[Report 1944] / Medical Officer of Health, Spilsby R.D.C.

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Spilsby (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1944

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HEALTH
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R E P O R T.

FOR THE YEAR 1944.

PRESENTED TO THE

SPILSBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

BY.

Dr. C. S. E. Wright, M.B. Bch. D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1945.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1944, on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Spilsby Rural District.

I am pleased to be able to report that the health of the people in the Spilsby Rural District, as in the rest of the Country, has, throughout the year, been uniformly good.

1944, the fifth full year of war, showed little change in the food situation and rationing of foodstuffs was on very similar lines to the previous year. The carefully balanced rations may at times be dull, but there is no evidence to suggest that in any way the vitality or physical condition of the community has been impared by them. On the contrary the General Health in the country is well up to peace-time standards. The improvement in the war situation in the Mediteranean enabled a considerable amount of oranges and lemons to be put on the market; this was a great boon to many people.

Many of the schools in the district are now equipped with canteens, enabling the children, whose parents wish it, to have a good hot dinner at a very cheap rate. The teachers at these schools are unanimous in their opinion that this is of great benefit to the children; not only do they look better and put on weight but in the afternoons better work is done. I have visited many of these schools at mealtime and have, in most cases, been very pleased with the food that has been provided and the quality of the cooking.

1. Vital Statistics.

The figures in this report are compiled from the returns which I receive monthly from the local registrars but do not include figures relating to non-civilians.

Area. The area remains the same namely 143.030 acres in 69 parishes. The Population is computed at 21,520. There has been a large and variable number of non-civilians quartered in the District during the year and with them a proportion of women and children.

The Rateable Value is £83,020 and £345. 16. 4d represents the product of a penny rate.

The number of inhabited houses is 7155.

The Births (live) numbered 427 of these 223 were male and 204 female. The number of Births represents a rate per thousand of the population of 19.87. The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.6.

There has throughout 1944, as in the previous two years been considerable difficulty in getting household help and nursing facilities in the homes and many expectant mothers, have been obliged to go into Hospital for their confinements, though they would have preferred to stay at home. The very serious housing shortage has also contributed to this difficulty.

The Deaths numbered 281 of these 144 were male and 137 female, representing a death rate per thousand of the population of 13.05 compared with a similar rate for the whole of the country of 11.6; of the 281 about half were in people over 70 years of age.

The deaths in infants under one year of age numbered 26, giving a rate per thousand live births of 60.8. The rate for England and Wales was 46.

There were 43 deaths registered as due to Cancer and 72 to Heart disease'. There was one case of Suicide.

2. General Provision of Health Services.

The staff in the public health department underwent various changes and throughout the year was working under shortage of staff difficulties. Mr. G.A. Farrow, left to take up duties under the Lindsey County Council and Mr. S.H.Murray, from Second became First Additional Sanitary Officer. It was not found possible to fill the vacancy thus caused. Various typists came and went in the office.

Laboratory examinations are carried out by the Emergency Laboratory Services at Lincoln and by the Clinical Research Association in London. Water analyses have been reported on by Mr. W.W. Taylor of Nottingham.

Hospitals, Clinics and Ambulances are unchanged.

Cases of infectious diseases are usually sent, when necessary to the Isolation Hospital Osgodby or to the Grimsby Corporation Hospital at Scartho'. Cases from the south of the district are sent to the Boston Isolation Hospital. A few cases have been sent to the Skegness Fever Hospital. I look forward to the day when we have our own Isolation Hospital.

Midwifery and Nursing Services.

The County Council is the local supervising authority under the Midwives Act for the whole of Lindsey. Nursing services are unchanged. What is becoming a greater problem than the nursing of the sick is the looking after the aged. Throughout the Rural District there are large numbers of old people living in houses by themselves. They manage alright until they get sick then they have no one to look after them. This problem, which has always been present to some extent, has been considerably accentuated by the war and by the destruction of the Public Institution by enamy action in 1941. With the increasing proportion of old to young people this difficulty is certain to get worse and the time must come when steps will have to be taken to remedy it.

Scabies.

This skin disease, though still more prevalent than normal as a result of war conditions, is steadily getting less, fewer cases being reported by Medical Men. It has not been found necessary in 1944 to have recourse to the special powers granted to Local Authorities by the 1941 Ministry of Health Order in Council. There are no facilities now in the Spilsby Rural District for the disinfestation of infected clothing, but these facilities can be obtained in the neighbouring towns.

