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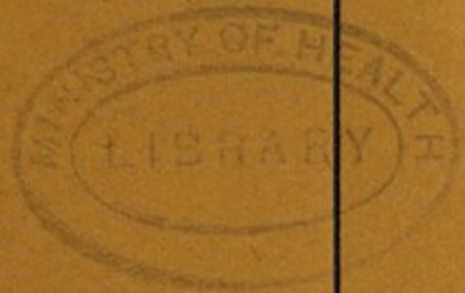
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# **Report**

OF THE

## **Medical Officer of Health**

TO THE

## **Rural District Council of Salisbury**

**For the year ending Dec. 31st, 1925.**

LANCASTER & SONS.  
PRINTERS, SALISBURY.





## To the Rural District Council of Salisbury.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1925. I am following lines indicated in Circular 648, issued by the Ministry of Health, making this a survey Report for the last five years.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, 56,990 acres.

Population (Census 1921), 10,204.

Estimated population (1925), for Birth rate, 10,510.

„ „ „ for Death rate, 10,140

### Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The District is situated in the Southernmost part of the County, is undulating in character, with a considerable amount of downland and well-watered valleys. The soil is chiefly composed of gravel and chalk; the subsoil is chalk throughout the District, with the exception of Alderbury, Clarendon, Landford and Nomansland, where the subsoil is gravel and sand.

*Number of Inhabited Houses* (1921) 2,454.

*Number of Families as separate occupiers* (1921) 2,499.

*Rateable Value*, £78818.—Sum represented by a penny rate, £244.

The chief occupations of the residents are those concerned with agriculture. There are no specially dangerous trades in the District.

### Vital Statistics.

|                      | Total. | M.    | F.    |       |                   |
|----------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------------------|
| Births.—Legitimate   | 185    | 87    | 98    | }     | Birth-rate, 17·60 |
| Illegitimate         | 8      | 7     | 1     |       |                   |
|                      | 1925.  | 1924. | 1923. | 1922. | 1921.             |
| Birth-rate           | 17·6   | 17·0  | 17·7  | 20·6  | 20·6              |
| „ Eng. & Wales       | 18·3   | 18·8  | 19·7  | 20·6  | 22·4              |
|                      | 1925.  | 1924. | 1923. | 1922. | 1921.             |
| Death-rate           | 11·7   | 12·4  | 10·9  | 12·9  | 10·3              |
| „ Eng. & Wales       | 12·2   | 12·2  | 11·6  | 12·9  | 12·1              |
|                      | 1925.  | 1924. | 1923. | 1922. | 1921.             |
| Infantile Death-rate |        |       |       |       |                   |
| per 1000 births      | 37·8   | 50·2  | 49·4  | 59·1  | 62·2              |
| „ Eng. & Wales       | 75     | 75    | 69    | 77    | 83                |

Amount expended in Poor Law relief, £3,121.



## General Infectious Diseases.

There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, or Measles. Diphtheria one death.

The incidence of sickness has not been excessive, and does not call for special comment.

## Notifiable Diseases during the year.

| Disease.              |        |     |     | Total Cases<br>Notified. | Cases<br>admitted to<br>Hospital. | Total<br>Deaths. |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Diphtheria            | ...    | ..  | ... | 1                        | 1                                 | 1                |
| Scarlet Fever         | ...    | ... | ... | 6                        | 5                                 | —                |
| Enteric Fever         | ...    | ... | ... | —                        | —                                 | —                |
| Poliomyelitis         | ...    | ... | ... | 1                        | —                                 | —                |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ...    | ... | ... | 2                        | —                                 | —                |
| Puerperal Fever       | ...    | ... | ... | —                        | —                                 | —                |
| Pneumonia             | ...    | ... | ... | 10                       | 10                                | 6                |
| Tuberculosis          | ...    | ... | ... | 18                       | 11                                | 3                |
| a. Pulmonary          | Male   |     | 6   |                          |                                   |                  |
|                       | Female |     | 4   |                          |                                   |                  |
|                       | Total  |     | 10  |                          |                                   |                  |
| b. Non-pulmonary      | Male   |     | 3   |                          |                                   |                  |
|                       | Female |     | 5   |                          |                                   |                  |
|                       | Total  |     | 8   |                          |                                   |                  |

## Puerperal Sepsis.

There has been no case during the year.

## Scarlet Fever.

There is no special note to be made with regard to this disease ; seven is the average number of cases for the last five years.

## Diphtheria.

There was only one case of Diphtheria in 1925, the average for the last five years being 5.

## Pneumonia.

The notification of this disease is not sufficiently observed, none of the six deaths having been previously notified.

## Cancer.

There were 16 deaths from this disease.

## Tuberculosis.

Total deaths, 6 : male 3, female 3. Two of these cases were non-pulmonary.

*Ages of cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year.*

| Under 15 years | 15 to 20 | 20 to 25 | 25 to 35 | 35 to 45 | 45 to 65 |
|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 3              | 1        | 3        | 9        | —        | 2        |

The notification of Tuberculosis is fairly efficient, largely due to the systematic action of the County Tuberculosis Officers. Cases occurring are notified to the County Tuberculosis Officer, under whose direction suitable treatment is carried out, in conjunction with the patient's medical attendant.

In cases where a death has occurred from Tuberculosis, the room, etc., occupied by the patient is disinfected.

### **Nursing.**

Provision for District Nursing is available throughout the District with the exception of Stratford-sub-Castle. This is conducted through the district Nursing Associations, which are affiliated with the Wilts County Nursing Association. They are supported by voluntary contributions and aided by grants from the Salisbury Board of Guardians. The amount contributed by the Guardians to the different districts was £35 0s. 0d.

