

[Report 1921] / Medical Officer of Health, St Albans Urban Sanitary District.

Contributors

St. Albans (England). Urban Sanitary District.

Publication/Creation

1921

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
ST. ALBANS
Urban Sanitary Authority
FOR THE YEAR 1921,

BY
HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, Etc., Etc.

ALSO
Report of the Sanitary Inspector and of
the Veterinary Inspector.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, HIGH STREET.

—
1922.

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Officers of the Council engaged in Health Work.

Town Clerk (whole time)	...	MR. W. G. MARSHALL.
City Solicitor (part time) ..	...	MR. E. P. DEBENHAM.
Surveyor and Engineer (whole time)		MR. J. ASHURST, M. INS. MUN. AND C.E., M. R.S.I.
Deputy Surveyor (whole time)	...	MR. F. T. NEGUS, M. INST. MUN. AND C.E.
Second Assistant Surveyor (whole time)		MR. WATSON.
*Medical Officer of Health (part time)		DR. H. E. MAY, M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.
Public Analyst (part time)	...	MR. A. C. CHAPMAN, F.I.C., F.C.S., F.R.S.
*Sanitary Inspector (whole time)	...	MR. A. S. MACARA, C.S.I.
Veterinary Inspector (part time) ..		MR. G. ELMES, F.R.C.V.S.
Manager Sewage Disposal Works (whole time)		MR. A. EADE, M.S.W.M.A.

* Contribution made to Salary from Exchequer Grants.

***To the Mayor and Corporation of the City
of St. Alban.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1921, as Medical Officer of Health for the City of St. Alban.

It has been suggested by the Minister of Health that in future the reports of Medical Officers of Health should be either :—

I. A Survey Report which will be required about every five years, which report will be of a full and detailed character, or

II. Ordinary Reports, which should be of a more simple character, and from which should be omitted all details which do not vary from year to year.

Annual Reports for 1919 and 1920 are considered as the first of the series of Survey Reports.

This Report therefore, is, as you see, smaller in size than I have been accustomed to present to you, though I think you will find that it contains all the essential points in a condensed form.

General Statistics.

Area (acres), 2,695·715.

Population (at Census of 1921), 25,588 (11,411 males and 14,177 females).

Number of inhabited houses, 5,824.

Number of new houses erected, 33.

Rateable value £148,182.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £600.

The following table gives the Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1921, from which it will be seen that though the Birth rate in St. Albans is low, our Death rate compares most favourably with other parts of the country.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	22·4	12·1	83
96 Great Towns, including London ... Populations exceeding 50,000 at Census of 1911.	23·3	12·3	87
148 Smaller Towns Populations from 20,000 to 50,000 at Census of 1911.	22·7	11·3	84
London	22·3	12·4	80
St. Albans City	17·33	8·62	65

Table of Vital Statistics for whole District, shewing each Ward separately.

WARD.	Population as Registered General.	Births.			Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Deaths.			Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Infant Deaths.			Infant Death Rate per 1000 net Births.
		Births.		Totals		Deaths.		Totals		Infant Deaths.		Totals	
North Ward ...	*8,838	60	76	136	15.38	35	46	81	9.16	2	7	9	66
South Ward....	*10,900	94	93	187	17.31	49	48	97	8.98	8	5	13	69
East Ward ...	*5,982	63	58	121	20.22	22	21	43	7.18	3	4	7	57
Totals ...	25,620	217	227	444	17.33	106	115	221	8.62	13	16	29	65
Rates for year.													
1920	...				21.41				9.02				27
1919	...				13.41				10.75				40
1918	...				14.36				15.45				80
1917	...				13.22				11.27				81

* The Ward Populations are apportionate only. † Exclusive of Deaths due to Influenza.

Of the 444 Births, 13 were Illegitimate (8 males and 5 females).

Of the 29 Deaths of Infants under one year of age, 2 were Illegitimate (1 male and 1 female).

