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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

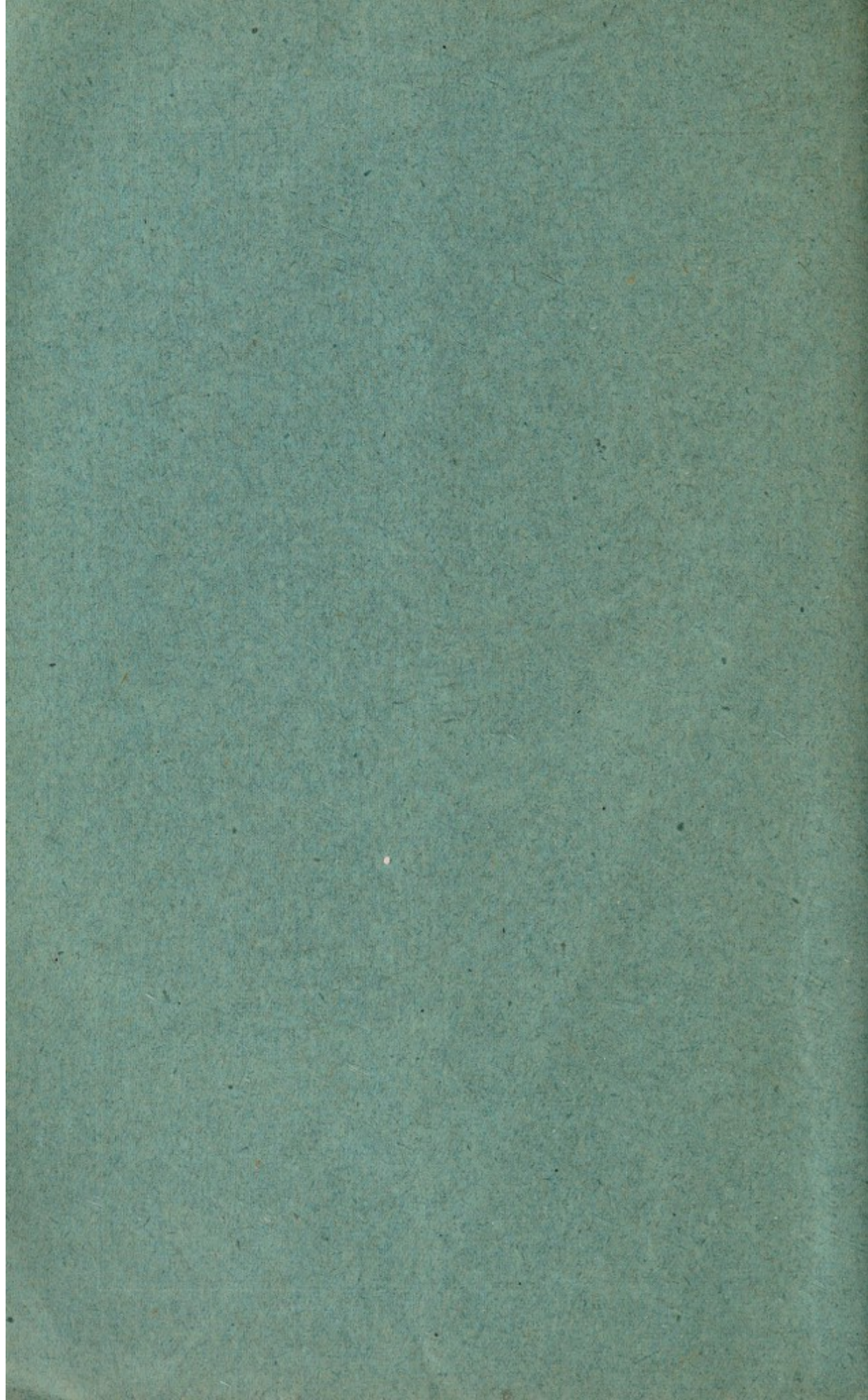
Urban District (Municipal Borough)

of Romsey

For the Year 1925.

