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Contributors

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REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1920,

PRESENTED TO THE

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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SPILSBY:

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THE

AMERICAN

REVIEW

OF

THE

ARTS

AND

SCIENCE

OF

THE

UNITED

STATES

OF

AMERICA

AND

THE

WEST

INDIES

AND

THE

ISLANDS

OF

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PACIFIC

TO THE
Spilsby Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

As your Medical Officer of Health I beg to lay before you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

The Spilsby Rural Sanitary District is situated in the East of the County, and is bounded on the North by the Urban District of Alford and the Louth Rural District, on the West by the Horncastle and Sibsey Rural Districts, on the East by the North Sea and the Skegness Urban District, and on the South by the Boston and Sibsey Rural Districts. It consists of 66 parishes, and covers an area of 128,211 acres, and has a population of 21,012 according to census 1911, and estimated to the middle of 1920 at 20,108. There are about 5,200 inhabited houses, giving an average of about four persons to each house. The inhabitants are engaged principally in agricultural pursuits. The physical features in the district vary considerably, one part being undulating Wold; another, which borders on the sea, is fertile Marsh; while a third is reclaimed Fen.

Poor Law Relief is administered by the Spilsby Union Board of Guardians, and all the parishes within the area of the Spilsby Rural District Council are under this Authority. The Workhouse is situated in Hundleby, and has accommodation for 178 inmates, the average number of occupied beds per day being 75. The Voluntary Hospitals to which patients can be admitted, are the County Hospital at Lincoln, and the Cottage Hospitals at Boston, Spilsby and Skegness. There is a Tuberculosis Dispensary at Spilsby under the supervision of the County Council, and also a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

VITAL STATISTICS.

According to the Registrar General's returns there were 453 Births and 267 Deaths during the year. The Death-rate per 1,000 population is 12·78, and the Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population is 22·52. The Birth-rate for England and Wales is 25·4, and the Death-rate is 12·4. Forty children died under one year of age, giving a mortality rate per 1,000 births of 88·3 as against 80 for England and Wales. Twenty-eight persons died from Cancer, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of 1·38, and seventeen from Consumption, giving a death-rate of '84.

WATER SUPPLY.

Spilsby and Hundleby are supplied with water from a well 45 feet deep, situated in a field in

Hundleby, and from thence the water is pumped to a reservoir (capacity of 75,000 gallons), on the Hundleby Hill, whence it flows by gravitation. The works belong to the North East Lincolnshire Water Company.

Sutton-on-Sea is supplied with water from a well at Alford; the mains, after supplying this town, extend to Sutton. This scheme also belongs to the North East Lincolnshire Water Company.

Wainfleet All Saints and a part of Wainfleet St. Mary have a supply from Wainfleet Haven. The water, after passing through filters, is pumped into a reservoir and distributed to the two parishes.

A part of Winthorpe is supplied from mains which obtain water from the Skegness source. This supply originally comes from Welton, a village in this area.

A few houses in Burgh and Welton obtain a supply from the same source, and a few in West Fen get a supply from the Boston Waterworks Company.

There are private supplies at Candlesby, Hareby, Harrington, Skendleby Salter and Ulceby. These are all constant and no complaint has been received. The number of premises connected with these supplies is approximately 922, being distributed as follows:—Bilsby 17, Burgh 8, Candlesby 17,

Hareby 6, Harrington 4, Hundleby 27, Skendleby 6, Spilsby 140, Sutton 186, Wainfleet All Saints 243, Wainfleet St. Mary 114, Welton 4, West Fen 5, Winthorpe 106, Ulceby 39.

The cottages in the Wold Villages are for the most part supplied with water from different wells, and, speaking generally, the quality is satisfactory.

The Fen is badly supplied with good water, and the inhabitants have to depend principally on rain collected from roofs and stored in cisterns, or from water obtained from the dykes with which the fen is intersected. The former supply is liable to run short in the dry months, and the latter is liable to pollution. The question of improving the supply of drinking water to the inhabitants of this part of the district should be considered without delay and for this purpose a Sub-committee has been appointed and will meet early in the new year.

