# [Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Royston (Hertfordshire) U.D.C.

#### **Contributors**

Royston (Hertfordshire, England). Urban District Council.

#### **Publication/Creation**

1937

#### **Persistent URL**

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/q6zhj8x8

#### License and attribution

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

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

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



# Royston (Met) Urban District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937

Public Health Officials

Medical Officer of Health:

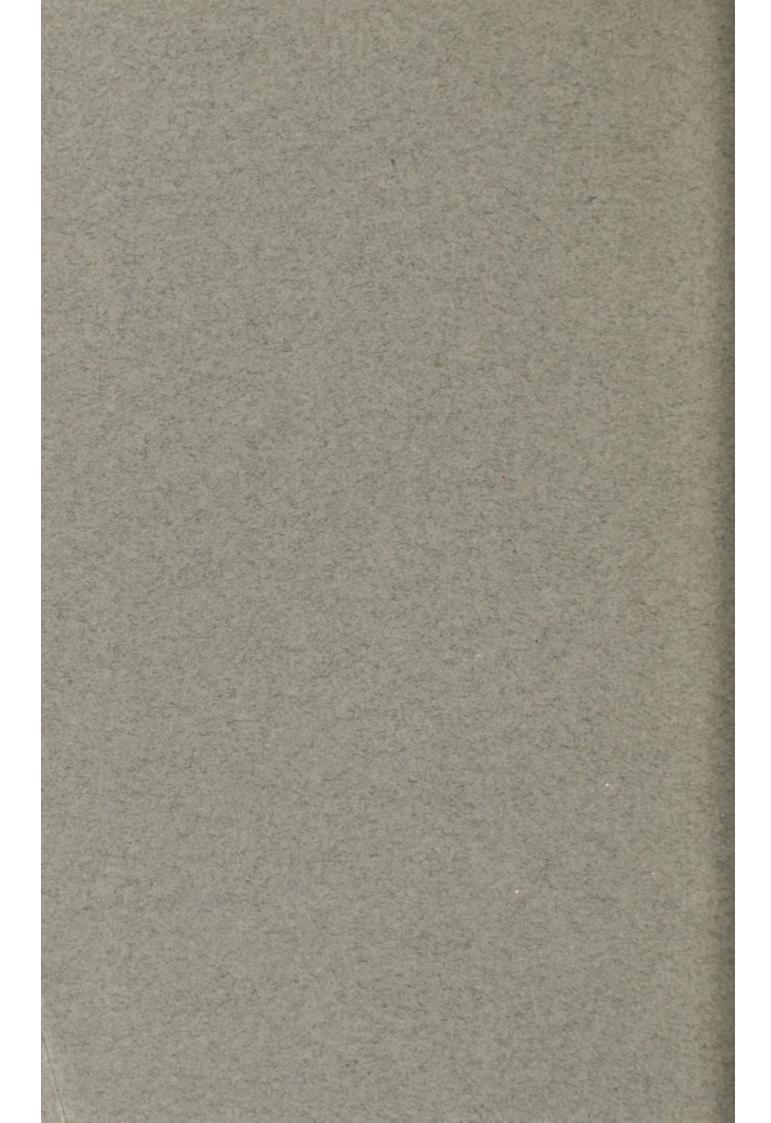
NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 123, Norton Way, Letchworth.

Sanitary Inspector:

H. F. J. BANHAM,

Clerk,

Council Offices, Royston.



# ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1937.

# To the Chairman and Members of the Council

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1937. The Report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health circular 1561, dated the 10th of October, 1936.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres) 1626
Residential Population (Registrar General's figure) 3876
Number of inhabited houses 1202
Number of inhabitants per house, average 3'25
Rateable Value £24,417
Sum represented by a penny rate £91

# VITAL STATISTICS

Births	Legitimate Illegitimate	M. 23 1	F. 22 1	Total 47	Birth-rate 12.1
Deaths	M. 20 F.	34	Total	54	Death-rate 13'9
Infantile I	Mortality Legitimate Illegitimate	M. 1 0	F. 1	Total 2 Infant	Mortality rate 42.5
Still Birth	Legitimate Illegitimate	M. 1 0	F. 1	Total 2	Still-Birth-rate '51

The comparison of the rates of the small towns of England and Wales with those of Royston are as follows:—

	Small Towns	Royston
Birth Rate	15'8	12'1
Death Rate	11'9	13.9
Infant Mortality	55.	42.5
Still-Birth Rate	64	51

# TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications of Tuberculosis for the year 1937

				tone	New	Cases.			Dea	ths.	
Age Periods.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory,		Non- Respiratory,			
				М.	F.	M.	F.	М.	F.	М.	F.
1 5						1					
5											
15											
20								1			
35											
15								1		1	
55 55 a	nd upw	vards									
	Total	s		_	_	1	-	-	_	_	_

While the rates of the small towns show a fairly healthy condition in that they are sufficient to maintain at least a stationary population those of Royston show a declining population though the actual figures of Death Rate and Infant Mortality are quite good.

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Senility 3
Disease of the pulmonary system 4
Disease of the circulatory vessels 19
Influenza 4
Malignant disease 14

There were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, Infantile Diarrhoea, Measles, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria. This is a good record. The general effect seems to be that the people in Royston are ageing and not receiving a sufficient number of young people.

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE

One case of Scarlet Fever was notified and no other infection. This is a remarkable record.

# THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

This hospital now serves Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth, Royston and Stevenage Urban Districts, and Hitchin and Welwyn Rural Districts. Up to now the record of this hospital has been a very good one.

The hospital was opened in 1915 and since then 2636 cases have been admitted and 55 deaths have occurred. This gives a percentage of 2'09 deaths. Of these deaths 24 were from Diphtheria, 8 from Scarlet Fever and 19 were from the deadly Cerebro-spinal Meningitis which occurred during and after the war.

This good result was largely due to the co-operation of Medical Practitioners in sending in cases quickly, even sometimes before the diagnosis was confirmed. Much can be done today in treating these infectious diseases in their early stages, and the Board is anxious to encourage the early admission of patients.

#### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

Number	of children examined	144
,,	with enlarged tonsils	
	and adenoids	51
,,	with defective vision	9
,,	with defective teeth	23

The condition of the children improves, very few neglected and verminous children are now seen, and the mothers show a greater interest in the examination. More defects are now remedied though there is still room for more of this work to be done.

I remain,

Your obedient servant, NORMAN MACFADYEN, M.B., D.P.H., M.O.H.

# Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for 1937.

# WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district is supplied with water from the chalk by the Royston Water Company, by a piped supply of excellent quality. No shortage has been experienced during the year. No bacteriological examination was obtained during the year. Chemical Analysis of the water is as follows:—

# Physical Examination

Appearance Bright Colour None

Odour when heated to 80°F. Taste Sediment None
None
Very small, consisting of minute
particles of mineral
matter and vegetable debris

	tubic dobii
Chemical Analysis	Grains per gallon
Ammonia, free and saline	0.0021
Ammonia, albuminoid	0.0022
Oxygen absorbed in 1 hour	0.026
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours	0.067
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.32
Chlorine	0.90
Total solid residue dried at 180°C	O.
(no blackening on ignition)	23'40
Carbonic anhydride (CO <sub>2</sub> )	6'50
Sulphuris anhydride (SO <sub>2</sub> )	2.35
Lime (CaO)	9.38
Magnesia (MgO)	0.86
Soda (Na <sub>2</sub> O)	0.78
Silica	1'12
Oxides of Iron and Aluminium	0.28
Alkalinity before boiling, as	
Calcium Carbonate	14.80
Alkalinity after boiling as	
Calcium Carbonate	1.7
Ph. Value	7.2

The mineral constituents probably exist in the water combined in the following manner:—

Magnesium Sulphate	2'58
Calcium Sulphate	1'07
Calcium Nitrate	2.04
Sodium Chloride	1'48
Calcium Carbonate	14.75
Silica	1'12
Oxides of Iron and Aluminium	0.28
Total Mineral Constituents	23.32

The analysis shows the water to be of a high degree of organic purity.

#### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

12 new buildings have been connected to the Council's sewers, and 1 house which drained to a cesspool has been connected to the sewer and the cesspool abolished. 7 new buildings and 3 existing houses have been drained to cesspools, the Council's sewers not being available.

# RIVERS AND STREAMS

There are no rivers or streams running through the district.

# CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The replacing of old insanitary types of hopper closet by wash-down pedestal closets and the provision of flushing cisterns thereto has been continually followed up. 18 new water closets have been built during the year. 22 hopper closets have been replaced by wash-down pedestals. 26 water closets have been provided with flushing cisterns with water laid on thereto. 25 closets have been provided with light and ventilation. 25 closet floors have been repaired.

# REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL

Weekly removal of house refuse is carried out except in an outlying portion of the district (Eagle Tavern and Burloes) where incombustible refuse is collected once a month.

The system of collecting house refuse from the point at which the receptacle is usually kept instead of requiring householders to place the bins etc. on the pavement ready for collection was continued during the year. The system has worked smoothly and the following particulars show the cost of the work for the 12 months ending 31st December, 1937.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Team Labour	110	10	0				
(Horse & Man)	112	12	8				
Collector	71	1	4				
Repairs to Refuse Cart							
and Tools	1	12	6				
	-				700	_	
			£18	15	6	1	

A total weight of 637 loads of refuse has been collected during the year and at an estimated weight of 18 cwt. per load, a total weight of 573 tons, giving a cost of  $6/5\frac{1}{2}$  per ton for collection.

Disposal of refuse at the Sewage Farm Tip by means of controlled tipping has been continued. All combustible material is burnt, and tins etc. are flattened before being layered and covered with ashes and earth. The cost of disposal for the year is as follows:—

£ s. d. £. s. d.

Team Labour 18 17 6

Manual Labour 117 3 7

Tools, Repairs etc. 2 9 5

£138 10 6

This gives a cost of  $4/10\frac{1}{2}$  per ton for disposal. The total cost for collection and disposal is £323 10s. 7d. for the year or a cost per ton of 11s. 4d.

# SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

- 15 Houses were inspected under the Housing Acts
  - 9 Informal Notices were served
  - 4 Statutory Notices were served
  - 3 Notices under Section 11 Housing Act were served
  - 3 Demolition Orders under Section 11 were made
- 32 Notices were complied with

# SHOPS ACT 1934

One shop was granted a Certificate of Exemption from the provision of sanitary convenience by reason of special circumstances, viz. the existence of a sanitary convenience for the flat over the shop, the flat being occupied by the resident manager of the shop.

# SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is one open-air swimming pool in the area open to the public. The water is chlorinated and the pool kept in an excellent state of cleanliness.

# ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No council houses or other houses in the district were found to be infected with these vermin. Periodic inspection of the council houses is carried out, when any infestation is looked for.

# PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS

There are no offensive trades
There are no underground sleeping rooms

# FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are no factories in the district where more than 40 people are employed.

The workshops in the district are as follows:-

Bakehouses 4, Bootmakers 8, Bicycle Repairers 4, Builders 3, Coachbuilders 1, Dressmakers 3, Furniture Maker 1, Masons 2, Plumbers 4, Photographer 1, Saddlers 2, Smiths 3, Tailors 3, Watchmakers 2, Wheelwright 1, Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers 2.