ROMSEY :

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ANNUAL REPORT

for 1925

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Urban District (Municipal Borough) of ROMSEY.

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH
OF ROMSEY, ACTING AS THE URBAN SANITARY
AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,

In a memorandum of the Ministry of Health, dated December 28th, 1921, it was suggested by the Minister, with a view to economy in the time of Medical Officers of Health, and in the cost of printing, that Annual Reports should, in future, be made in an abbreviated form dealing only with the vital statistics, causes of sickness, sanitary administration, etc., of the year under notice; and that only at intervals of not more than five years should full and detailed reports ("Survey Reports"), showing the whole sanitary circumstances of a district be issued.

In Circular 540 of the Ministry dated Dec. 18th, 1924, it was intimated that Survey Reports for 1925 would be required, and Circular 648 of 10th December 1925, prescribes the form these reports should take and the principal headings under which information is to be given in detail. The form of report now required corresponds very closely with that of the Reports I used to make annually for many years prior to 1921.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 520.

Population (by census of 1921), 4,821.

As estimated by the Registrar-General at the middle of 1925, 4,805.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 1,156.

Number of Separate occupiers (estimated), 1,166.

Ratio of population to inhabited houses 4.17

Rateable value (1925), £21,452.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £74.

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 the lowest parts of the area is only about 20 feet and the mean height above sea-level is 60 feet.

The soil is for the most part gravelly and porous and it is very effectively 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.

The District though very small in area (the Borough being co-terminous with the small parish of Romsey Infra and embracing only 520 acres) is essentially urban in character.

Before the era of steam power Romsey was a little factory-town and evidence of that is still to be found in the type of small houses in the bye-streets.

A Brewery and several water-power Mills (Paper and Flour) and one or two other small factories still give employment to a proportion of the population, but there is decidedly less employment within the area than there was even twenty years ago. On the other hand, as a consequence of the general shortage of houses in the country, and also perhaps because rents are lower here than in the towns where they are employed there has been a considerable influx as residents of people employed at the railway works at Eastleigh and the Docks at Southampton.

Hence it is that, miserably poor dwellings though so many of them are, there is no such thing as an uninhabited house in Romsey. The rest of the inhabitants are mostly engaged in retail trade or in other occupations common to all market towns. There are very few "private" residents within the Borough boundary. The town is decidedly a *poor* town, as may be supposed from consideration of the low rateable value quoted above.

There are no industries of special interest from the Public Health Point of view.

The amount of Poor-law relief and the extent to which hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilized are I believe normal according to the population as compared with other places.

There have been no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the period under review.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1925.

Births

Legitimate 77 (Males, 47 ; Females, 30).

Illegitimate 2 (Males, 0 ; Females, 2).

Total 79.

Birth-rate 16.4, which is the lowest Birth-rate recorded for the District. For 1924 the rate was 17.3.

The National Birth-rate in 1925 was 18.3, and in 1924 18.8.

Deaths 55. Death rate 11.4 (in 1924 it was 12.9).

The National Death-rate in 1925 (and also in 1924) was 12.2.

Infantile Mortality—Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—Total 1 (illegitimate 0).

Infantile Mortality rate (per 1000 births) 12.6.

The National Infantile Mortality rate for 1925 was 75.

There was no excessive mortality from any particular cause locally. The Infantile mortality rate has usually been low in this District and last year it was particularly low, but in dealing with a small population the rates are naturally very variable in different years, and consequently the variations from year to year have little or no significance.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the County Council or by the local Authority :—

(1) Tuberculosis—by the C.C.—the nearest at Chandler's Ford 7 miles distant.

(2) Maternity—at the County Hospital at Winchester—subsidised by the County Council.

(3) Children—no special provision.

(4) Fever and (5) Small-pox. This District is without an Isolation Hospital of its own, and for the most part infectious cases are nursed in their own homes, but in cases where the domestic circumstances are especially difficult and likely to lead to a breakdown in isolation, accommodation is usually obtainable at the Hospital of a neighbouring District, and in these cases the cost is partly or wholly borne by the Local Authority.