Venereal Diseases.

I am pleased to be able to report that, unlike a great part of the country, there is again this year very little Venereal disease in the Spilsby Rural District. Very few fresh cases have been brought to my notice.

A clinic for the treatment of these cases is in operation at Skegness and people affected have generally been willing to avail themselves of it.

Diphtheria. Immunisation of Children.

The drive to get all children between one year and school leaving age protected against Diphtheria was, during 1944, largely taken over by the County Council, though a certain proportion are still immunised by local practitioners if the parents prefer it. During the year 332 children were given protection, 225 under 5 years and 107 between 5 - 15 years. 75.1% of the estimated number of children between the above ages in the Authority's Area had received immunisation on 31st December, 1944, as compared with 74.34% on 31st December, 1945.

I should like to again take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the school teachers in this, as in every other matter affecting the health of the children.

3. Prevalence of Disease.

I am pleased to be able to report that 1944 was a good year in the Spilsby Rural District as regards infectious diseases. Contrary to expectations there was very little Influenza but much that there was, was of a severe type. Nine deaths were attributed to it.

There was in the summer and autumn a very widespread epidemic of Septic throats due to a Streptococcal infection and many people were off work for some weeks due to this cause. This infection was most probably the cause of a considerable increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever, especially in the southern part of the district where two employees of a milk distribution establishment were found to be carriers of the Streptococcus. There were altogether 45 cases of Scarlet Fever compared to 17 in 1943 and 20 in 1942. The same infection may also have been the cause of the

slight rise in cases of Puerperal Pyrexia (5 compared with 2 in 1943 and 3 in 1942). Almost all the cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type and there were no deaths.

There was not a single case of Diphtheria reported in 1944. This I believe to be a record for the district.

Unlike a great part of the country, there were no cases of Dysentery notified during the year. On the other hand there were a large number of cases of Diarrhoea throughout the summer and autumn, much of it of a severe type and people of all ages were affected. This trouble was not due to food and as in the previous year subsided at the beginning of the winter.

There was a considerable epidemic of Whooping Cough amongst the children, 105 cases were notified but that is only a proportion of the real number as large numbers do not come under treatment by medical men. There was one death from this cause. The year was remarkable for the few cases of Measles; only 8 being notified.

Tuberculosis notifications were 24 which is about the average for previous years. There were 10 deaths.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases amongst civilians.

Disease.	Cases.	Deaths.
Small Pox	-	-
Scarlet Fever	45	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Typhoid Fever) Paratyphoid Fever)	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-
Erysipelas	7	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	0	-
Measles	8	0
Whooping Cough	105	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	2	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	13	9
(Non-Pulmonary)	11	1

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies.

During the first five months of 1944 there was a very low rain fall and this, following the two dry years of 1942 and 1943, resulted in the level of water in the ground being much lower than normal until the Autumn. Many wells were dry during the Spring and Summer causing great hardship to farmers and milk producers, and in many cases water for domestic purposes was very short indeed. In many parts of the District the urgency of extending a piped supply of water as soon as possible, was again appreciated by the Council. During the second half ofthe year heavy rains and snow raised the water level to the normal height again.

Fen Area Water Supply.

Weekly gauging of the source of the Fen Area Water Supply reveal that the average daily yield was 156,000 gallons per day, being an increase of some 19/20,000 gallons per day over a similar period in 1943. During the months of August and September, however, it was found that the yield of the sourceworks was insufficient to meet with the demands of the District; as a temporary expedient to overcome the difficulty, pumping from a nearby stream had to be resorted to, and under such circumstances it was found necessary for safety purposes to apply a very heavy Chlorine dosage - one part per million gallons. At a later stage arrangements were made with the Boston Rural District Council and the N.E. Lincs . Water Company whereby water could be taken from either of these two undertakings during such times of emergency as were found necessary, and as a result of these arrangements it is anticipated that it will never again be necessary to resort to the use of the stream for this purpose.

The estimated consumption of the District during the year was some 37,000,000 gallons, which is equivalent to 101,370 gallons per day. Assuming the population being so supplied to be 5,500, the average consumption per head per day for all purposes is 18.43 gallons. This is an increase of 3.93 gallons per head per day over last year.