A trial bore having been sunk on the housing site near Hemholme Bridge, Eastville, to a depth of 17 feet, when under a layer of 12 feet of soft quick blue silt a layer of hard green sand was found overlaying a bed of hard yellow clay. The Surveyor reported that in his opinion underneath this clay gravel would be found of a water bearing nature, and as the question of good water in the Fens was of great importance permission was granted for this bore to be made deeper. It was

sunk to a depth of 30 feet and a strong spring was found which rose to within 7 feet of the surface. Unfortunately on analysis this water was found to contain so much chloride of sodium that it was unpalatable and unfit for drinking purposes. This was very disappointing as it is an indication of the subsoil of a large part of the fen and proves that no potable water is to be found. If this district is to be supplied with good water, which it sadly needs, it will have to be brought by means of pipes from some other part of the district.

No pollution of any river or stream has been brought to our notice.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

SPILSBY AND HUNDLEBY.—These parishes have a combined system of sewage disposal, the sewage being dealt with at the disposal out-fall works situated about half a mile South-east of Spilsby Railway Station. The works consist of sedimentation tanks and percolating filters. An irrigation area and storm tanks are also provided for dealing with storm water. The land is cultivated and the produce sold. One man is employed all his time, and the work is satisfactorily carried on, and a good effluent is procured.

SUTTON-ON-SEA.—The whole of the sewage gravitates to two ejector chambers, from whence it is pumped by means of compressed air to the

disposal out-fall works. The rising main from the No. 1 ejector chamber discharges into the No. 2 section, and the sewage is again raised to the out-fall main. It will be noted that the sewage from the No. 1 section has to be pumped twice. At the disposal works are sedimentation tanks and percolating filters the effluent from which passes through a humus tank before discharging its contents into the Boy Grift Drain at a comparatively short distance from its outlet into the sea. The air main from the compressor station to the No. 1 ejector chamber is constructed of mannesman steel tubes, and owing to corrosion many leaks have manifested themselves during the year causing a heavy expense for repairs. This condition has gradually got worse during the last three years and your Surveyor thinks it no longer economical to repair these tubes. Permission has therefore been obtained to remedy any future defects by substituting iron pipes for the corroded mannesman steel tubes.

WAINFLEET ALL SAINTS.—The sewage from this parish is pumped on to land at the sewage out-fall works, and is treated by irrigation. A satisfactory effluent has been obtained.

WINTHORPE.—A portion of the houses on the Roman Bank are connected to the Skegness sewerage system.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—In a large rural district it is to be expected that the majority of the sanitary conveniences should be privies with or without moveable receptacles. The advantages of a water carriage system over conservancy methods are great and in those places where a sewerage system is installed and a piped water supply is available this is the best system. It is therefore desirable that all privies should be converted into water closets with the least possible delay in all parishes that have a sewerage system and a water supply. Your Council made application to the Local Government Board some time ago for power to compel this conversion, and the Board replied that these powers could not be declared in force in any contributory place until both a system of sewerage and a piped water supply are available. I again suggest that application be made to the Ministry of Health for the powers conferred in the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, for the parishes of Spilsby, Hundleby, Wainfleet and Sutton, so that the rate of conversion of privies to water closets may be greatly hastened. In the district it is estimated that there are 4,554 privies and 889 water closets.

SCAVENGING.

The removal of the night soil and house refuse is carried out by contract, under the supervision of your Council, in the parishes of Hogsthorpe,

Spilsby, Sutton, Wainfleet, Winthorpe and Burgh. This refuse is removed once a week in the summer months, and fortnightly in the winter, except in places like Sutton and Winthorpe when in the summer months it is removed twice a week.

