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BOROUGH



OF RYDE.

FORTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

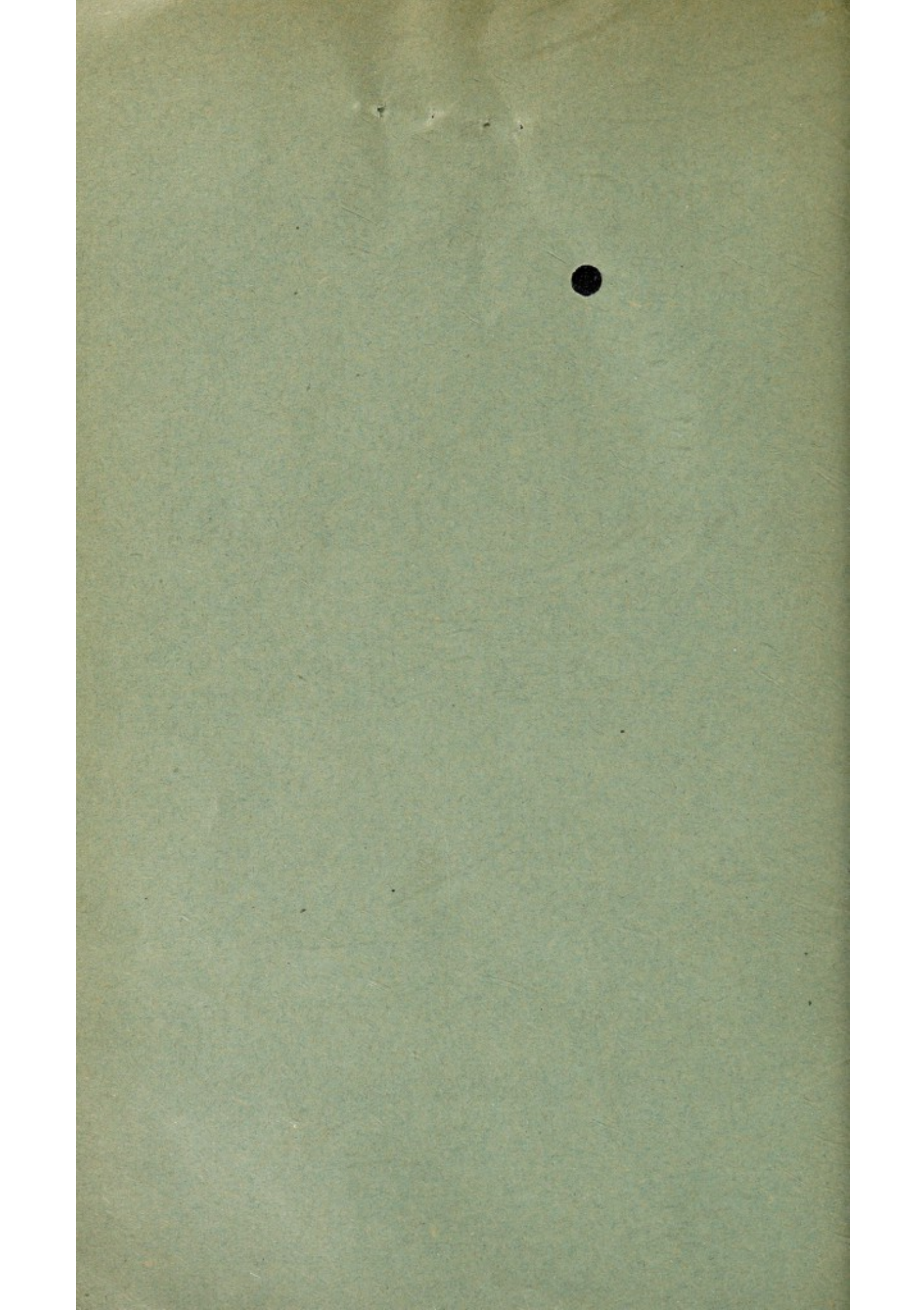
TOWN COUNCIL,

ACTING AS THE

Sanitary Authority for the Borough of Ryde

For the Year 1923

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WEST END,

JOHN STREET, RYDE,

April, 1924.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting the Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Ryde, the chief new feature of interest in the sanitary affairs of the town is the extremely low incidence of notifiable infectious disease. There are, however, some other matters which, though not strictly speaking within the province of the sanitary authority, yet have such a bearing on the health and well being of the Borough, that reference to them cannot be omitted from a Medical Officer's Report. The matters to which I refer are (1) the new water scheme: (2) the housing problem: and (3) the disposal of refuse.

