the clearing of both fixed and portable receptacles.

Moveable containers were in a great majority, and very little variation in the relative numbers of either referred to in the previous paragraph takes place from year to year.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

(a) Confining the information on this section initially to Inspection conducted under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, the records number 205 for the year now under consideration.

It should be recognised that these were first visits, their sole object being to ascertain prevailing conditions.

(b) Out of the foregoing number, it was discovered that in 52 instances repairs were necessary, therefore owners or resident agents were served with formal notices under Section 15(3) to perform the works set out in detail thereon.

The works embraced both internal and external structural repairs, decorative work, the abatement of drainage and water defects, and other items.

Inspections conducted during the performances of work numbered 89 in all. In addition to this, verbal or written (informal), notices reached 43. These dealt with defects of such a nature that immediate action seemed the practical course to adopt.

14. "Places of Amusement" were also visited (following instructions received from Council), with the view to ensuring proper and adequate sanitary conditions upon the several premises. Only in one instance was the lessee called upon to effect a minor repair. No further calls upon owners were necessary.

(c) Taken on broad lines, the ultimate compliance of owners or agents to carry out the necessary works met with a prompter response than in 1919. This was in all probability due to the fact of more labour being at the command of contractors.

"General" inspections totalled 301. Under this sub-head should be read house refuse clearances, drain efficiency, piggeries and runs, and various investigations.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS, ETC.

Lodging Houses.

The inspection of these falls under the duties of the Police Superintendent by special appointment.

Dealing with the cases of occupiers of ordinary dwelling-houses, many conducted lettings, but I venture to express the opinion that this custom was much less prevalent, when compared with the previous year. The breaking up of the Remount Camp, and the resultant lessened demand to house the wives and children of the men formerly employed thereat, accounts for this.

Only one case of alleged overcrowding came directly to my notice, and that was dealt with by yourself.

I have no record of any complaint having been lodged, in connection with an offensive trade, during 1920.

Schools.

Sanitary conditions were well maintained in all instances. Inspections failed to disclose anything of an objectionable character. These visits are included under "general."

The South Hants Water Company's services are laid on to all public and private schools, thus ensuring a constant supply of water, for both drinking and cleansing purposes of an excellent quality.

Other Works Conducted.

The fumigations for the entire year numbered 19, viz:—

- 3 after Consumption.
- 3 after Scarlet Fever.
- 8 after Diphtheria.
- 2 after Influenza.
- 1 after Tonsilitis.
- 1 after Measles.
- 1 after unclassified illness.

McDougall's Vap. lamps were invariably used.

Disinfectants in general use (in the form of Sanitary Fluid and Carbolic Powder) were issued freely to bona fide applicants.

Following former custom, Soluble Blocks of disinfectant were placed in the several street watering vehicles whenever conditions demanded their use. Street gullies received similar treatment after their periodical cleanings, and, in addition, whenever such action was deemed necessary.

But little change occurred in the number of sanitary pails in use, there being only 3 conversions from vaults to pails.

The number in use in 1920 is believed to have been 937.

In September, the flow of the Fishlake Stream was diverted from its normal channels for a few days and the beds and sides of the branches of the stream passing through the Borough were cleansed, thus following the custom prevailing in alternate years.

Disinfectants, in powder and liquid form, were systematically employed, and every effort made to minimise personal discomfort.

25 visits in all were made to Slaughter Houses, the outcome being that a good standard of cleanliness and efficiency was preserved.

I trust that the foregoing information will prove to have covered the various points you desired embodied in this report.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

A. J. JENVEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

(Continued).

Food.

Milk Supply. Very little milk is produced within the Borough, the supply coming almost entirely from farms in the surrounding Romsey Rural District, and being distributed from the several Milk shops in the town.

The administration of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order and local Bye-laws thereon is entrusted to a Veterinary Inspector specially appointed by the Council for that purpose. His reports have been generally satisfactory. As far as I am aware, no action was taken last year in respect of tuberculous milk.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders, 1918 and 1920. No action in this case has been considered necessary. There is a "Welfare Centre," which is directed by the County Authority, and which is, I understand, well attended.