Mortality Table for Year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1
Influenza	1	2	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	11	11	22
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	4	1	5
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	14	22
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	1
Diabetes... ..	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	4	9	13
Heart Disease	19	26	45
Arterio-sclerosis	2	1	3
Bronchitis	5	5	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	6	4	10
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	3	2	5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	9	1	10
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	5	12	17
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Deaths from Violence... ..	1	2	3
Other Defined Diseases	19	23	42
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...
All Causes	106	115	221

Infant Mortality during the Year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	3
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Premature Birth	...	5	4	...	...	...	...	9	1	...	...	...	10
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	4
Other Causes	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	7	5	3	2	17	5	3	2	2	29

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	8	1	16	25	25	1
Scarlet Fever	22	10	10	42	40	...
Malaria	...	2	...	2	...	...
Pneumonia	3	...	1	4	...	10
Encephalites Lethargica ...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	...	1	3	1	...
Erysipelas	...	4	...	4	...	...
Totals	36	17	28	81	66	11
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.		
	4 4	7 14	5 4	16 22		
,, other forms ...	8	21	9	38	14	22
	2 3	4 3		6 6		
Totals	5	7		12	1	5
	49	45	37	131	81	38

Of the 27 Deaths due to Tuberculosis, 24 had been notified and 3 not notified in this District.

Table of Infectious Diseases during 1921, showing month of incidence.

DISEASE.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Diphtheria ...	1	1	...	1	4	3	2	1	2	3	3	4	25
Scarlet Fever ...	8	...	2	4	3	2	5	4	2	7	2	3	42
Malaria ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	4
Encephalites Lethargica ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	4
Totals ...	11	2	3	5	9	6	7	6	5	12	7	8	81

Diphtheria.

Twenty-five cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, all of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

A few of these were imported cases, that is, the patient had contracted the disease when on holiday outside the district.

On the whole the cases were not severe in character.

Sixteen of the cases, that is more than half, occurred in the East Ward, several of which were connected with Standards 2 and 3 in Fleetville School. The School was visited several times and a number of swabs taken, but no carrier was detected.

Scarlet Fever.

Forty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, 40 of which were removed to the Sisters' Hospital.

With the exception of February, no month was free. The largest number, namely 8, were notified during January.

Quite a number of cases were contracted outside the district. The cases generally were of a mild character, and many were only detected when they were peeling.

One of the cases notified in January which was not removed to Hospital, was during the third week of infection, discovered to be exposing himself to the danger of the public. The parents were prosecuted and fined.

The following case is unusual and interesting as shewing the length of time in which it is possible to remain infectious:—

A boy developed Scarlet Fever at a Private School outside the district on 15th March, 1921. He was removed to an Isolation Hospital, from which he was discharged on May 4th, that is a full seven weeks after infection. He came to his home at St. Albans where he ran wild until May 19th, when he returned to School with a slight nasal catarrh. During this fortnight while he was at St. Albans he apparently infected nobody.

Three days after his return to School another boy developed Scarlet Fever, and as all the boys had been back at School from holiday for a fortnight, this boy was the suspected cause of infection.

The boy was again sent home to St. Albans when he saw his mother for half-an-hour only, and was then isolated at the Hospital. But his mother washed out some of his handkerchiefs; four days later the mother developed Scarlet Fever.

On June 25th, the boy again returned to School apparently quite well.

On July 1st, he had a recurrence of his nasal discharge and was again sent back home to St. Albans.

A maid at the School who handled his handkerchiefs on July 1st, went down with Scarlet Fever on July 5th.

The boy remained at home more or less isolated until July 16th, when he mixed with the rest of the family. During this period his adenoids were removed and he was kept continuously under treatment with a nasal douche and nasal spray.

On July 20th, that is four days after mixing with his family again, his little sister went down with Scarlet Fever.

The boy was then again removed to the Hospital from which he was discharged on August 9th, cured, at any rate he was not responsible for any more cases.

This boy had remained infectious for over 4 months.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

One case of Encephalitis Lethargica was notified in February. I am indebted to the Medical Practitioner in charge of the case for the information—that this patient made a slow but complete recovery.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified, 1 in March and 2 in November.

In 2 cases the eyes completely recovered, but in the third case the eyes were considerably damaged, the vision being so impaired that the child is practically blind.

Malaria.

Two cases of Malaria were notified during the year, both of which were contracted abroad.

Pneumonia.

