

**[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Spalding U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Spalding (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1925

**Persistent URL**

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SPALDING  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Spalding Urban District

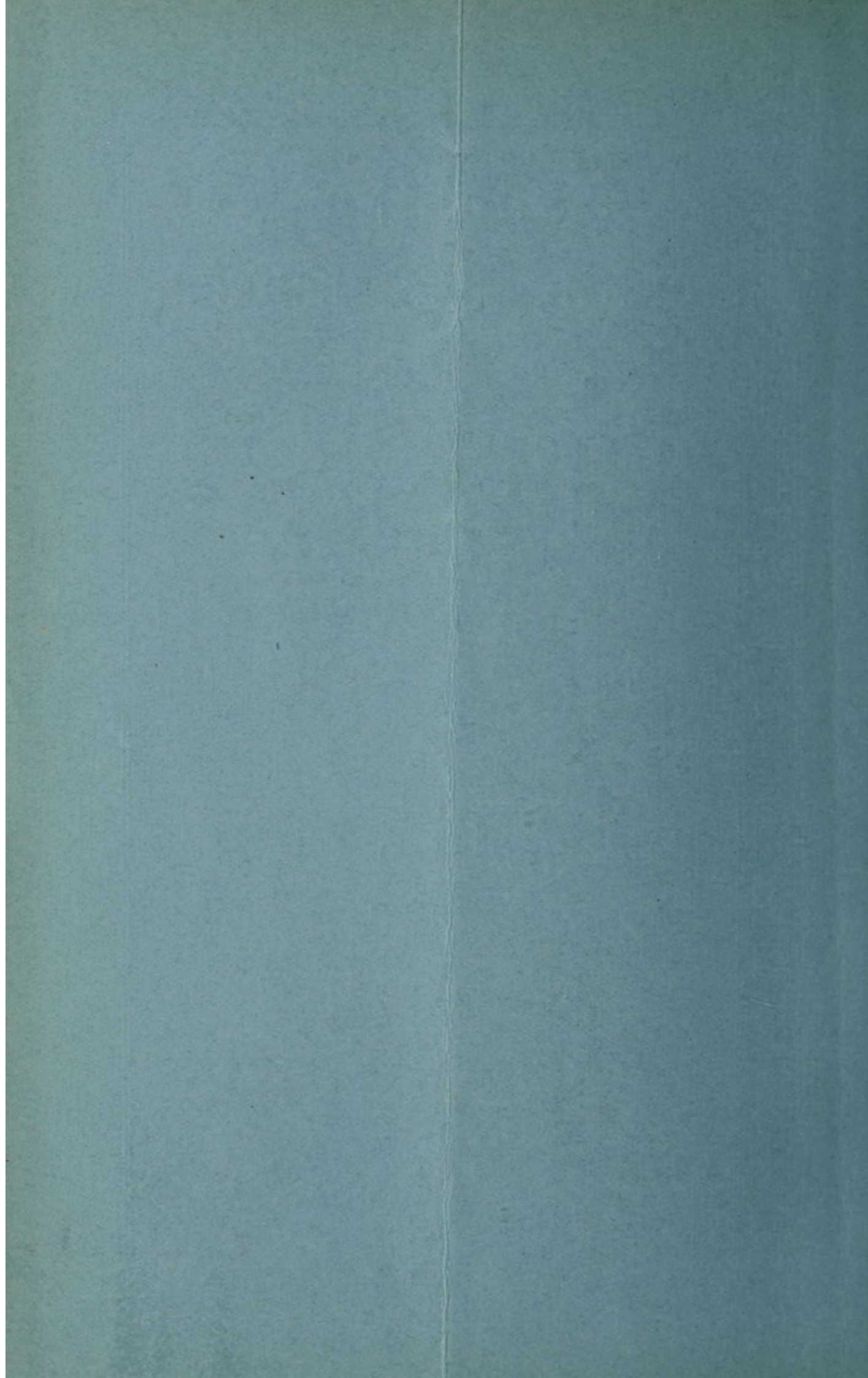
FOR THE

YEAR 1925.