Other Foods.

Several inspections and condemnations of unsound food were made, and Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses (the former by myself, the latter by the Sanitary Inspector) have been periodically visited.

There is only one underground bakehouse, which as such is subject to annual license. There are six private slaughterhouses registered and controlled by Bye-laws. One of these was newly registered and licensed last year on compliance with the requirements of the Authority as to necessary sanitary provisions.

There is no public abattoir, and so far it has been found impracticable to arrange for the regular inspection of meat at the time of slaughter. It is exceeding difficult to secure the services of a competent Inspector with the necessary practical knowledge for this purpose, in the case of a small urban district such as this is. The suggestion has been made by this Council—and supported, I believe, by other local Councils in the County—that it

would be more practicable for the County Council to appoint a Meat Inspector with a wider field of action.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act. This is under the administration of the County Council, and a statement as to samples taken in each Sanitary District is periodically communicated to the local Authority.

No instance of Food Adulteration was found in 1920.

Nine samples were taken locally.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally in 1920.

Notifiable infectious diseases were rather less prevalent than usual. Altogether 28 instances were notified, of which 8 were cases of Diphtheria, 2 of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Erysipelas, 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 8 of Tuberculosis (of which 7 were Pulmonary cases, 4 of Influenzal or other Acute Pneumonia, and 1 of Dysentery.

There were no cases and no Vaccinations or re-vaccinations "return" cases of Scarlet Fever.

The notification of Measles and German Measles is no longer compulsory.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept for the use of Medical Practitioners, and it is taken full advantage of.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are available in the County Laboratory, to which in order to avoid loss of time specimens for examination are sent direct by the practitioner concerned. A copy of the report from the Laboratory is received by the Medical Officer of Health as well as by the practitioner. This facility is also made full use of, and has always worked perfectly well. Enquiry is made to discover "contacts," and this is followed by bacteriological examination where the circumstances render it desirable.

Having no Isolation Hospital of our own, we have to rely almost entirely on Domiciliary Isolation. This is usually inconvenient, rather than inefficient, and secondary cases are nearly always referable to the period preceding notification. There was last year one case, presumably due to failure in isolation.

There has never been in this District any serious ground for complaint as to the observance by medical practitioners of the requirements as to notification of tuberculous cases.

Of non-notifiable Infectious diseases, Influenza was not much in evidence, and cases of Measles, Whooping-cough, and Chicken-pox were never numerous.

Small-pox.

There were no cases and no Vaccinations or re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health (as such) under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. There were no cases of locally contracted Anthrax or Rabies.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Inspection of Midwives and the administration of a local Child-Welfare Centre are carried out by the County Authority.

There was no particular incidence of diseases affecting parturient women or young children, and no instance, I believe, of permanent injury resulting from Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

ations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health the Inspector of Nuisances, and the Council's workmen.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.

There is no Isolation Hospital belonging to the District, and the Authority has never been able to come to a standing agreement with a neighbouring authority for the reception of cases. On rare occasions, where from the cir-

cumstances domiciliary isolation has been less than usually promising, admission has been obtained, but it is not always available. On the last occasion of a local case of Small-pox (several years ago), portable shepherds' huts were used quite conveniently and successfully, and two or three of these have been retained for use in a like emergency.

Local Acts and Bye-laws.

There are no Adoptive Acts in force in the district.

There are Bye-laws relating to New streets and Buildings, Common Lodging-houses, Nuisances, Cow-sheds and Dairies, and Slaughter-houses. The Inspection of Cow-sheds and Dairies is entrusted to a Veterinary Surgeon, who is specially appointed, Common lodging houses to the Superintendent of Police—who is also specially appointed by the Council for that purpose—and the other matters to the Inspector of Nuisances, who is also the Borough Surveyor.

The present code of Bye-laws is scarcely up-to-date, and in some respects is too restrictive. I have recently advised the Council to adopt a new series, which will, I think, be found to be more in keeping with the local needs.