Mains extensions during the year were effected in the Parishes of Stickney, Croft, Wainfleet All Saints and Friskney and these have involved the laying of some 4,000 yards of additional distribution mains and ancillary works.

There are 330 metered supplies in operation in the district and 115 applications for supplies to be afforded were received during the year under review comprising:-

51 Domestic supplies
18 Metered supplied
26 Field supplies
8 Standpipe Supplies
5 Special purposes supplies
7 Extensions of existing supplies.

Coastal Water Supplies.

The use of the Artesian flow from the Mumby borehole continued to be supplied for cattle watering purposes and in this respect 92 consumers are now connected to the mains of the undertaking, each supply being afforded by meter.

Analyses.

Samples of both Fen and Coastal water supplies have been taken during the year and the analysis of these have shown that both continue to be excellent in character both Bacteriologically and Chemically.

5. Milk.

In my previous annual reports during the war, I have commented upon the serious question of milk which has been lost for human consumption due to souring. At a large Dairy in this District with an average intake of 6,000 gallons of milk per day over the last three years figures have been given by the firm of rejected milk as follows:-

1942	9,200 gallons
1943	3,460 gallons
1944.	5,160 gallons

The causes attributing to the souring of milk are various, but undoubtedly in 1944 the great scarcity of water on many farms for cooling purposes was one of the most important factors. It is worth noting that in the early part of 1943 there was a concentrated effort by the Department towards this appalling waste of vitally important food. Re-inspections were carried out at premises where adverse reports were received and every effort made to get the necessary improvements effected.

During 1944 there were 11 cases of Tuberculosis of a non-pulmonary type notified; most, if not all of these were due to the drinking of infected milk, this number was higher than the past few years and emphasises the importance, not only of clean but of pathologically sterile milk. In the interests of the consumer, I wish that it was compulsory for all milk to be properly pasturised until such time as the farmer and the veterinary surgeon can produce cattle that supply Tuberculin free milk.

The Public Health Officers have had great difficulty during the year in getting works of alteration and improvements done due solely to the shortage of men in the building trade, but nevertheless during 1944 twenty-five cowsheds were altered to comply with the requirements of the Milk and Dairy Order.

During the year 10 premises were registered as cowsheds bringing the total number in the Spilsby Rural District to 823.

6. Housing.

Rural Housing. Proposals for the improvement of rural housing as the essential foundation for a healthy and happy village life, are founded in the third report of the Rural Housing Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee.

To those who have read this report and are interested in the public welfare of citizenship there is cause for satisfaction and a feeling that real progress will be carried out.

A thorough and comprehensive survey will have to be carried out throughout the District, and it is estimated that there are about 6,000 houses to be inspected. It is only right that the housing problem should be tackled vigorously so that the young people will

not be driven to seek accommodation in the towns where amenities, lacking in the country, are to hand, and as a result deprive the rural districts of their best manhood.

As soon as the joint County Committee is appointed for the purpose of standardisation in the general standard of rural housing, the appointment of additional technical or trained non-technical staff will be required.

The housing shortage caused by the war is very acute throughout the district and will become more so as the men and women in the services are demobilised. Besides the actual shortage of houses, there are numerous properties in occupation which fall far short of the standards at which we are aiming. Many of these houses will have to come down as soon as better houses can be built for the people.

Agricultural Workers Cottages.

No further progress was made during the year in the actual erection of the twenty-two agricultural workers cottages. Shortage of labour and materials and priority for bomb-damaged property in the south of England has made the placing of contracts for the work a very great difficulty. One sincerely hopes that no further obstacles will prevent the commencement of the work in the very near future.

Permanent Housing Programme.

The Council's first year Post War Housing Programme for the erection of 52 houses and 30 bungalows is a step in the right direction. One views, however, with some trepidation, based on a knowledge of building costs, the cost of these new houses. The existing subsidy from the Ministry is not sufficient to bridge the difference between the actual cost involved in building the houses, and the economic rent which the agricultural workers can pay. Until building costs, so sorely inflated by many contributing factors, are reduced there seems to be no hope of private enterprise, which did so much after the last war to relieve the shortage, being able to help in this most urgent matter of house building.

Housing Rural Workers Act.

One application was received during the year and it was decided to make a grant of £37. 0. 0d to the owner of the property.