General Hospitals.

The Romsey Cottage Hospital, the Southampton Hospital and the County Hospital at Winchester, in the order named, are those principally used, and the accommodation is good and sufficient. The local Sanitary Authority as such makes no contribution.

Except what is afforded by the Workhouse Infirmary, there is no special institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases proceeding to hospital an Ambulance vehicle is provided by the hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases there is no provision but there is never any difficulty in obtaining a suitable motor conveyance.

Clinics and Treatment Centres for Maternity and Child-welfare, Tuberculosis, Venereal Diseases, etc.

There are none locally, but the Centres controlled by the County Council are within convenient distance.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The only such officers are the Medical Officer of Health (who is also Medical Officer of Health for the Romsey Rural District), the Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Borough Surveyor), a Veterinary Surgeon for the Inspection of Dairies and Cow-sheds, and of Meat-shops and Slaughter-Houses, and The Inspector of Police who is appointed specially for the Supervision of Common Lodging Houses. They are all part-time Officials.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

General by a Parish Nurse, supported entirely by a voluntary institution, and by "Private" nurses (usually non-resident in the area). There is no nursing arrangement or contribution by the Local Authority.

Midwives.

There is no employment of, or subsidy to practising midwives by the Public Health Authority.

The number of midwives registered by the Local Authority is four. Their supervision is controlled by the County Authority.

Chemical work.

Water analysis is usually done by the Medical Officer of Health and occasionally at the County Laboratory. The Council is not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. Reports on Samples taken locally are received periodically from the County Authority.

Legislation in force, Adoptive Acts, Bye Laws and Local Regulations.

There are no Adoptive Acts in force locally.

A complete set of Bye-Laws dealing with new streets and Buildings, Common Lodging houses, Nuisances, Cow-sheds and Slaughter-houses was recently drawn up to replace others which were some to extent obsolete in their requirements. They were adopted in 1923.

There is no administration by the Local Authority in co-operation with medical and ancillary services of National Health Insurance, or of the voluntary hospitals, or of the Poor-law or of other agencies.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

Of the 1,156 houses in the town, about 950 are now supplied by the South Hants Water Works (now belonging to the County Borough of Southampton) from their pumping 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.

I have made analyses of this water from time to time and always with satisfactory results. The water is naturally excessively hard, but the hardness is reduced by precipitation before it enters the mains. It appears to me that the result would be better if the water remained longer in the settling tanks after precipitation, for it is often cloudy from unsettled particles. No doubt, Romsey having first pull on the mains, gets the worst of it in this respect.

The remaining 200 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 public supply, and for this reason and because of the greater convenience of a pressure system, the use of wells is gradually declining. When ever suspicion attaches to any particular well I make a 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 dependant 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.

Pollution of 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) and one small water-course on the west side of Bell Street, which was apparently designed to serve as a sewer for a certain section of the town.

There are no serious pollutions of any of them by trade refuse.

They all receive a proportion of sewage, but, except in the case of the small channel just alluded to, 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 water-course on the west side of Bell Street is always a nuisance in summer, although the better flush of water which was obtained for this channel a few years ago has effected some improvement.

Sewerage.

Sewers of old construction are laid through all the thoroughfares of the town, but less than half of 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 the other of the tributary streams which pass through the town.

For some thirty years a legal injunction has been in force restraining the Council from making any fresh connections with the sewers until some means of purifying the sewage before discharging it into the river should be devised.

Therefore it is that most of the small 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 by the so-called sanitary 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 purification works, to which the whole of the sewage of the town would be conveyed by gravitation. With such a site in view, plans and estimates were prepared in 1903 for the complete re-sewerage of the town, and for the installation of purification works on the "septic-tank" and filter bed principle. At that point it transpired that the proposed site could not be obtained, and as the only alternative sites would have necessitated pumping the matter was allowed to drop. Within the last year it has again been seriously considered and it now appears that with but slight modification of the plan of 1903 a practicable scheme has been evolved. The only objection is that of expense, but on that ground the council has not seen fit to proceed with the scheme without first submitting it to the approval of the Burgesses, and to obtain a decision a public vote is to be taken.