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Spalding :

"Free Press" Co., Ltd., Printers, 5, Hall Place.





# REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to hand you my Report as Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

Area (Acres) ... ..	10,284
Population, 1921 ... ..	10,700
Population, 1925 (estimated) ... ..	10,890
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1921 ... ..	2,591
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1921 ... ..	2,654
Rateable Value ... ..	£53,084
Sum Represented by Penny Rate ...	£135 15s. 6d.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

DEATH RATE. — The total number of Deaths from all causes is 154—Males 74, Females 80.

This gives a Death Rate of 14 per 1,000 inhabitants. Death Rate for England and Wales is 12·2.

BIRTH RATE.—The Birth Rate is reduced again. Total Births in the area—Males 97, Females 102.

This gives a Birth Rate of 18·2 per 1,000 of population. Birth Rate for England and Wales is 18·3. During the year there were 14 illegitimate Births.

The following table gives the figures for years 1921—5:

Year.	Births.	Rate per 1,000.	Deaths.	Rate Infant Deaths per 1,000. Births.
1921 ...	258 ...	24·1 ...	128 ...	11·9 ... 76
1922 ...	242 ...	22·6 ...	168 ...	15·7 ... 61
1923 ...	235 ...	21·7 ...	138 ...	11·9 ... 48
1924 ...	208 ...	19·1 ...	118 ...	10·9 ... 38
1925 ...	199 ...	18·2 ...	154 ...	14·0 ... 70

The actual number of Deaths of infants under 1 year was 14. None of the infants were illegitimate. Seven of these were due to Congenital Deformity or Premature Birth. Three were associated with the Alimentary System, and four were due to Broncho-Pneumonia.



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The Local Authority maintain a small Hospital of eight beds for isolating cases of infectious Fever.

During the year the Council considered the problem of improving the Hospital, and a small deputation visited the Ministry of Health. Up to December, 1925, with the exception of some minor improvements, no progress has been made.

The Johnson Hospital is situated in the area, and is available for the Treatment of Medical and Surgical Cases.

The Poor Law Infirmary—67 beds—is in the District. A small portion of it is reserved for Maternity Cases. This is the only accommodation for these cases in the area.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES :—

- (a) Horse Ambulance—the property of the Council—is used for infectious cases.
- (b) A Motor Ambulance is available for accidents and non-infectious cases.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE (Consultation) is carried on by Voluntary Committee, under the direction of the County Council Health Authority.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :—

1. Medical Officer of Health (part time).
2. Sanitary Inspector (part time).

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN HOME.—The Spalding District Nursing Association provides three Nurses who are engaged in nursing maternity cases and general cases, with the exception of infectious Fevers.

There are no facilities for nursing the latter class of case at home.

The Association is a private one of Voluntary Workers, and is not provided either by the County Council or the Sanitary Authority. At present there are no financial arrangements with the Local Authority, but I suggest that the Council give this question their generous consideration, as the Prevention of Illness enters largely into the work.

There are no Midwives practising in the area, apart from the three provided by the Nursing Association.



## LABORATORY WORK.

The Council are Subscribers to the Clinical Research Association, and in suitable cases have bacteriological examinations made, and issue diphtheria antitoxin when necessary.

### LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, &C., IN FORCE:—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Part iii.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Sec. 80. Common Lodging Houses.

„ 157. New Streets and Buildings.

„ 167. Markets and Fairs.

„ 169. Slaughter Houses.

Public Health (Interments) Act.

187, Sec. 2. Cemeteries.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER.**—The Water Supply is obtained from Artesian Wells at Bourne. It is a pure drinking Water, and up to the present there has been a constant and sufficient supply.