Arrangements for Chemical and Bacteriological work are made by the County Council. These are adequate, and are made full use of by local Medical practitioners communicating directly.

HOUSING.

(1) *General housing conditions in the district.*

Number. There are approximately 1,080 dwelling-houses in the town, of which about 800 or rather less, are of the working-class type or rental value.

No new houses were erected last year.

(2) *Population.*

Estimated (by the Registrar-General) at 4,917. The population at the last census of 1911 was 4,669. During the greater part of the war the population was consider-

ably increased by the presence of the families of soldiers stationed at neighbouring Military camps, and until the middle of 1919 it probably exceeded 5,000. With their departure I believe it has fallen to about the pre-war level, and, following the recent cessation of an important local industry, there is reason to anticipate some further fall. There is certainly no movement in local industry tending to an increased population.

(3) (a) *Extent of shortage or excess of houses.*

There is a shortage, inasmuch as the demand exceeds the supply, but it should be clearly understood that the greater demand results from the general shortage, and not from local needs, and that the balance may be quite reversed if and when the shortage of houses in neighbouring larger towns is overcome.

The position is that there has been for several years an influx of residents whose employment is in an industrial centre some eight or ten miles distant, and the reasons for it have been (1) that houses have been more easily found here, and (2) that rents are lower.

More than that, there has been in the last year or two great diversion of local labour from Romsey to the same larger industrial town, and the consequence is that at least 25 per cent. of local labour is no longer locally employed. This is especially true of the younger generation, and many of these young workmen are presumably now living here—often in the homes of their parents—only until they can find accommodation nearer their work.

These are considerations that must be borne in mind in estimating the extent of the present deficiency.

(b) *Measures taken or contemplated to meet the shortage.*

The estimate of Housing needs returned on Form D 89 in 1919 was 90.

Last year plans were approved and a contract made for the erection of 29 houses at the north end of the town. Of these, about half are now finished and occupied, and the remainder are nearing completion. This number should suffice for immediate needs, and, before going further, I think, in view of the present cost of building and the consequent necessity for higher rentals than are locally current, the Council would be well advised to wait and see whether the present scheme does not meet the demand. Also, I think the alternative should be considered, and, if thought desirable, a determined effort should be made, to get improvements and repairs effected in existing houses, which in their present state are only fit for condemnation.

It appears to me that the provision of the Rent Restriction Act, which permits of an increase of rental *subject* to necessary repairs being effected, if combined with a judicious and opportune application by the Authority of Section 15 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, may go far to modify our estimate of further needs.

(4) *Overcrowding.*

As may be supposed, with 1,080 inhabited houses for 4,917 persons (an average of only 4.5 persons per house), cases of actual overcrowding are quite uncommon. During last year none were met with, and the position is now perhaps easier, for the reason mentioned on the previous page.

(5) *Fitness of houses.*

(a) The general standard of housing in the town is *poor*—very poor for a country town.

(b) The general character of houses in the poorer quarters is that of the factory town of one hundred years ago—which, indeed, Romsey was at the time these workmen's dwellings were erected. Their faults are of design rather than of material or construction, and are negative rather than positive in character.

They are small, dark, ill-ventilated, set low on the ground, and (which is perhaps well) are without indoor "sanitation" or drains. But the ground being dry and porous, they are not damp; with a few exceptions they have the great redeeming feature of good back gardens or yards, and where they are in fair repair, and are kept clean and ventilated by open windows, so long as they are not overcrowded—which they are generally not—they make serviceable dwellings for poor people at the rentals at which they are obtainable.

(6) Action taken as regards unfit houses is shown in the Sanitary Inspector's report, included herein, and in the appended Table.

(7) The difficulties in remedying unfitness have lately been especially great, (1) Because of the scarcity of labour during the war, (2) from the greatly increased cost of repairs on the one hand and the low rentals on the other, and (3) because in the present position of an actual shortage of houses, however small that may be, Closing Orders have been out of the question. As appears from the Inspector's Report, there was last year a practically full compliance with orders made for repairs, but that, I think, is only because the demands have been studiously moderate.