1. Water Supply. For some years the water supply of the Borough, though of excellent quality, has been acknowledged as inadequate. For two years, measures have been necessarily adopted which cannot be regarded as other than measures of emergency—I refer to the cutting off of the water supply from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. Apart from the delay which this involves in dealing with cases of fire, the practice of an intermittent supply is one which is liable to prejudice the purity of the water which remains in the mains overnight; and also tends to interfere with habits of cleanliness in the population. Drains remain unflushed, and hot baths are impossible, when the main supply is cut off.

The commencement of a scheme for increasing the water supply is, therefore, one which meets with the hearty approval of all those who have the health of the Borough at heart. The new water is of the same nature as the old, viz. : a hard water obtained from the green sand strata beneath the chalk layers of the Downs, away from any possibility of contamination.

Analysis of a typical sample of town water taken on June 9th, 1923.

Colourless.

Smell :—not noticeable.

Residue after evaporation :—clean, white and crystalline.

Turbidity :—bright and clear.

Suspended matter :—a trace.

Reaction :—neutral.

Free Ammonia, '002 parts per 100,000.

Albuminoid Ammonia, '0034 parts per 100,000.

Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes at 80° F. :—Nil.

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours :—'0165 per 100,000.

Nitrogen present as nitrates and nitrites :—'41 per 100,000.

Chlorine, 2'56 per 100,000.

Phosphoric Acid :—Nil.

Poisonous Metals (lead, copper or zinc) :—Nil.

Total solids dried at 212° F. :—30'4.

Total hardness :—13 degrees.

Behaviour of residue on ignition.

Microscopic Examination of Deposit.

A small deposit, consisting principally of earthy ferruginous debris, a few cotton fibres and several epithelial cells. One or two starch grains (dusty matter).

Bacteriological Examination.

McConkey's test. 10 cc. No change in 48 hours.

No acid, no gas. Satisfactory.

Gelatine plate culture. 100 per cc. Satisfactory.

Report. Comparing this analysis with our results reported April, 1921, we find that practically no change has taken place in the good character of the water. A small quantity of atmospheric dust is still present.

The water forms a pure and wholesome public supply.

(Signed) ARTHUR ANGELL.

ARTHUR FRENCH ANGELL.

2. Housing. The overcrowding of the working classes in the Borough, which has been getting steadily worse since the war, has now reached a point where it is impossible to deal with it, except by the erection of new houses. I have a case in mind in which two adults and a baby of less than a year live and sleep in one room: another in which the only accommodation possible is a shed, which has been condemned for a human habitation, and this was occupied by an ex-service man, his wife and a child of two years. In my opinion, at least one hundred modern workmen's houses are absolutely necessary at the present time, and fifty more would soon find tenants. As elsewhere, the difficulty in finding houses is chiefly felt by those who cannot afford to purchase outright and evict the present tenant, which appears to be the only way of obtaining a house under present conditions. The main obstacle to any private or municipal scheme is the cost of erection, for owing to the low rate of wages in the Island, few persons of the

class which is most in need of houses can afford to pay a rent which would bring an economic return for the outlay. Another difficulty is the shortage of building land in the Borough.