I can only once again assert the opinion I have always held, that a water-carriage system is the only practical method applicable to Urban Districts, and therefore while fully appreciating the objection raised on the point of expense, I hope the conversion will be made.

I regard it as essential to any material improvement in the sanitary condition of the town.

Conservancy System.

The system that applies to rather more than half of 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 product is ultimately sold for manure.

Although the system may not be directly injurious it is, I think, at best an unsatisfactory expedient. The offensiveness of the collection and the whole proceeding are necessarily objectionable. A

The number of closets so provided is about 600, and the number of houses dependent on them rather more than 650, 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 but little 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.

Scavenging.

A statement of the character and efficiency of the arrangements for the removal and disposal of house refuse, etc., is contained in the appended report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Inspector's Report also includes a classified statement of the number of premises visited, the defects or nuisances discovered and the action and result of action in regard to these.

Smoke Abatement.

There was no instance during the past year of nuisance from smoke calling for abatement.

Premises and Occupations controllable by Bye-Laws or Regulations.

The only such premises in the area are the licensed slaughter houses and two Common Lodging houses. These are supervised by a specially appointed Veterinary Surgeon and a Police Inspector respectively, and these administrations are referred to elsewhere in this report. There are no underground sleeping rooms to require regulation under the Housing Act, 1925.

Schools.

The general sanitary condition of the Elementary and other schools in the town is satisfactory, the Water Supply is efficient,

and the closet accommodation is the best that can be provided under the existing restriction as to fresh connections with the public sewers.

Notification of Infectious cases of illness coming to the knowledge of the Teachers is made both to the Medical Officer of Health and to the County Authority and is the subject of further communication between the two Authorities in all cases.

The procedure recommended in the Memorandum on Closure of, and exclusion from, school, 1925, is what has always been practised in this District. There was no occasion for school-closure last year.

HOUSING.

1. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

(a) *Shortage of Houses.*—From the fact that there is rarely one to be found unoccupied there is an apparent shortage, but its extent is impossible to estimate because it depends on the general shortage rather than on local needs.

(b) *Measures taken to meet the shortage.*—Under the Municipal Housing Scheme of 1921, 29 new houses were erected by the Corporation in that year, and apart from these only 12 houses have been erected in the five year period 1921-1925, although a subsidy is payable towards the erection of Working-class dwellings. The number of new houses has been limited (1) by the present high cost of building (2) from the fact that there are very few eligible sites within the Urban area, and (3) from uncertainty whether the local demand will long continue, there being no new or progressive industries in the town.

On the higher ground immediately East and South East of the town (outside the Borough area), there has been in the meantime, considerable building of small "villa" houses.

2. OVERCROWDING.

From the fact that for a population of 4,821, there are 1,156 occupied houses, giving the very low ratio of 4.17 people per house, it is evident that instances of overcrowding must be rare. On the other hand most of the houses are small, and some families are large, and the result is here, as elsewhere when the supply of houses is limited, that the largest families are generally found in the smallest houses, they having the least available money for rent, and being looked on as the least desirable tenants. The policy of the Council in such cases lately, has been to insist on the exclusion of supernumeraries such as lodgers, and to urge the accommodation of the older children of certain large families in the houses of relatives or friends, or in domestic servant employment. In the several instances of recent years, where proceedings in respect of overcrowding have been taken, the inevitable result has been to force a whole family into the Workhouse.

No extreme cases of overcrowding were met with in 1925, or none that could not be otherwise dealt with—and consequently no such proceedings were taken.

3. FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of houses in the area is poor, a large proportion of them being small and old-fashioned. These are their chief defects, and the redeeming points about them are, that they are nearly all provided with ample back-yards or gardens, and Through ventilation, and are free of internal drains, for which they are indeed quite unsuited.