My suggestion is that the solution for the most part lies in more comprehensive demands for specified improvements and repairs (balanced, if need be, by increased rents) as an *immediate* measure, and Closing Orders in the event of non-compliance as soon as the present shortage *is overcome*.

(8) The conditions as regards Water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal are referred to in the earlier part of the report.

IV. *Unhealthy Areas.*

There are no considerable "Areas" which can be regarded as unhealthy, but there are four or five blocks

of buildings, involving about 30 houses altogether, which have been specified in Section III. of Form D 89, and which may have to be dealt with under Part I. or Part II. of the Act of 1890.

(V.) *Bye-laws.*

A set of local Bye-laws relating to houses, etc., exists, but these, with the other Bye-laws, should be remodelled.

Copies of this Report will be duly send to the Ministry of Health, the Home Office, and the County Council. Other copies will be available to anyone locally interested, and it is recommended that arrangements should be made for an interchange of such reports between this and neighbouring or similarly situated Districts.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

RALPH C. BARTLETT,

Medical Officer of Health for the Romsey Urban District.

TABLE

M. 13.

Causes of Death in Romsey Urban District (Municipal Borough), 1920.

Causes of Death				Males	Females
CIVILIANS ONLY.					
ALL CAUSES				31	33
1	Enteric fever	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	...	2
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...
6	Diphtheria and croup	...	...	...	...
7	Influenza	...	...	...	...
8	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...
9	Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	2	3
10	Tuberculous meningitis	...	...	...	...
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	5	6
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...
14	Meningitis	...	...	1	...
15	Organic heart disease	...	...	5	2
16	Bronchitis	...	...	2	4
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	1
18	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1	1
19	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...
20	Appendicitis & typhlitis	...	...	...	...
21	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...
21A	Alcoholism	...	...	...	...
22	Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	2	...
23	Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	...	...	1
25	Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	3	3
26	Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	...	...
27	Suicide	...	...	1	...
28	Other defined diseases	...	...	8	9
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...
Special causes (included above)					
	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
Death of Infants under 1 year of age				Total	6
				Illegitimate	1
TOTAL BIRTHS				57	56
Legitimate				54	51
Illegitimate				3	5

Population - as estimated by the Register-General—4,917.

TABLE.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1920.

	Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notices by		Nuisance Remaining Unabated
	Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	358	82	82	82	82	...
	Structural Defects ...	137	52	...	52	...	52
	Supervision of Works	89	...	...	...	89	...
	Over-crowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Unfit for Habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	† Dairies & Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...
	‡ Cowsheds...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	* Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Slaughter-houses ...	25	...	...	...	...	...
Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	3	3	3	...	...	...
Water-closets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	Defective Traps	14	10	...	...	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Faults ...	16	16	...	...	...	...
	Water Supply ...	4	4	...	...	...	...
	Pigsties ...	32	12	...	...	...	...
	Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	678	179	85	52	171	52	...

Complaints received	...	...	...
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	...
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	9	...
" " found Adulterated	...	0	...
" of Water taken for Analysis	...	2	...
" Condemned as Unfit for Use	...	2	...

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	1	...
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	20	...
Schools ditto ditto	...	...
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things	...	...
Convictions ditto ditto	...	...

† Under supervision of Police Superintendent by appointment.

* " Veterinary Inspector "

" Medical Officer of Health "

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses—and where?—Yes, a limited scarcity.
 Number of new houses built in 1920?—None. General Character?—
 Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—A Building Scheme under
 the Housing Act.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of
 the Housing Regulations, 1910?—The Inspector of Nuisances.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—Yes, Monthly.

	Number.
Houses Inspected	205
SECTION 17—	
Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation
Representations made
Closing Orders made
Houses made habitable without Closing Orders
Houses made habitable as result of Closing Orders
Houses demolished
Houses unfit but still occupied
SECTION 15—(3).	
Defects reported in cases of 52 Dwelling Houses.	
Defects remedied .. 52
Notices served .. 52