The following table shows some of the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

No. of premises inspected on complaint	...	...	34
No. of premises inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	56
No. of premises inspected under periodical inspection			473
No. of premises inspected (Housing Acts)	...	...	71
Total number of inspections and re-inspections	...		1328
Cautionary or intimation notices given	...	...	81
Matters remedied as result of intimation	...	...	160
Matters remedied as result of statutory notice	...		15
Summonses served	...	...	None

Dwelling Houses—

No. of representations made to Local Authority	...	37
Houses, premises, &c., cleansed and repaired without closure	...	35
Closed as unfit for human habitation	...	3
Demolished	...	10
No. of Houses unfit but still occupied	...	10
Cases of overcrowding...	...	3
No. of new houses built during the year	...	16

Cowsheds—

No. on Register	...	83
No. of inspections	...	85
Contraventions of regulations	...	26
Contraventions remedied	...	26
No. of milch cows in the district (approx.)...	...	289

Dairies and Milkshops—

No. on register	...	...	...	...	84
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	86
Contraventions of regulations	...	...	...	...	None
Any instance of disease being attributable to milk...	...	...	...	...	None

Bakehouses—

No. in the district	...	...	...	...	37
No. of underground bakehouses	...	...	...	...	None
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	37
Contraventions of Factory Acts	...	...	...	...	8
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	8

Slaughter Houses—

No. on register	...	...	...	...	20
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	20
Contraventions of bye-laws	...	...	...	...	2
Defects remedied	...	...	...	...	2

Unsound Food—

Articles surrendered	...	...	...	..	(see report)
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Offensive Trades—

No. of premises in the district	...	...	...	...	4
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Nuisances	...	...	...	...	None

Water Supply—

New wells sunk	...	...	...	...	5
Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	None
Public supplies...	...	...	...	...	(see report)
No. of supplies obtained for analysis	...	...	...	...	10
Any insufficiency and where	...	...	...	...	(see report)

Drainage and Sewerage—

No. of houses with privy vaults	...	...	...	...	4534
No. of houses with water closets	...	...	...	...	889
No. of water closets substituted for pail closets	...	...	...	...	31
No. of water closets repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Drains examined, tested, exposed, &c.	...	...	134
Drains unstopped, repaired, trapped, &c.	...	...	40
Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected	...	...	13
New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed	...	...	23
Existing soil pipes or ventilating pipes repaired	..	...	5
Drains re-constructed	...	...	36
<i>Cesspools—</i>			
Cesspools rendered impervious	...	...	None
Cesspools emptied, cleansed, &c.	...	...	None
Cesspools abolished	...	...	5
<i>Disinfection—</i>			
Rooms disinfected (ordinary infectious disease)	...	...	66
(Tuberculosis)	...	...	17
<i>House Refuse—</i>			
No. of ashpits covered	...	...	None
No. of bins substituted for ashpits	...	...	24
No. of complaints of non-removal	...	...	9
<i>Nuisances reported—</i>			
Total No. of nuisances reported	...	...	237
<i>Nuisances abated—</i>			
Overcrowding	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	29
Foul ditches, ponds, and stagnant water	...	...	15
Foul pigs and other animals	...	...	13
Dampness	...	...	28
Yards repaved or repaired	...	...	19
Other nuisances	...	...	132

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

The report made by your Officials at the request of the Educational Committee of the Lindsey County Council in 1919 has not produced much

result. Many schools are still not cleansed as frequently as they should be, and the emptying of privies leaves much to be desired. This latter is not a pleasant work, and cannot be done efficiently for the small amount offered. The water supply of some schools is not as good as it should be.

During the year 21 schools were closed for varying periods on account of the prevalence of some infectious disease amongst the children.

MILK SUPPLY.

This is not a great milk producing area, and take it altogether the supply is not very plentiful. There are 83 Cowsheds registered in the district, and these have been inspected. Contraventions of regulations were discovered in 26 instances and all were remedied. It is estimated that there are about 289 milch cows in the district.

BAKEHOUSES.

Thirty-seven Bakehouses have been inspected and their condition was satisfactory. Eight defects found were remedied. There is no underground bakehouse.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There is no Public Slaughter House in the district, all being privately owned. There are 20 licensed slaughter houses and one registered to

which bye-laws apply. They have been inspected and were found satisfactory. Bye-laws do not apply to the whole of the district, and there are four slaughter houses situated in the villages of Eastville, Skendleby, Thorpe and Willoughby which are exempt from bye-laws.