The rental values being low, and there being no difficulty in finding tenants at the present time, there is a too common reluctance on the part of owners to spend money on the upkeep of these houses, until they are compelled to do so by formal notice specifying required repairs, and it has been found most convenient and effective to deal with all such cases in that way, under the Public Health Act, 1875. The appended table shows the result of action so taken last year.

Conditions, so far as they effect housing, as regards water-supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal, are dealt with elsewhere in this Report. In my opinion it is impossible to effect radical improvement in the general standard of housing in the District, until the removal of the Injunction restraining further connections with the Public Sewers. One result of the compulsory provision of Water-closets which would follow, would probably be the automatic closure of some of the poorest houses, as not worth the expense—a result which would have operated a generation or two ago in the ordinary course of town improvement.

4. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There is no locality in this small District which can be particularly so described.

5. BYE-LAWS relating to houses, etc. The local Bye-laws are adequate, a complete new set having been adopted as recently as 1923.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under b).	..	7
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts.		
(i) By the Local Authority.	...	6
(ii) By other bodies or personal.	...	7

1.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	153
--	-----	-----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	153
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	49

II.—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	...	Nil
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	...	Nil
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—		
(a) By owners	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts or under Section 15 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909:—		
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	49
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:—		
(a) By owners	...	49
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909:—		
(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

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Administration of the Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-Shops' Order, is carried out by a Veterinary Surgeon specially appointed by the Local Authority for that purpose.

There is at present no regular inspection of Dairy Cattle, but that will now shortly be dealt with (by the County Council) under the Milk and Dairies Order (1925), made under the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act of 1915, and other parts of the same Order will apply as from certain (different) dates commencing this year.

(1) There was no special action with regard to tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle taken by the Local Authority last year.

(2) No licenses for the sale of milk under special designations classified as in the Fourth Schedule to the Milk (Special designations) Order 1923, were applied for.

(3) Nor were there any refusals or revocations of registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk.

Meat.

The inspection of Meat and of Slaughter Houses, is now fortunately undertaken by the same Veterinary Surgeon, who was appointed for that purpose last year, to deal especially with the requirements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The following is the Report of the Veterinary Surgeon:—

(1) "As Meat Inspector of the Borough since 1st May, 1925, I inspect all Slaughter-Houses at least once a week: and all animals slaughtered, or to be slaughtered, that I may find on the premises.

There are no markings of carcasses at present. Diseased portions of carcasses are destroyed by burning, or buried. Whole carcasses condemned are sent to the kennels.

(2) I inspect Stalls (if any), shops, stores and vehicles.

(3) There is no Public Slaughter-House in the Borough."

Private Slaughter-Houses.

	In 1920	In January, 1925	In December, 1925
Registered	8	8	9
Licensed	8	8	9

Other Foods.

Unsound food is inspected and dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health as occasion arises. Bakehouses and other places where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale are inspected under the Factories and Workshops' Acts. Existing powers have not been found inadequate for dealing with Sanitary conditions in such places. There are now no underground Bakehouses requiring Special Annual License.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUG ACTS.

Milk and Cream Regulations.

The Borough Council is not the Local Authority under these Acts, the administration of which is carried out by the County Council, but reports on samples taken are received by the Medical Officer of Health from the County Authority.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

With the exception of Chicken-pox, which has been very prevalent since its notification was made compulsory in this District in 1923, the incidence of infectious illness, has been very light during the whole period of five years, 1921 to 1925.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, and it is promptly applied for and used in all cases by the local practitioners.

There has been, as far as I am aware, no application of the Schick or the Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

There has been only one case of Encephalitis Lethargica reported during the five years, and that was in 1921. No "return" cases of Scarlet Fever have been met with. Of the diseases made notifiable under the Regulations of January, 1919—i.e.: Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentery and Trench Fever, only the first-named has been in evidence, and of this 3 cases were notified in 1921, 1 in 1922, 0 in 1923, 14 in 1924, and 0 in 1925.