As regards larger houses, there is a need of modern convenient dwellings, which would probably repay private enterprise : for many of the larger houses are old fashioned, inconvenient, and in some cases unworkable under the present conditions, requiring a large retinue of servants. The activities of your Sanitary Authorities have, therefore, been confined to making the best of present conditions, and endeavouring to make the houses of the Borough as satisfactory as possible. There have been cases in which it has been impossible to undertake most necessary repairs, owing to the inability of the tenants to find even temporary accommodation. But on the whole, there are not many occupied dwellings which are really unfit for habitation, and I think that most landlords have done their best to meet your Sanitary Inspector's requirements.

3. Disposal of Refuse. As each new piece of ground is acquired by the Corporation for the dumping of refuse, a number of complaints from occupiers of adjoining dwellings is received. The practice of dumping within the boundary is one which cannot be regarded as in keeping with modern ideas of sanitation ; and dumping outside the Borough is a matter of difficulty owing to the unwillingness of owners of land to agree to its acquisition for this purpose ; besides, it involves a great expenditure of labour and time. In view of these facts I wish to urge upon the Council the need for an incinerator or destructor, (which need not be of an

expensive type) which might possibly be made a joint enterprise, if a neighbouring Authority could be interested in the matter. I know that this matter has been discussed, and the proposal rejected, in the past; but circumstances change, and the provision of such an incinerator would in my opinion be a boon to the Town and promote the health of its inhabitants.

Apart from these suggestions and recommendations I should like to point out the healthy condition of the Borough, as shown by the decreased death-rate, the low infantile mortality, and the low incidence of notifiable diseases.

General Statistics.

Area, 820 acres.

Population, (Registrar-General's figures) 10,480.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,657.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 3,268.

Rateable Value, £73,871.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £260.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births. Legitimate, 70 males. 80 females.

Illegitimate, 4 males. 4 females.

Total Births, 158.

Birth Rate, 15·1 per thousand (Average for 157 smaller towns 19·8).

Deaths, 56 males. 90 females.

Total Deaths, 146.

Death Rate, 14 per thousand (Average for 157 smaller towns, 10·6).

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth, 1.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

Legitimate 5. Illegitimate 1.

Infantile Mortality, 37·9 (Average for 157 smaller towns 69).

Deaths from Measles, Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, Nil.

Deaths from Epidemic Diarrhœa, (under 2 years) Nil.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Number of Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	5	4	—
Enteric Fever	3	—	1
Puerperal Septicæmia	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	—	8*
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary	5	—	9*
Non-Pulmonary	2		5*
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum			
Encephalitis			
Lethargica	1		1

*Notification of these diseases is unfortunately often neglected by practitioners, and in many cases deferred until just before death.

Nursing. In addition to private nurses, the Ryde District Nursing Association provides free nursing to the sick poor of the Borough and surrounding district, as well as attending the majority of the maternity cases. In addition to the ordinary nursing staff, there are attached to the Home a School Nurse and a Health Visitor, so that the children are cared for by a centralised organisation from birth until they leave school.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Mothercraft Centre is managed by the District Nurses, and a clinic is held every Friday afternoon, this clinic is attended by the Medical Officer of Health, who sees cases referred to him by the Nurses, both infants and expectant mothers. Domiciliary treatment is given by the Health Visitor, under the direction of the patients own doctor, if the circumstances of the case require medical advice.

The Hostel for Ailing Children at "Southlands" provides institutional treatment for children who require it and also has five maternity beds. There is a resident trained Sister and a certified Mid-wife (also resident) and the Superintendent is Miss Friend. Dr. Broome is the Hon. Medical Officer. This Hostel, I should point out, is an Island Institution, and while receiving a grant from the Ministry of Health, is dependent on voluntary contributions and fees from those patients who can afford payment.

The Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, with fifty-seven beds and an excellent equipment, is situate in the Borough.

A Venereal Clinic is held weekly at the County Hospital. Male and female patients are seen at different times by Dr. Hewitt, Assistant Medical Officer of Health for the County of the Isle of Wight.

Tuberculosis is also under the jurisdiction of the County, and Dr. Hewitt is Tuberculosis Officer. His address is:—Longford House Sanatorium, Havenstreet.