**RIVER WELLAND.**—This River runs through the town, and receives a large quantity of unpurified Sewage from the present Sewage Disposal Works. In addition a large number of houses have their drainage discharging directly into the River. Town Sewers also empty themselves into the River. This pollution cannot be checked so long as the area is without the means efficiently to dispose of its sewage.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** — The problem of a complete scheme for the Disposal of Sewage has engaged the attention of the Council for many years. The urgent necessity of it is so obvious that the only controversy now is centred in finance. During the past year steps have been taken by the Council, which, it is hoped, may soon lead to a beginning of the work. In the meantime the Scavenging Department is working under great difficulties, which cannot go on indefinitely.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.** — There are nearly 700 Pan Closets in use. The Pans are emptied at regular stated intervals. The work is done after 10 p.m., and the night air is filled with offensive smells, which intrude into the bedrooms of those reckless enough to sleep with open windows before the carts have passed.



SCAVENGING. — House and other refuse is collected and deposited on an open space—as much as possible being burned. This method is of the nature of a make-shift—the only satisfactory way of dealing with the refuse is by means of a Destructor.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—A large number of Inspections were made during the year, and most defects were remedied on receipt of an Informal Notice.

Ten Statutory Notices were given, and the nuisances removed.

HOUSING.—It is impossible to measure accurately the extent of the shortage of Houses. In an attempt to meet this shortage the Council have erected, or will do so shortly, a total of 92 houses.

In the meantime it is useless to take steps to prevent minor degrees of overcrowding or to condemn houses which fall short of the modern conception of what is fit for human habitation.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total	50
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(i) By the Local Authority	20
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons	28

#### 1.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

Inspection:—

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	86
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	none
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	none
(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	none



## 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 ... ..	38
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## 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 ... ..	none
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	none
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	none
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	none

### B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	9
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners ... ..	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	none

### 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 ...	none
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	none
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	none



- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. none
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. none

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dairies, Bakehouses, Slaughter Houses, and Market Stalls have been inspected.

#### PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

	1920.		Jan., 1925.		Dec., 1925.
Registered ... ..	0	...	0	...	2
Licensed ... ..	0	...	0	...	8
	—		—		—
	0	..	0	...	10
	—		—		—

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Smallpox ... ..	1	...	1	...	0
Scarlet Fever ...	15	...	0	...	0
Diphtheria ... ..	42	...	3	...	0
Erysipelas ... ..	6	...	0	...	0
Encephalitis ... }	1	...	0	...	1
Lethargica ... }					
Chickenpox ... ..	17	...	0	...	0

The outstanding feature of this table is the large number of cases of Diphtheria. Swabs of the throat were taken in most of the cases, and the diagnosis was confirmed by bacteriological examination. Immediate injection of anti-diphtheritic serum was given—and, fortunately, there were no deaths. The case rate in Spalding is 3·8 per 1,000 of population, compared with 1·23 for England and Wales. In my opinion this is a strong argument in favour of the early introduction of the complete sewage scheme. During the year there have been a large number of cases of measles—some of them very virulent—and in a few, recurring after four to six weeks. There have been eight deaths from Measles—all those dying being under two years of age. In young children measles is a dangerous disease—I mention this as there is a tendency to be-little the gravity of it.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. MUNRO, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulm'y.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
20	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
25	..	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
45	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	4	3	—	1	4	4	1	0



## Causes of Death during Year 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES .....	74	80
Enteric Fever .....		
Small Pox .....		
Measles .....	4	4
Scarlet Fever .....		
Whooping Cough .....		
Diphtheria .....		
Influenza .....	3	
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	1	
Meningococcal Meningitis ...		
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	4	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	
Cancer, malignant disease...	7	13
Rheumatic Fever .....		
Diabetes .....		1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c....	3	
Heart Disease .....	11	17
Arterio-sclerosis .....	2	5
Bronchitis .....	1	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	4
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....		3
Diarrhœa, &c. (Under 2 years		1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...		
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	2	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	1
Puerperal Sepsis.....		1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition		1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	3	3
Suicide .....		
Other Deaths from violence	6	
Other Defined Diseases .....	13	17
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis.....		
Polioencephalitis .....		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. TOTAL	3	6
Illegitimate .....		
TOTAL BIRTHS .....	97	102
Legitimate .....	92	93
Illegitimate .....	5	9
POPULATION.....	10,890	