Full use has been made of the arrangements for examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens at the County Laboratory, and to avoid loss of time reports are sent direct from the Laboratory to the Medical Practitioners concerned, and a confirmatory report at the same time to the Medical Officer of Health.

Enquiry is made to discover "contacts" and where there is ground for suspicion as to these, further bacteriological examinations are made.

Isolation in the patient's own home is usually relied on, but where the domestic circumstances are unfavourable, the cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital of a neighbouring Authority. From long experience of this working arrangement in this area, I am of opinion that it is at least as efficient and far more economical than would be the provision of a separate Isolation Hospital for this small district.

Disinfectant solutions are supplied for domestic use during and after infectious illness, and fumigation of rooms and their contents by Formalin vapour is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. Occasionally infected articles of clothing, bedding, etc., are destroyed.

We have no steam-disinfector, nor are there any facilities in the area (other than those at the Workhouse adjoining), for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings.

No use has been made of the facilities for Vaccination by the Medical Officer of Health, under the Public Health (Small-pox prevention) Regulations 1917.

Primary vaccination and Re-vaccination by the Public Vaccinators in the District, is efficiently carried out, and the only neglect in that respect is on the part of the public.

Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases—such as Measles, Mumps, and Whooping Cough, have been rather less prevalent than usual during the past five years. Information as to their extent at different times is gathered from my own observation, and by enquiry from other practitioners, and intimation is also regularly received from the School teachers.

Moderate outbreaks of Influenza have occurred each year, but the disease has never been severe in character or very general in this neighbourhood since 1918.

Deaths attributed (partly or wholly) to Influenza, numbered 6 in 1921, 1 in 1922, 3 in 1923, 1 in 1924, and 0 in 1925, giving a mortality rate from Influenza for the five year period of .44 per 1,000, of the population per annum.

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

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.†	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.‡
Small-pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	2	0
Diphtheria	2	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Other diseases generally notifiable.			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0	0
Other diseases notifiable locally. (Specify disease) Chicken-pox.	85	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.†				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1		1						
5			1					
10	1		1					
15								
20		2				2		
25	1							
35								
45					1	1		
55								
65 and upwards								
Totals ...	2	3	2	0	1	3	0	0

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths = 1 to 4.

Notification in the area is generally efficient, and occasional omissions are almost invariably due to misunderstanding on the part of practitioners as to notification having been made by some earlier medical attendant in a case.

PUBLIC HEALTH, (Prevention of Tuberculosis), Regulations 1925.

There has so far been no action under these Regulations, no case to which they apply having been met with. Nor has there been any case for action under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

The Public Administration with regard to Tuberculosis cases, and the arrangements made for them, are of course carried out by the County Authority, and are detailed in the Annual Reports of the County Medical Officer.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE work is also done by the staff of the County Authority.

The incidence of Puerperal fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Measles, Whooping-Cough, Epidemic Diarrhœa, Polio-Myelitis and of other infectious diseases affecting parturient women, infants

and young children, has of late years been light in this district, and no special action with regard to such cases has been taken or called for.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1925.

	Cases.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.				
		At Home. In Hospital.				
	I	I O	I	—	—	—

The ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, on the administration of the Factory and Workshops' Act, 1921, is appended in the prescribed form.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector on various duties carried out by him is also appended as required. Copies of these, and of my report as a whole, will be duly forwarded as soon as printed to the Ministry of Health, the Home Office and the County Council.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RALPH C. BARTLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

April 20th, 1926.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the URBAN DISTRICT of ROMSEY.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	1	0	0
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	8	0	0
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	9	0	0

RALPH C. BARTLETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

April 20th, 1926.

TOWN HALL, ROMSEY,

April, 1926.

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

SIR,

In compliance with your recently expressed request, I now beg to submit my report as Sanitary Inspector to this Borough, for the year 1925.

So far as my duties went, the nature and extent of these, have been set out in the sequence appearing upon the Appendix of the Ministry of Health's Circular, dated 10th December last.