7. Sewerage.

The Rural Water Supply & Sewerage Act, 1944, which forms part of the post war reconstruction programme towards the assistance of Schemes for the provision and improvement of water supplies and for the provision of sewerage facilities in rural localities, will materially assist the District in the advancement of the Sewerage schemes which have been with-held on account of the heavy expenditure involved.

On this matter, the Council have considered the preliminary report of their Officers and have approved in principle that certain improvements, alterations and reconstruction are required in the parishes of Spilsby, Hundleby, Burgh-le-Marsh, Wainfleet All Saints, Sibsey and Huttoft. Regarding the villages of Halton, Great Steeping, Little Steeping and East Kirkby, it is hoped that the nearby R.A.F. Stations with their modern sewerage works may, at some future date be utilised. The coastal parishes of Ingoldmells, Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe and Anderby must of necessity have a comprehensive sewerage scheme as soon as possible after the war. When the whole of this coastal area is supplied with proper water, sewerage, electricity and scavenging schemes then, and then only can it be developed into the excellent holiday resort that it should be.

8. Scavenging.

Scavenging services are carried out by contract in the parishes of Spilsby, Burgh-le-Marsh, Wainfleet All Saints, Hogsthorpe, Ingoldmells and Chapel St. Leonards.

In order that a more efficient service could be put into operation, a scheme was prepared for employment of direct labour along with the purchase of modern refuse vehicles. As a preliminary step towards the suggested scheme for the collection of any dry refuse and night soil, a motor refuse vehicle is being obtained along with a portable pump and night soil tank, as a tentative step towards

the ultimate operation of a direct labour scavenging service. It is hoped that at an early date when men from the forces are released that the scheme in its entirety will be put into operation.

The gradual conversion of all earth closets etc., to the water carriage system when practicable, was stared after a full report had been submitted to the Council indicating all the properties in the parish of Spilsby having pails, vaults etc., with a piped water supply and mains nearby. Progress of conversion is being proceeded with, the Council paying the owners half of the cost involved. The next task will be to survey Burgh-le-Marsh and Wainfleet All Saints and complete conversion in these parishes.

9. Slaughter Houses.

No change has taken place regarding the Slaughter of animals for human consumption; the same being killed at the Government slaughter houses at Skegness and Horncastle.

Condemned Food.

The following foods were condemned during 1944 as being unfit for human consumption:-

1068 lbs beef.
83 lbs pork.
45 lbs bacon
6 lbs mutton.
84 lbs biscuit meal
1 pork carcase
1½ lbs butter
20 lbs cheese
11 tins milk
19 " meat
16 " beans
7 " soup
15 " fish
1 " preserves

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

26,259 rats tails were received and destroyed during the year, involving the sum of £218. 16. 6d in rewards.

I have the honour to be, Ladies & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

C Skinright

M.B., B.C., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department.
Spilsby Rural District.

Report on work done by Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1944.

Total number of new houses erected during the year.	2
(i) By the Local Authority.	-
(ii) By other Local Authorities.	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons.	2
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).	292
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	361
(2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under Sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	9
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	9
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-
(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.	1
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.	237
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 36 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners.	1
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	-
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	-
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) by owners.	-
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	-
(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.	-
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	-
(3) Number of dwelling houses subject to undertakings.	1
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	-
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit.	-

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. - Overcrowding.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.	True record not known.
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.	
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.	
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	1
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	1
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	
(d)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved.	-

Common Lodging-Houses	No. registered under byelaws.	-
	No. of inspections made.	-
	No. of contraventions of byelaws.	-
	No. of contraventions remedied.	-
Canal Boats used as dwelling houses.	No. registered under Acts.	-
	No. of inspections.	-
	No. of contraventions of regulations.	-
	No. of contraventions remedied.	-
Moveable Dwellings Tents, Vans, etc.	No. inspected during year.	60
	No. of nuisances therefrom abated	3
	No. removed from district.	-
Bake-houses.	No. in district.	41
	No. of underground bakehouses.	-
	No. of inspections.	37
	Contraventions of Factory Acts.	1
	Defects remedied.	1
Slaughter-Houses.	No. on register	30
	No. of inspections.	9
	Contraventions of byelaws.	-
	Defects remedied.	-
Cowsheds.	No. on register.	823
	No. of inspections.	332
	Contraventions of regulations.	41
	Contraventions remedied	35
	No. of milch cows in district.	
Dairies & Milk Shops	No. on register.	801
	No. of inspections.	259
	Contraventions of regulations.	11
	Contraventions remedied.	10
	Any instance of disease attributed to milk during year.	