Four cases of Pneumonia were notified during the year, 1 in May, 1 in June, 1 in September, and 1 in October. The first and third being notified as Influenzal Pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, 50 new cases were notified, 38 of which were pulmonary and 12 non-pulmonary.

I am indebted to Dr. H. Hyslop Thomson, County Tuberculosis Officer, and Dr. E. C. Sparrow, Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer, for the following information as to the work done at the St. Albans Dispensary during the year 1921 :—

Number of days Dispensary open	...	49
Number of attendances of Patients	...	1159
Number of Patients attending	...	143
Number of visits of Nurses	...	573

The number of Patients examined for the first time in 1921 and granted Institutional treatment was 40.

In addition 31 suspected cases were seen, 27 of which, after observation, were found not to be infected and 4 are remaining under observation.

Preventive Measures.

During the year 102 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Sisters' Hospital, 40 of which belonged to the City, 48 to the Rural District, 12 to Harpenden and 2 to Hatfield.

Eighty-four cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Sisters' Hospital, 25 of which belonged to the City, 47 to the Rural District and 12 to Harpenden.

There were no cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever admitted to the Hospital during the year.

There were no cases of Smallpox.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Thresh's Steam Disinfecter where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is practically always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Small-pox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District, but, in addition, every room is thoroughly cleansed with soap, water and fresh air, and, where necessary, white-washed and papered. This work is done under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Arrangements are made by this Council with the Clinical Research Association and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examinations to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 65 reports from them, as follows:—

Fifty-nine on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 13 of which were positive and 46 negative.

Five on Sputum examined for Tubercle Bacilli, which were negative.

One on Blood examined for Malaria, which was positive.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is in all suitable cases supplied at the expense of this Council.

Vaccination.

It is for obvious reasons impossible at this date to give any accurate Vaccination returns for the year ending December, 1921.

The following figures therefore are given for the 12 months ending June 30th, 1921, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Rogers, the Vaccination Officer:—

During this period there were 475 children born in the City, 14 of which died in infancy without being vaccinated. Of the remaining 461, only 76 have been vaccinated, that is 16 per cent.

12 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

8, though having no Exemption Certificate, are reported as unvaccinated, and

365 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

As Assistant School Medical Officer I find that only 26 per cent. of the children inspected during 1921 were vaccinated, and that of the children under 6 years of age only 22 per cent. were vaccinated.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Hospitals, Nursing arrangements, and other Institutions available for the District

(1) **St. Albans and Mid Herts Hospital and Dispensary**, Church Crescent, St. Albans. *Matron*: Miss Holmes.

Supported by Endowments, Voluntary Contributions, Fees from Patients.

A General Hospital for Accidents, Medical and Surgical Cases. Contains an Operating Theatre, and X-Ray Plant.

Accommodation about 50 beds.

Staff: 6 Hon. Medical Officers besides Hon. Consulting Surgeons.

Last year about 460 in-patients, 500 out-patients, and 630 casualties were treated. In addition, some 330 children received treatment under the County Council scheme for removal of tonsils and adenoids. About 230 cases were examined under the X-Rays.

(2) Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Matron: Miss Banner, The Sisters' Hospital, St. Albans.

Medical Superintendent: Dr. H. E. May (non-resident).

(a) The Sisters' Hospital, Union Lane, St. Albans, which consists of:—

1. Administration Block.
2. Scarlet Fever Block (accommodation 30 beds), over which are 2 Wards of 3 beds each reserved for Cerebro-spinal Fever.
3. Diphtheria Block (accommodation 12 beds).

There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector.

A Motor Ambulance is kept at the hospital.

Porter: Mr. J. W. Bates.

(b) Cherry Tree Hospital, near Redbourn, for Smallpox.

Accommodation 12 beds.

At this Hospital there is also an emergency tent.

A Horse Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

Caretakers: Mr. and Mrs. Rush.

These Hospitals are the property of the St. Albans Town Council and are managed by a Joint Committee of St. Albans Town Council, St. Albans Rural District Council, and Harpenden Urban District Council, and receive patients from these 3 districts.

(3) **The Union Infirmary, St. Albans.** The property of the Guardians of the Poor of the St. Albans Union, which comprises the Sanitary Districts of St. Albans Urban, St. Albans Rural, and Harpenden Urban.

