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City of St. Albans.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

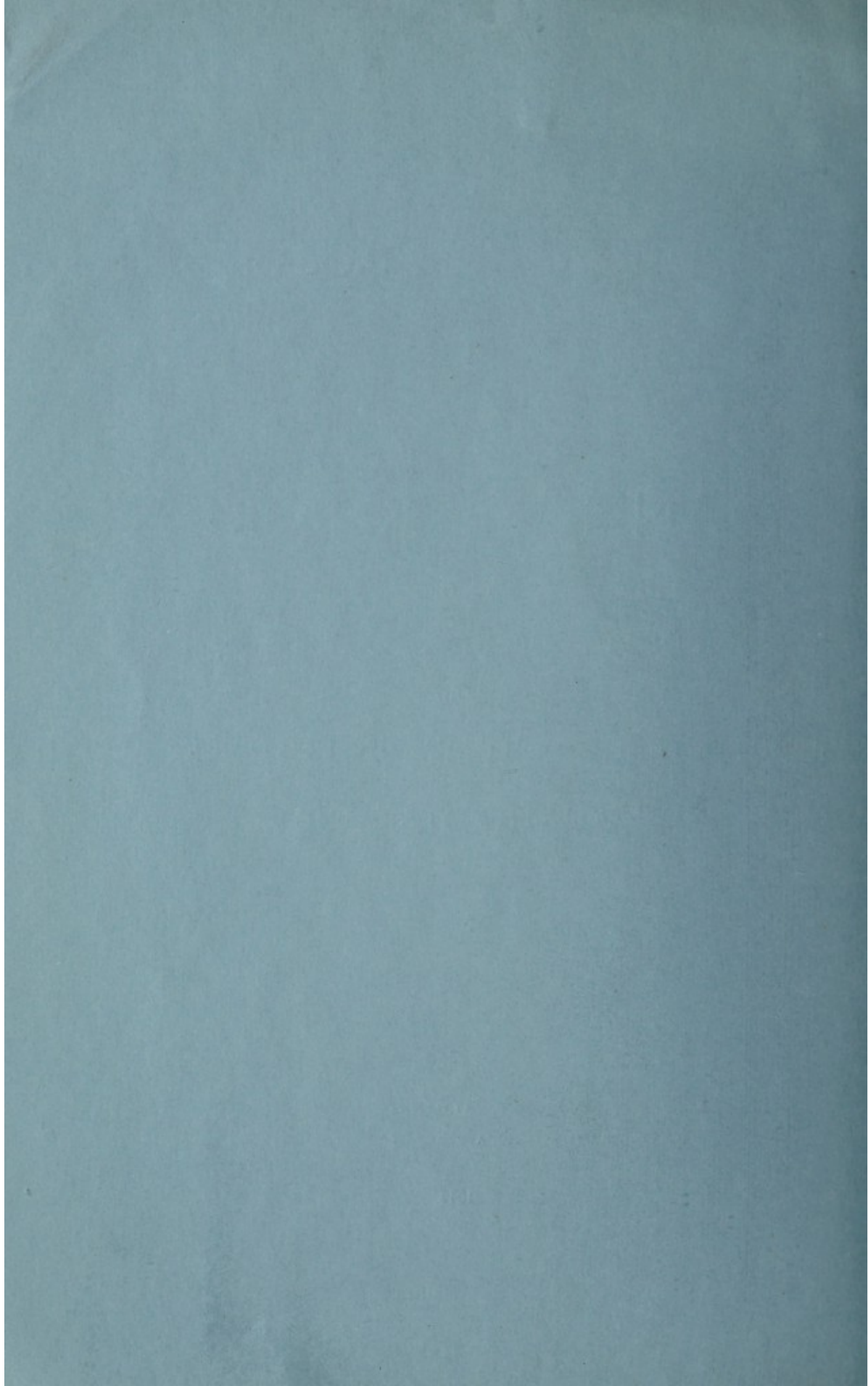
FOR THE YEAR 1941.



ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, LTD., 5 HIGH STREET.

1942.



City of St. Albans.