Unsound Food. Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed (if known)					
No. inspected.					
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.					
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned.					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.					
Percentage of the No inspected affected with Tuberculosis.					

NO SLAUGHTERING.

Offensive Trades.	No. of premises in district.	3
	No. of inspections.	19
	Contraventions of byelaws.	-
	Contraventions remedied.	-

Shops Act, 1934.	(No. of shops inspected.	-
	(Additional heating or ventilation.	-
	(Additional sanitary conveniences.	-
Wells.	(New sunk.	3
	(Cleansed, repaired	6
	(Closed as polluted.	-
Water Supply.	Area Supplies: Croft, Friskney, Spilsby, Hundleby, Raithby, Burgh, Orby, Welton, Gunby, Candlesby, Bilsby, Markby, Well, Sibsey Frithville, Carrington, West Fen, Toynton All Saints	
	Public Supply: Toynton St. Peter, Halton Holegate, Little Steeping, Thorpe St. Peter, East Keal, Stickford, Stickney, New Leake, Eastville, Midville, Old Bolingbroke, Langton, Mavis Enderby.	
	Percentage of houses supplied. Fen Water Scheme comprising parishes of:- Friskney, West Fen, Toynton All Saints, Halton Holegate, Little Steeping, Toynton St. Peters, Thorpe St. Peter, East Keal, West Keal, Stickford, Stickney, New Leake, Eastville, Midville, Wainfleet All Saints, Wainfleet St. Mary, Croft.	
	Percentage of houses supplied at Burgh	39 per cent.
	" " " " " Orby	24 " "
	" " " " " Gunby	21 " "
	" " " " " Welton	45 " "
	" " " " " Croft	16 " "
	(New cisterns provided	-
	(Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered etc.	-
	Number of Samples obtained for analysis	
	((a) from Wells	1
	((b) from public supply	9
	Any insufficiency and where	-
Closets.	(No. of houses with privy vaults in district	3128
	(No. of houses with pail closets in district	2404
	(No. of pail closets substituted for privy vaults	-
	(No. of pail closets repaired.	18
	(No. of water closets substituted for dry receptacles.	-
	(No. of houses with water closets in district.	1604
	(No. of water closets repaired.	-
Drains.	(Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc.	35
	(" unstopped, repaired, trapped, etc.	15
	(Waste pipes, rain water pipes disconnected, repaired etc.	7
	(New soil pipes or ventilating shafts fixed.	3
	(Existing soil pipes or ventilating shafts repaired.	1
	(Drains reconstructed.	29
Sewers.	(New lengths of sewer laid.	-
Tanks, Filter Beds, etc.	(Alterations to sewage disposal works.	-
	(Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works or complaints as to smells.	-
Cesspools.	(Cesspools rendered impervious	3
	(" emptied, cleansed, etc.	29
	(" abolished.	-
Disinfection.	(Rooms disinfected	
	((a) ordinary infectious disease	36
	((b) tuberculosis	5
	(Rooms stripped and cleansed	-
	(Articles disinfected or destroyed	-
	((a) Ordinary infectious disease	-
	((b) tuberculosis	-
House Refuse.	(No. of covered ashpits	3791
	(No. of uncovered ashpits	-
	(No. of bins substituted for ashpits.	-
	(No. of houses using bins	3331
	(Is refuse removed by householders or by (Public scavenger? Public Scavenger at (Spilsby, Wainfleet All Saints, Burgh (Chapel St. Leonards, Hogsthorpe and Ingoldmells.	

	(How frequently is refuse removed from each house?	weekly.
	(No. of complaints of non-removal.	15
	(Method of final disposal.	tipping.
	(Are existing arrangements for refuse removal satisfactory?	Yes - see report on Direct Labour Scavenging.

Nuisances.	(Total number of Nuisances during year:-	
	(1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector.	
	(2) Reported to Council. (Statutory notice issued.	-
	(" " not "	-

		After formal intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
Details of Nuisances abated.	(Overcrowding	-	-
	(Smoke	-	-
	(Accumulation of refuse	7	-
	(Foul pigs and other animals	2	-
	(Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water.	3	-
	(Dampness	4	-
	(Yards repaved or repaired	-	-
	(Other nuisances.	10	-

Any Assistants? Yes - One.