SCAVENGING.

In the matter of Ashpits, it may be stated that these fixed receptacles are gradually dwindling in number, and the Sanitary bin, barrel, box or pail is replacing them. There is no present-day record of the number of either.

No deviation from the well-tried system of house-to-house collection of refuse took place during 1925. Complaints were very few, and dealt with promptly. There was no difficulty in carrying out operations, more especially from the fact, that the Council provided direct manual labour, and also maintained its own Stable. This latter arrangement has proved much superior to the former hiring practice.

The three Districts, into which this Borough is divided, were each visited twice weekly, thus being brought into line with the night collections.

All refuse gathered was hauled to the Sanitary Field, sorted, and burnt, so far as possible. Incombustible portions were employed in filling in ditches and in like works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Inspections under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, during the period under review, were 153. Statutory notices were served upon 17 Owners or their Agents, and all works called for were ultimately performed. It is to be understood that a single notice may cover the demand for repairs on several properties, on occasion.

The comparatively small number of notices served is accounted for by the fact that owners promptly become aware of inspections in progress, apply for particulars of the works which they will be called upon to perform, and forthwith instruct Decorators to carry out the necessary repairs.

During the progress of such works, 85 visits were made in all, upon 49 premises.

Falling under the head of "General" the inspections totalled 212, covering the easing of choked drains, the regulation of water supplies, the condition of pig-sties and runs, fowl-pens, and the proper condition of domestic pets, &c.

Overcrowding.

Only one case was met with, and your intervention, coupled with the approval of your action by the Council, sufficed to bring about an abatement of the nuisance.

Schools.

In the cases of the four Public Schools (three of which are Elementary and one Senior), sanitary conditions were well preserved generally.

No call was received to visit either of the Private Schools, and therefore it may be concluded that no Notifiable Infectious diseases occurred thereat.

Fitness of Houses.

Neither Closing nor Demolition Orders were made by the Council.

In the strict sense of the term, there are no back-to-back houses in this Borough, therefore no great congestion. The smallest dwellings generally, have fore courts in addition to rear or side gardens, thus affording air spaces.

The discontinuance of wells, and the provision of high pressure water supply in place of the former service, occurred in one or two instances.

In the case of pump delivery from a live well, samples of water were taken and submitted to analysis by yourself. This particular well serves two dwelling-houses, each having a separate pump. The well was emptied and cleansed, with beneficial result.

Other Works Conducted.

Fumigations during the year were as follows :—

3 after Scarlet Fever.	3 after Tuberculosis.
Small Class Room,	} 1 after Measles.
C. of E. Infant's	
School.	

The Registered Slaughter-Houses were visited periodically, and an additional one Licensed.

Now that the Council has appointed a Meat Inspector, it may possibly be ruled that I should discontinue these inspections. It would now be within the province of the Official named, to see that the desired proper conditions were preserved.

Throughout the year, Soluble Block were used when road gully flushing and street waterings were called for.

I trust that the foregoing report, read in conjunction with the Table, will prove to have dealt with the several matters within the scope of my department.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

A. J. JENVEY,

Sanitary Inspector.

Causes of Death in Romsey Municipal Borough, 1925.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES				29	26
1	Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3	Measles	...	...	1	1
4	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
7	Influenza	...	...	1	...
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	...
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	3
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	5	...
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	1	...
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...
15	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	1	2
16	Heart disease	...	...	3	4
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	2	3
18	Bronchitis	...	...	3	2
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	1
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	1
28	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	1	...
29	Suicide	...	...	...	...
30	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	1
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	9	8
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...
Special causes (included above)				...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year				1	...
Total Illegitimate				...	...
TOTAL BIRTHS				47	32
Legitimate				47	30
Illegitimate				...	2

Population—(For Birth and death rates)—4,805.

The required copies of these Reports will be duly sent to the Ministry of Health and the County Council.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

RALPH C. BARTLETT,

Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Romsey.

April 28th, 1926.