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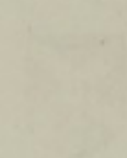
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# ANNUAL REPORT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1911

BY ALBANI

PRINTED BY J. A. HICKSON, LTD., 2, HIGH STREET

1912

To the Mayor and Corporation of the  
City of St. Albans.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to present to you our Annual  
Report for the year 1941.

**General Statistics.**

Area (acres), 5,129.

Population (at Census of 1931), 28,625.

Rateable Value, £384,737.

Sum represented by penny rate, £1,575.

Birth rate per 1,000 population, 11.6.

Death rate per 1,000 population, 12.1.

Deaths under one year per 1,000 births, 62.

### Mortality Table.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	20	9	29
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	3	5
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	4	3	7
Influenza ... ..	5	4	9
Measles ... ..	3	3	6
Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	...
Cancer ... ..	39	45	84
Intracranial Vascular lesions ... ..	25	25	50
Heart Disease ... ..	70	79	149
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	8	7	15
Bronchitis ... ..	7	10	17
Pneumonia ... ..	19	20	39
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	4	6
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..	4	4	8
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..	1	1	2
Appendicitis ... ..	4	2	6
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	13	12	25
Nephritis ... ..	5	2	7
Puerperal Sepsis, &c. ... ..	...	1	1
Premature Birth ... ..	3	7	10
Congenital Malformation ... ..	6	4	10
Suicide ... ..	1	...	1
Accidents ... ..	4	2	6
Other Violent Causes... ..	11	9	20
Cerebrospinal Fever ... ..	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	4	2	6
All other Causes ... ..	18	18	36
All Causes .. ..	278	278	556

### Infant Mortality.

Of the 33 deaths of infants under one year 20 were due to Premature Birth and Congenital Defects.

### Notification of Infectious Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.
Diphtheria ... ..	7	7
Scarlet Fever ... ..	95	79
Pneumonia ... ..	13	...
Erysipelas ... ..	5	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	9	9
Sonne Dysentery ... ..	22	18
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	4	4
Whooping Cough ... ..	259	...
Measles ... ..	927	...
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	12	12
Pulmonary T.B. ... ..	42	...
Non-Pulmonary T.B. ... ..	27	...
Total ... ..	1423	130

### Paratyphoid Fever.

A sharp outbreak of Paratyphoid Fever developed in the middle of October, involving in all some twenty-four persons. The probable source of infection was discovered and appropriate action taken.

Two secondary cases only developed and were traceable to those originally infected.

There were no deaths from this outbreak.



## Measles and Whooping Cough.

During the latter part of the year there have been epidemics of both Measles and Whooping Cough, the former being the most widespread.

## Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
5	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
10	2	...	3	1	1	1	...	...
15	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
20	1	3	3	2	...	2	...	...
25	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
35	4	2	...	5	2	2	...	...
45	6	4	1	1	1	2	...	...
55	4	3	1	1	3	2	...	...
65	3	3	1	...	6	...	...	...
Totals ...	26	16	15	12	15	10	...	...

### **Hospitals, Nursing Arrangements, etc.**

**General Hospital**—St. Albans and Mid Herts, Church Crescent.

**Infectious Diseases**—Sisters' Joint Hospital, Union Lane.

**Public Assistance Institution and Infirmary**—Oster House, Union Lane.

**Emergency Maternity Hospital**—Diocesan House, Verulam Road.

**St. Albans District Nursing Association**—29 Beaconsfield Road.

During 1941, 154 Maternity cases were nursed to which 2,742 visits were paid, and 1,053 General cases to which 19,187 visits were paid. Visits have also been made regarding 157 Post-Natal and 716 Ante-Natal cases.

### **School Medical Service.**

31 visits were made to schools for routine medical examination and 1,410 children were examined. 769 children were found to have defects and were referred for treatment. Of this number 571 children had defective teeth.

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria at the end of the year was 6,454. Of this number 1,910 were under school age and 4,544 between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

One local school achieved the excellent record of 100%, and on the whole parents have responded well to the appeals of the Ministry of Health.

**Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic**—Wellington Court,  
Bricket Road.

The numbers at the Centre in 1941 were as follows :

*Number on Register*—Expectant mothers, 591.