Slaughter Houses.	In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec., 1920.
Registered ...	1	1	1
Licensed ...	28	20	20
	—	—	—
Total ...	29	21	21
	—	—	—

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following food was voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unfit for food, viz.:—1,061 lbs. of beef, 36 lbs. of mutton, 7 lbs. of ham and 23 lbs. of bloaters. Certificates of unfitness were given to the owners.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.—Forty-seven notifications have been received during the year, and more than half occurred at Wainfleet and Croft during July, August and September. A smaller epidemic broke out in Stickney in December. These cases are all visited by your Officials, instructions given, disinfectants supplied, and after recovery the rooms are stoved. Certificates of freedom from infection are sent to the Head Teacher of the school before the child is allowed to return.

DIPHTHERIA.—Seventeen notifications have been received, but the disease seldom spread beyond the first patient attacked. The cases were notified from nine different parishes, and during eight different months, and appeared to have no connection the one with the other. Antitoxin is supplied free by your Council, and the diagnosis is generally confirmed by bacteriological examination. At the end of the illness a further bacteriological examination of the throat is made and a child is not allowed to return to school until this examination proves negative.

MEASLES.—This disease ceased to be notifiable on January 1st, but many cases occurred in several villages especially up to July. Five deaths occurred.

ERYSIPELAS.—Seven isolated cases were notified, but all recovered.

WHOOPING COUGH.—A few cases occurred in Halton in April, and in Great Steeping in June. Two proved fatal.

INFLUENZA.—This disease was not very prevalent during 1920, but four deaths were recorded under this heading.

PNEUMONIA.—Three notifications were received, but as the deaths alone were 10 it shews many cases were not notified.

DYSENTERY.—One case was notified, that of an ex-service man from Palestine.

SMALL POX, ENTERIC FEVER, PUERPERAL FEVER, ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS, CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER, MALARIA, OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM and ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA have not been notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.—During 1920 I received 34 notifications of cases of tubercular disease: 25 refer to tuberculosis of the lungs or consumption, and nine to tubercular disease in other parts of the body. There were 23 deaths. Disinfectants and spittoons are supplied by your Council on application, and after a fatal termination the house is disinfected. The County Council is establishing a Sanatorium at Branston for institutional treatment. Shelters are provided by the County Council and are placed in the garden for the patient to live in. Tuberculosis Dispensaries are established in different parts of the County. One is situated in Spilsby and is under the management of one of the Assistant Tuberculosis Officers of the County Council, who attends every Monday.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health (part time) and two Sanitary Inspectors (whole time), one living in Spilsby and the other at Burgh. The Sanitary Inspectors also act as Sanitary Surveyors to the Council.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The only Infectious Hospital in this district is a wooden moveable structure now standing in the Workhouse Grounds, and is ill adapted for the modern requirements of an infectious hospital. Hospitals have not now the dread to many people that they had a few years ago, and from careful enquiry I am satisfied that should an up-to-date infectious hospital be available for the inhabitants of this district a great many would gladly avail themselves of it. In these days of comfortable motor ambulances the question of distance scarcely arises, and a hospital could therefore be built to provide accommodation for the inhabitants of more than one sanitary area. This is a question which should be taken up by the Lindsey County Council, as I am sure that the majority of people are ready to take advantage of an isolation hospital.

THE COUNTY LABORATORY.

This Laboratory has been established at Lincoln since 1912 under the superintendence of Dr. Ashleigh Glegg, the County Medical Officer of Health. It continues to do good work and is of great assistance to both Medical Officers of Health and Medical Practitioners.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in this district:—Public Health Amendment Acts, 1890 and 1907; the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

BYE-LAWS.

Bye-laws are in force in Spilsby, Burgh, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe, Hundleby, Sutton, Wainfleet All Saints and Winthorpe with regard to New Streets, Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements, Common Lodging Houses and Removal of Nuisances. Those with regard to Houses let in lodgings are in force in Winthorpe, and those with regard to Horses, Ponies, Mules and Asses, Hackney Carriages, Public Bathing and Pleasure Boats and Vessels in Chapel St. Leonards, Sutton and Winthorpe. Bye-laws with respect to New Buildings are in force over the whole of the district. Those with regard to Slaughter Houses are in force in that part of the district which comprises the contributory places of Bolingbroke, Bratoft, Burgh, Chapel St. Leonards, Friskney, Halton, East Kirkby, Mumby, New Leake, Spilsby, Stickford, Stickney, Sutton, Toynton All Saints, Wainfleet All Saints, Welton and Winthorpe.