These premises are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

# HOUSING

	Number of new houses erected during the year:—	
	(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts (1) By the Local authority (2) By other bodies or persons	21 0 0
1.	Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.	
	(1)a Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) b Number of inspections made for that purpose (2)a Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above)	126 242
	which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925	15 31
	(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—  Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	131
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
	A.—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936:  (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were	
	served requiring repairs (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	9
	(a) By owners	4 0
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	43

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition	
Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of	
Demolition Orders	5
DProceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in	
respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect	
of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room	
having been rendered fit	0
4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding	
A (1) Number of dwelling Houses overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	5
B Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
C (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	5
D.— Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken	0
steps for the abatement of overcrowding	

# SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

Following the rehousing of tenants from houses in Clearance Areas and from individual unfit houses, demolition has been proceeded with. During the year 31 houses in Clearance Areas have been demolished as follows:—

No. 1 or London Road Clearance	Area	 14	houses	demolished
No. 2 or Normans Lane ,,	,,	 6	,,	,,
No. 3 or Market Hill "	,,	 3	,,	,,
No. 6 or Melbourn St. (South)	,,	 4	,,	,,
No. 7 or Melbourn St. (North)	,,	 4	,,	,,

At the end of the year there remained 8 houses in Clearance Areas to be demolished.

Five individual unfit houses on which Demolition Orders were operative were demolished as follows:—21 The Fleet, 8 Market Hill, 13 and 15 The Warren, Heath Farm Bungalow. Two houses on which Demolition Orders were made in 1937 remained to be dealt with at the end of the year.

# INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD

# MILK SUPPLY

There are three milk producers in the district, the remainder of the dairymen obtaining their supplies from outside the area.

There is no Graded Milk produced in the district.

There has been no refusal or revocation of registration of retailers. Periodic inspection of the farms and dairies is carried out, and

samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, one Dealer's Licence was granted to use the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" in relation to milk obtained by the dealer from licenced producers outside the district.

Four samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination to the Laboratory, Hill End Hospital, St. Albans. The result of the examinations showed that while the number of bacteria was not excessive, the presence of Coliform Bacillus pointed to some contamination with organic matter, which required to be eliminated. It is hoped that by enquiry into the methods of production, storage and distribution, future samples will show improvement.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Sanitary Inspector acts as Meat and Food Inspector, and inspection of meat and other food supplies is carried out systematically and examination of carcases at the time of slaughter is carried out.

No marking under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 is in force.

The humane killer is used for slaughtering all animals in accordance with regulations adopted by the Council.

There is no arrangement for the destruction of condemned meat and the practice is to render the meat unsaleable for human food, after which it is buried on the land.

There are no public slaughter-houses in the area.

The slaughter-house at Sun Hill which stood on land bought by the Council for housing purposes, was vacated by the occupier and the buildings demolished and the site cleared. By arrangement between the butchers, all slaughtering of animals in the district is now carried out at the Registered Slaughter-house in Melbourn Road. Though this arrangement eases the work of inspection, as regular slaughtering is carried out on five days a week and on two evenings, a considerable time has to be spent on this work if all animals slaughtered are to be inspected.

344 visits were made at the private slaughter-house in the district and the following carcases were examined—Beasts 290, Sheep 871, Pigs 702.

# Carcases Inspected and Condemned

ne estate en estate de la cons	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	. Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	212		78	871	702
Number inspected	212		78	871	702
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1				5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	0.47%				0.7%
Tuberculosis only whole carcases condemned					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4				12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.88%				1.7%

Other food condemned—1 x 6lb. tin of Corned Beef, 2 x 6lb. tins of Ox Tongue.

All the premises used in the preparation of human food are in a satisfactory state.

There have been no cases of food poisoning in the area.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928 is administered by the County Council.

# Summary of

# Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Report

for the Year Ending 31st December 1937.

Surveyor's Office,

Town Hall, Royston, Herts. 1st June, 1938.