Children (under 5), 1,493.

*Number of Attendances*—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor) 1,810.

Children (under 5) seen by doctor, 3,851.

Attendances, 8,735.

Average weekly attendance of 171.3 children.

Number of deaths among these children, 6.

Number of children referred to the Orthopædic  
Clinic, 103.

**Inspections, Disinfections, etc.**

**Inspections.**

During 1941, 1,492 inspections were made of premises including dwelling houses, grocery and provision shops, restaurant kitchens and cooked food premises, factories, bakehouses, cowsheds, dairies and milkshops and offensive trade premises. In connection therewith 1,008 defects were remedied.

**Disinfection and Disinfestation.**

Disinfection was carried out in connection with 135 cases of notifiable infectious diseases, and 43 in connection with Tuberculosis and Cancer.

Twenty-two complaints of bed-bug infestation were received and disinfestation was carried out.

In addition, the bedding and clothing was disinfected following the treatment of 142 cases of Scabies.

**Public Cleansing.**

351 cesspools received attention, and at approximately 120 houses pail closets were emptied twice weekly.

**Housing.**

Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	404
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Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>
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Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	318
--	-----	-----	-----	-----

*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.	...	...	...	306
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Land has been purchased by the Corporation for the erection of 300 houses and immediately prior to the outbreak of hostilities sanction had been received for the erection of the first 100 houses in connection with slum clearance and general housing requirements. Unfortunately, however, owing to the war it has not been possible to proceed with this scheme.

## **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

### **Premises.**

Regular inspections were made of food preparing premises, including bakehouses, restaurant kitchens, slaughterhouses and butcher shops, fish shops, grocery and provision shops, dairies, etc. They were found to be in a cleanly condition.

### **Examination of Food and Drugs.**

During 1941, 149 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. These samples included ninety-one of milk, three of custard powder, two each of coffee, egg powder, "Egg Batter" flour, pea soup flour, self-raising flour, cocoa, Worcester sauce, ground ginger, boric ointment, zinc ointment, lemon substitute, egg substitute and vinegar, and one each of steak and kidney pie, tinned peas, tinned beans, bottled beetroot, white pepper, rice, vegetable brawn, sweet pickle, aspirin tablets, cafe au lait powder, beef and vegetable extract, corn flower, medicinal paraffin, camphorated oil, dried fruit, baking powder, ground rice, ground cinnamon, rice, "Ready-to-Serve" dinner, cake flour, lemon juice, pressed beef, fish cakes, "Savoury Roll," saccharine, mustard, "Neopolitan Ice" and beef paste.

Of the 91 samples of milk submitted, 34 were "Appeal to Cow" samples of mornings and evenings

milking from farms supplying milk to retailers in the City, five were taken in course of transit from a producer to a retailer and 52 during the normal course of delivery to the customer.

Nine of the samples contained added water, four being "Appeal to Cow" samples and five having been obtained in course of delivery to the retailer.

Legal proceedings were instituted against the producer who was fined £20 with £1 10s. costs.

One sample taken in course of delivery to the customer contained between one and two per cent. of added water and the Vendor was cautioned.

The remaining samples of milk were genuine.

The Public Analyst reported against the following miscellaneous samples, viz. :—

*Samples No. 107 (Informal) and 115 (Formal)—Lemon Substitute.*

*Samples No. 116 (Informal) and 117 (Formal)—Egg Substitute.*

The Public Analyst reported that the claims made on the cartons containing these substitutes were exaggerated.

In view of the impending change in legislation relating to the sale of food substitutes the Public Analyst suggested that the manufacturers and vendors of these articles should be cautioned and as a result the packets were withdrawn from sale.

*Samples 118 (Informal) and 125 (Formal)—Vinegar.*

The Public Analyst reported that this Vinegar was deficient in Acetic Acid to the extent of approximately 38 per cent.

The Vendor was fined £5 with 15/- costs.

The remaining samples were reported as being genuine.

We are,

Your obedient servants,

RICHARD PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

R. E. C. GODDARD, F.S.I.A.,  
*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*