Cancer. A Cancer Campaign is being organised in the Borough, with the support and co-operation of

the Municipal Authorities. It is hoped to have lectures and literature available for all, so that the public may know more of the dangers and the need for early diagnosis of this disease.

Fever Hospital. The Borough Hospital provides accommodation for fourteen beds (emergency accommodation, sixteen).

Staff :—One Matron.

One Cook-General.

One whole time male employé.

The Medical Officer of Health attends the cases at the Isolation Hospital.

Sanitary Authority :—

One Medical Officer of Health (part time).

One Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

One Assistant Inspector of Nuisances.

I append the report of the Sanitary Inspector, which report I have carefully read and thoroughly endorse. His recommendation of a public abattoir I especially consider is worthy of your careful attention.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. FIRMAN-EDWARDS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector, 1923.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Ryde

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting for your consideration a report upon my second year's work as Sanitary Inspector for the Borough of Ryde.

Seventy-two complaints, relating to the following matters, were received during the year under review :—

Choked and defective Drains...	...	22
Defective Water Closets	...	6
Dilapidated and dirty Houses	...	14
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	9
Offensive accumulations of Refuse	...	5
Nuisance from Street Gullies and Man-		
holes	...	3
Nuisance from Trade Premises	...	4
Various Insanitary conditions	...	9
		—
		72
		—

Each complaint was investigated, and where found to be justified, the necessary steps were taken to secure the abatement of the nuisance, and proper compliance with the Bye-Laws of the Council.

Meat Inspection.

The inspection of butchers meat is a very important duty devolving upon sanitary authorities, and one has only to grasp the fact that our food animals, more especially bovines and swine are prone to deadly diseases which are communicable to man, to realise the

importance, nay, the urgent necessity, of every carcase being inspected at the time of slaughter. When it is realised that an animal affected with tuberculosis in the early stages may show no definite symptoms of disease, that it may be fat, and appear in good condition, and that there may be little or no superficial evidence of disease in the carcase, and especially is this the case with pigs, then it becomes apparent what an important duty it really is. This work takes up a very considerable amount of time, and I reiterate that if it is to be of any real value, it must be done at the time of slaughter. Under the present system, the inspection of all carcasses is utterly impossible of attainment, and the work will never be performed with mutual satisfaction until slaughtering is concentrated at one place—that is, in a public abattoir.

The undermentioned amount of diseased and unsound meat has been condemned and destroyed during the year :—

		Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef	..	—	19	3	9
Pork	...	—	1	2	13
Mutton	...	—	1	—	4
Veal	...	—	—	1	1
		1	2	2	27

Food and Drugs.

The undermentioned samples of food and drugs were purchased in Ryde during the year by the County Inspector for Analysis :—

Milk	...	...	...	28
Butter	...	...	...	2
Doctors' prescriptions	...	...	...	3
				—
				33
				—

All the samples were certified to be of genuine quality ; however, eleven samples of milk were found to contain a visible quantity of dirty debris. In each instance a second sample was taken from the producer, and these were certified to be clean.

Bakehouses.

There are nineteen bakehouses entered in the bakehouse register, the same number as last year. Each bakehouse has been inspected at least twice during the year ; and although it has been found necessary to direct the attention of several occupiers of these premises to overdue lime washing of walls and ceilings, the premises have been well kept and a high standard of cleanliness maintained.

Workshops.

The trades carried on in the twenty-three work places now entered in the Workshops Register are as follows :—

Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	6
Tailors	...	...	3
Bootmakers and Repairers	...	...	2
Blacksmiths	...	...	2
Boat Builder and Repairer	...	...	1
Carpenter and Joiner	...	...	1
Dyer and Cleaner	...	...	1
Motor and Cycle Repairer	...	...	3
Manufacturing Confectioner	...	...	1
Mineral Water Bottler	...	...	1
Rag Sorter...	...	...	1
Tinsmith	...	...	1

Disinfections.

Twenty-seven dwellinghouses have been fumigated after infectious disease, and twenty-seven loads of infected bedding, etc., disinfected by a team at your Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital, Smallbrook.