HOUSING.

It is estimated that there are about 5,200 houses in the district. These with a population of 20,108 give an average of nearly four persons to each house. About 4,400 of these houses are rented at £7 a year or under, and at £10 a year rent and less there are no less than 4,974 houses. Sixteen houses have been built by private enterprise and six more are in course of erection.

Many of those now standing are getting in a dilapidated condition and others which have been condemned as unfit for human habitation are still being occupied as there is no other house for the tenant to move into.

The following table has been issued by the Ministry of Health :—

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

I.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	20,108
(2) General death-rate	12·78
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	·84
(4) Infantile mortality	88·3
(5) Number of dwelling houses of all classes ...	5,200
(6) Number of working class dwelling houses ...	4,974
(7) Number of new working class houses erected	16

II.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	218
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of district) regulations ...	71
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	11
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subsection) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	108

II.—Remedy of defects without service of formal notices.

(1) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	87
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

(A) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	18
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	1

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	3
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	1

(C) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined the dwelling houses having been made fit	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	4
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	4

Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with the consent of the Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909	Nil
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Staff engaged on housing work with the duties of each Officer.

The two Sanitary Inspectors are the designated Officers for the purposes of the Housing Acts and are acting as Architects for the Council's housing scheme.

The practical results achieved during the year under the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, have been disappointing, nevertheless considerable progress has been made and many difficulties have been overcome. Drawings, specifications and quantities were prepared and the Council advertised for tenders for the erection of cottages, but only two tenders were received. Each local builder was then communicated with, but owing to the uncertainty with respect to the price and delivery of material, coupled with the fact that many of these builders are unused to bills of quantities, are suspicious of control, regulations and restrictions, and have an accumulation of repair work of their own, it is perhaps hardly to be wondered at that the practical results achieved are so small. Eventually tenders were received for the erection of cottages in Wainfleet 4, Croft 4, Burgh 4, Friskney 4, New Leake 2, Toynton All Saints 4, and Toynton St. Peters 6, but the tenders for the 6 cottages at Tonynton St. Peters were disapproved of by the Housing Commissioner. Towards the end of the

year it was thought progress might be hastened by the deletion of quantities, the simplification of specifications and by the acceptance of a lump sum contract and this was recognised by the Regional Housing Commissioner. This new idea of lump sum tendering for the erection of cottages similar to those built in pre-war days will, we believe, become popular amongst the local builders and the prospects for 1921 are distinctly encouraging.

The Inspection Committee of the Fen part of the district realizing that it would be impossible to complete the Housing Scheme within the prescribed time by relying on local builders, carefully considered various methods of construction to hasten progress, and at the end of the year were negotiating for the erection of 46 bungalows on the Somerville system.

The total number of cottages it is at present proposed to erect is 174. These are to have a living room, scullery, larder and three bedrooms, 16 have this accommodation with the addition of a parlour.

In addition to the Council's Housing Scheme the Lindsey County Council are building 30 houses at Eastville for small holdings for ex-service men. None of these are completed, but 10 are in various stages of construction.

The expenses of the Great War have been a severe strain on the finances of the Country and the time has come when all expenditure must be reduced as much as possible. The Government of the Country has, as regards expenditure, now called "halt," and it is very natural that many sanitary improvements which are desirable will suffer from postponement. But while economy is necessary this must not be carried so far as to produce inefficiency and be a menace to the health of the community. It is therefore hoped, as far as this district is concerned, that Housing will be continued; that the provision of an isolation hospital will be considered; and that the important question of a good water supply for the Fen will be boldly tackled during 1921.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. WALKER.

Report 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.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	141	14	
Workplaces			
Total	141	14	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ..	8	8		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	8	8		
Other offences	2	2		
Total	18	18		

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

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Workshops	125
Bakehouses	37
Total number of workshops on Register ..	162