Workhouse Master: Mr. Tompkins.

Superintendent Nurse: Miss Wrigley and 11 other Nurses.

Medical Officer: Dr. T. P. Grosart Wells (non-resident).

Accommodation 140 beds.

Contains a small Operating Theatre, 3 small wards available for Isolation and a small Lying-in Ward.

(4) **The St. Albans District Nursing Association,** Bricket House, St. Albans. *Matron:* Miss Jefferys.

Supported by Voluntary Subscriptions, Grants from the County Council, and other Public Bodies, and profits from the Nursing Home, for which purpose part of the building known as Bricket House is reserved.

This Association which is affiliated to the Herts County Nursing Association and Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses, provides for the General and Midwifery Nursing of Sick Poor in their own homes, throughout the City and immediate neighbourhood.

Staff: 3 Midwives and 3 District Nurses.

Last year about 270 Maternity Cases were nursed, to which some 4,400 visits were paid, and about 300 General Cases were nursed, to which some 6,600 visits were paid.

This Association has recently taken over the Health Visiting School Nursing, etc., for the County Council, for which purpose another Nurse has already been added to the Staff as Health Visitor.

The County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Dental Clinic is now held at Wellington Court (also the property of the Association) which is adjacent to Bricket House.

The School Dental Clinic is held every Monday morning (Dental Surgeon—Miss Scanlan).

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held every Wednesday afternoon and is well attended (Medical Officer—Dr. Helen Swatman).

(5) **Herts County Nursing Association, Massage and Orthopædic Centre**, Bricket House, St. Albans.

Masseur in Charge: Miss Long.

Visiting Orthopædic Surgeon: Mr. S. L. Higgs.

Supported by contributions from the British Red Cross Society, Fees from the Ministry of Pensions for Ex-service Men, and from the County Council for School Children. Also nominal fees paid by civilian patients.

Last year over 50 Ex-service Pensioners attended and received 4,000 treatments, also 70 civilians attended and received over 1,800 treatments, and in addition 15 children were treated under the County Council Scheme.

(6) **Tuberculosis Dispensary**, 79, Victoria Street, St. Albans.
An Institution belonging to the County Council.

Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer: Dr. E. C. Sparrow.

Open every week on Thursday afternoons (for further particulars see page 12).

(7) **Ambulance**. There is a Red Cross Motor Ambulance in the City, the property of the St. Albans Town Council.

The Ambulance is kept at the Police Station and is in charge of the Chief Constable (Mr. J. Harrison); Tel. 18.

It is available for the use of St. Albans and District at a fixed charge of 1/6 per mile. Minimum 6/-

Public Elementary Schools.

There are 14 Public Elementary Schools in the City, of which 5 are Church of England Schools, 1 is a Roman Catholic School and 8 are County Council Schools.

School Closure The only School closed during the year was St. Michaels Infants which was closed on 21st March for 3 days (when the holidays commenced) for Chicken-Pox.

The following are extracts from my Annual Report to the School Medical Officer for the County :-

In the majority of schools the heating is insufficient and is particularly bad in the Abbey Boys, Alma Road Infants, both department at Garden Fields and the Junior Department at St. Michaels.

To those who are interested in this matter I would draw attention to a heating arrangement by the Romesse Stove. This stove, which burns anthracite coal, has a water boiler behind to which are attached radiators which are placed about the premises.

Such a stove is fixed at Park Street School and I understand is easy to work, not unduly expensive in the upkeep and very efficient as regards its heating powers, the rooms being uniformly warm from the first thing in the morning and throughout the day.

A somewhat similar system with an open grate fire is in existence at Redbourn Schools and is reported on well by the Head Teachers.

The ventilation in the schools is on the whole good the Abbey Schools being a conspicuous exception. In these Schools it is true there are a few fanlights which open but with this exception none of the windows open at all.

In the Central School the windows are quite efficient both as regards light and ventilation but I am told that owing to the noise of the traffic in Victoria Street it is impossible to have them opened as they should be. One particular grievance is the fact that the omnibuses have a halt just outside thus increasing and aggravating the noise of the outside thus increasing and aggravating the noise of the traffic.