Drainage of Existing Buildings.

Special attention has been given to work connected with the repairing or reconstructing of the drains and sanitary arrangements of existing buildings. Under the present system in operation, drainage work done under notice from this department is duly supervised, and the best possible work is done. However, there is a very considerable amount of such work done without the intervention of this department; and some of it is carried out by persons insufficiently qualified to do it, consequently it has not been uncommon for me to be called upon to supervise the abatement of a nuisance arising from a drain which was entirely due to previous bad arrangement and faulty workmanship, and which had become a serious menace to the health of those living in the immediate vicinity. It has, therefore, fallen to my lot, upon several occasions, to condemn bad and insanitary work done at considerable expense, which should not have been possible in a town of the size and importance of Ryde, and for that reason, I would suggest that this matter be taken into serious consideration with a view to the adoption of Bye-laws dealing with the "Drainage of existing Buildings," under which, any person who wished to alter the structure of a drain would be compelled to notify this department of his intention to do so. Such a Bye-law would entail no hardship upon anyone, but would be the means of ensuring that what work is done, is well done.

Summary of Inspections, Etc.

Dwellinghouses inspected (Housing, Town Planning, etc., Acts)	89
Dwellinghouses inspected (Public Health Acts)	69
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops inspected ...	23
Bakehouse inspections	64
Factory inspections	1
Food Shop inspections	16
Ice Cream Shop inspections... ..	21
School inspections... ..	2
Shop inspections (Shops Acts)	28
Slaughterhouse inspections	545
Workshop inspections	12
Investigations of infectious disease	14
Dwellinghouses fumigated	27
Visits to house repairing work in progress ...	225
Visits to premises under notice	190
Miscellaneous visits	162
Property owners or Agents interviewed ...	92
Dwellinghouse Drain tests	50
Statutory notices served	3
Informal notices served	91

Remedial Work.

Number of dwellinghouses :—

Floor repaired	9
Windows repaired	13
Wall plaster repaired	20
Roof repaired	7
Walls repapered	14
Ceilings whitened	15
Cooking range repaired or renewed ...	3
Copper repaired or renewed	3

New Sink fixed	...	...	...	15
Water service laid on to scullery	...	...	...	14
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	2
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	1
Eaves gutters repaired	...	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	13
New doors fixed	...	...	...	7
Drains unstopped	...	...	...	21
Drains repaired	...	...	...	42
Water Closet soil pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	3
Rain Water Pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	...	2
Rain Water Pipes repaired	...	...	...	2
Water Closet flushing Cistern repaired	...	...	...	6
Floors and Bedding cleaned	...	...	...	2
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	5
Accumulations of refuse removed	6
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	2

Number of Bakehouses :—

Limewashed	24
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Number of Workshops :—

Without an Abstract of Principal Act (reported to H.M. Inspector)	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Number of Slaughterhouses :—

Limewashed	...	...	...	4
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	1

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year...	3
---	---

Unfit Dwellinghouses.

Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health, or Housing Acts)	158
Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected, and recorded, under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	89
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	88

Remedy of defects without service of formal notice.

Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	88
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Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceedings under Section 28 Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 :—

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	21
Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners	21
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	—

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	67
Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by Owners	67
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	—

Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouse having been rendered fit	—
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

In addition to the above, I also act as

(a) The Inspector of Hackney Carriages under the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, and the Public Health Act, 1875.

(b) The Inspector under the Shops Acts.

(c) The officer for inspecting premises for storing Petroleum, or any other substance to which the Petroleum Act, 1871, may be applied, and for testing petroleum.

(d) The officer under the Celluloid and Cinematograph Act, 1922.

(e) The officer under the Fabrics (Misdescription) Act, 1913, or a Acts, or Act, amending or extending the same.

(f) The Inspector of Licensed Porters under Section 79 of the Ryde Improvement Act, 1854.

(g) The officer of the Council for the purpose of Section 86 of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907, as to dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. AINLEY,

Sanitary Inspector.