# NEW STREETS & BUILDINGS

Total Number of Plans approved		 	25
Plans approved for New Houses		 	11
Plans approved for other buildings		 	14
New Houses completed-			
By Local Authority under Hou	sing Acts	 	0
By Private Enterprise		 	21
Other buildings completed		 	14
Drains laid to new buildings		 yards	919
Connections made to sewers		 	12
Gullies laid to new buildings		 	40
Vent Shafts fixed		 	28
Fresh Air Inlets fixed		 	22
Inspection Chambers built		 	51
Water Closets		 	42
Pail Privies		 	0
Privies		 010000	0
Ashbins		 	21
Cesspools		 and below	7
Intercepting Traps		 	20

# HOUSING ACTS & PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

Houses Inspected. Housing Acts			and the second	15
Notices served under Section 11, H	lousing A	et 1936	0.2500 [17]	3
Demolition Orders made		S errosa	ad universe	3
Undertakings from Owners accepte	ed by Cou	neil	text	0
Houses closed in accordance with				0
Houses Demolished .				36
Informal Notices served				48
Statutory Notices served				4
37 11 3 1		The same of the same of		32
Legal Proceedings taken				0
Housing Act 1935. Overcrowding				
Houses visited and rooms mea	sured	1		6
Houses found overcrowded		10000		0
Overcrowding abated				1
Houses provided with improved lig		100000000		3
,, ,, ,, vei	ntilation	on becausely	PO CONT	5
House roofs renewed or repaired				21
" windows repaired				25
" chimneys repaired				2

" ceilings renewed or repaired				26
,, floors repaired				8
,, rain water gutters repaired				16
" walls pointed or plastered				9
Wall plaster repaired				10
Houses re-drained				30
Houses connected to sewer				1
Houses connected to cesspools				3
House drains relaid or repaired				24
New drains laid			yards	
Gullies fixed				35
Intercepting Traps fixed				8
Sinks connected to foul drains				18
New vent shafts fixed				5
Inspection chambers built				11
,, ,, repaired				8
Water service pipes repaired				14
Dampness remedied				16
Downspouts disconnected, renewed	or repaired	d-		9
Yards paved or repaired				14
Water closets repaired				11
Nuisances abated from animals imp	properly ke	pt		0
New sinks fixed				16
Water laid on to sinks				16
Sink waste pipes fixed				16
,, ,, disconnected				16
Blocked drains cleansed				26
New water closets fixed				18
Flushing cisterns provided to water	closets			26
Windows provided in water closets	for light an	nd venti	lation	25
Hopper closets replaced with wash	down pede	stals		22
Water closet floors repaired				25
Pail Closets abolished				3
Accummulations of rubbish and fil	th removed			10
Houses disinfected—Scarlet fever	1			
Tuberculosis	1			
Other diseases	4			
Vermin	1			7
Slaughterhouse Inspections				344
Shops Inspections				4
Bakehouses inspected				8
Bakehouses limewashed				34
Dairies and milkshops inspected Dairies cleansed and limewashed				18
Workshops inspected				25
Workshops cleansed and limewash	ed			4

S. M. JACKSON,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937 for the Urban District of Royston on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, in connection with

# Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

#### 1.-INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

	Number of			
Premises	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.	
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	0	_	_	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries	25	_	-	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises	-	_	-	
Total	25	-	_	

# 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

	Num	Number of Defects		Number	
Particulars.	Foun 1.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	of Prosecutions	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:*					
Want of ventilation  Want of cleanliness  Overcrowding  Want of drainage of floors  Other nuisances	4	4			
Sanitary Accommodation  insufficient  unsuitable or defective  not separate for sexes		Zerin			
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—					
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	4	4-	-	_	

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

# OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, Section 108.

NATURE OF WORK.	Instauces	Notices served.	Prose- cutions.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Wearing Apparel —	separ 1		
Making, &c	1		
Cleaning and washing			
Household linen		Serline's	
Lace, lace Curtains and nets			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass articles		-	
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, &c			
Artificial Flowers	Nil.		
Nets, other than wire nets			
Tents	1		
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags			
Brush making			
Pea picking		No.	
Feather sorting			
Carding, &c., of buttons, &c			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making		-	in the
Chocolates and sweetmeats			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, &c		F	
Textile weaving			
Lampshades	1		
TOTAL	0	0	0

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN MACFADYEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