*Midwives.* These are under County Council control, many of the District Nurses are also midwives, and the greater part of the midwifery in the district is undertaken by them. There are nine midwives in the District.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

There are no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, School Clinics or Day Nurseries in the District, with the exception of Downton, where there is a Welfare Centre which is open once a fortnight.

Anti-natal treatment is now available at the Salisbury Infirmary.

### **Tuberculosis Centre.**

The Salisbury Centre, controlled by the County Council, is available for the District.

### **Venereal Diseases.**

There is a department at the Salisbury General Infirmary, which is subsidised by the Ministry of Health through the County Council, especially for the treatment of these diseases, and is available at all times for residents in the District.



## Hospitals.

*Tuberculosis.* There are no Tuberculosis Hospitals situated in the District, accommodation however is available at the Winsley Sanatorium and the Harnwood Hospital, Salisbury.

*Fever and Smallpox.* The Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital at Old Sarum provides accommodation for the following diseases:—Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Encephalitis Lethargica, Erysipelas, Puerperal Fever, Meningitis (Cerebro-spinal Fever) and Poliomyelitis.

*Small-pox.* At the Temporary Hospital, West Harnham, now under the control of the County Council.

The Salisbury General Infirmary (a Voluntary Hospital) provides accommodation for surgical and acute medical cases of illness, and has proved of great value for such cases. A small number of beds are subsidised by the County Council at the *Maternity Department* of the Salisbury Infirmary, and are proving of the greatest value. There are no Cottage Hospitals in the District.

## Ambulance Facilities.

*For Infectious cases.* Patients are removed to the Isolation Hospital by the Hospital motor ambulance.

*Non-infectious and Accident cases.* A motor ambulance service is available. The headquarters of this service is at the Salisbury Fire Station, and has proved of great utility.

## Laboratory Work.

The Council defray the cost of pathological and bacteriological examination in connection with notifiable diseases, and also provide anti-toxin and sera when necessary.

*Shick and Dick Tests.*—No use of these Tests has been made in the District.

## Sanitary Administration.

*Medical Officer of Health.* Part time.

*Sanitary Inspector.* Whole time, combined with office of Building Inspector.

## Water Supply.

The water supply is chiefly derived from wells, mostly shallow. Lord Radnor's private reservoir now supplies Alderbury, Nunton, Bodenham, Odstock and West Grimstead with a constant supply of good water. At Farley there is a supply of water from a private reservoir. There has not been any river pollution reported.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

There is no system of sewerage in any part of the District. Household slops and waste water are dealt with by means of cess-



pools. Solid excreta are dealt with by earth closets, pail closets, and privies with vaults. The least objectionable is the pail closet.

There is no system of scavenging, and the onus of removal rests with the occupier.

### Sanitary Inspections.

No. of Inspections made, 607.

*Bake-houses*, 17 ; inspections 40.

*Dairies and Cowsheds*, 130 ; inspections 192.

*Slaughter-houses*, 13 ; inspections 375.

No Statutory Notices have been necessary for remedying defects found.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

*Milk Supply*.—The milk supply of the district is produced wholly within the area of the district, and large quantities are exported by rail.

*Meat*.—375 visits have been made to butchers' shops and slaughter-houses.

Ninety-seven verbal, written and telephone messages of intention to slaughter were received, also 8 written notices of regular slaughtering days.

Carcases, etc., surrendered as being unfit for food, 7, and 15 offals. Offals were buried in quicklime or burnt. Carcasses disposed of at Bone and Tallow works.

### Slaughter Houses.

| 1921.      |   | Jan., 1925. | Dec., 1925. |
|------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| Registered | 8 | 8           | 13          |
| Licensed   | 0 | 0           | 0           |
| Total      |   | 8           | 13          |

### Housing.

*General Housing Conditions*.—Houses erected :—

| 1921. | 1922. | 1923. | 1924. | 1925. |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 40    | 20    | 27    | 28    | 43    |

Total in last five years, 158.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)) 43

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—

|                                |     |     |      |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| i. By the Local Authority      | ... | ... | nil. |
| ii. By other bodies or persons | ... | ... | 27   |



100. Unfit dwelling houses. Inspection.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...   | 34 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... | 14 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...  | 3  |
| (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 ...          | 1  |

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices:—

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... | 27 |
|---|----|

3. Action under statutory powers:—

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925

|  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...  | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after services of formal notices:—   |      |
| (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:—

|  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... | nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—              |      |
| (a) by owners ...  | nil. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owner ...   | nil. |

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925:—

|  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ...   | 4    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...   | 4    |
| (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 ...  | 1    |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...   | nil. |

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

### 1.—*Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises.   | Number of    |                  |                       |
|---|--------------|------------------|-----------------------|
|   | Inspections. | Written Notices. | Occupiers prosecuted. |
| FACTORIES ...<br>(Including Factory Laundries)      | 12           | —                | —                     |
| WORKSHOPS ...<br>(Including Workshop Laundries)     | 57           | —                | —                     |
| WORKPLACES ...<br>(Other than Outworkers' premises) | 7            | —                | —                     |
| Total ...   | 76           | —                | —                     |

### 2.—*Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.*

| Particulars.                                   | Number of Defects. |           |
|--|--------------------|-----------|
|  | Found.             | Remedied. |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i> |                    |           |
| Want of cleanliness ...                        | 5                  | 4         |

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. GORDON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

April 30th, 1926.