In St. Michaels Junior Mixed School 2 new windows have been fitted in the main room during the year. This has effected a very great improvement, the lighting and heating in this room being all that can possibly be required.

With regard to the Playgrounds, in 3 of the departments namely St. Peters Girls, St. Stephens and the Roman Catholic the condition of the playground is bad, and in 4 others namely, St. Michaels Senior Mixed and Junior Mixed, St. Peters Infants and Christ Church the Playgrounds can be described as fair only.

At Garden Fields they have an excellent asphalted Playground, but I am told that in wet weather a considerable amount of water collects in the depression in the centre of the playground. This is probably due to some defect in the drain which should be remedied.

In all the other schools the playgrounds are good.

There are still at least 6 schools in the City that have no means of keeping the pens, pencils, paint brushes, crayons and plasticine separate, but I think the Head Teachers are realising the importance of this matter with regard to the possible spread of infection and I hope next year to be able to report that it is universally the custom to do so.

Very few slates are now used, and with one exception, in every school where they are used proper measures are taken with regard to the cleaning. That is to say either they are cleaned by the teachers themselves or separate rubbers are kept.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (Herts County Council) St. Albans.

I am indebted to Dr. Helen Swatman, County Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, for the following Report for the year ending December 31st, 1921.

This Centre has done some very satisfactory work during the year, although the number of children attending it was considerably less than in 1920. The chief reason for this was no doubt the change of day from a Wednesday to the much less convenient Monday; that change having been necessitated by the fact that Monday was the only date on which the Herts County Council could obtain the use of the premises at the St. Peter's Institute. No doubt the cessation of the milk grant and the change of Health Visitor were also contributory causes to the lessened numbers, but in a minor degree. The actual number were as follows:—

On Books: Expectant mothers, 8.

Children under five years old, 373.

Number of Attendances:

Expectant mothers, 28 (consultations).

Children, 2377.

Number of Deaths: Children, 4.

Number of children who have had massage, 9.

Average attendance of children each time the Centre was open, 50.

Breast Feeding.—Percentage for infants up to nine months old (attending the Centre):—

Entirely breast fed, 64 per cent.

Partly breast fed, 30 per cent.

Entirely bottle fed, 6 per cent.

The causes of death were:

(1) Convulsions.

(2) Infantile diarrhoea (November).

(3) Pneumonia.

(4) Congenital heart disease in an infant, who was brought only once in a moribund condition.

It is a noteworthy fact in view of the hot dry summer that there were no deaths from summer diarrhoea. Another fact is

the remarkable absence of rickets among the children. In 1919, 17 cases were recorded; in 1920 there were 7 cases. In 1921 only 1 case was noted. Perhaps both these facts may be largely attributed to the feeding record—only six per cent. of the infants under nine months old attending the Centre have been entirely bottle fed.

Many changes have taken place among the workers during the year. The Health Visitor (Miss McNab) has left, and the work of the Health Visitor is being done by the nurses from Bricket House. There have also been changes among the Voluntary Workers, to whom very many thanks are due for their untiring regularity in what must often prove very monotonous, though very necessary and excellent work.

General Sanitation.

Water Supply.—See Report for year 1919.

Sewerage.—For full details see Report for year 1919.

The following alterations have been made to the existing works :—

1. Secondary filtration has been provided by means of ex-circular filters.
2. One humus tank and an additional settling tank have been added bringing the total capacity of the 3 settling tanks to 26,676 gallons.

During the year the following additions have been made at the Sewerage Disposal Works for dealing with the sewage from the Fleetville area :—

- 1 Screening chamber with combined detritus pit.
- 1 Sedimentation tank with helical scraper. Capacity, 142,000 gallons.
- 2 Septic Tanks, each with a capacity of 35,000 gallons.
- 3 Primary circular filters with Ames Crostra Sprinklers, diam. 116-ft., depth 6-ft. 6-in.

- 3 Secondary circular filters, with Ames Crosta Sprinklers, diam. 105-ft. depth 4-ft.
 - 1 Humus Tank with a capacity of 14,000 gallons.
 - 1 Humus Tank with a capacity of 25,000 gallons.
 - 1 28-h.p. Suction Gas Engine.
 - 1 9-in. Centrifugal Pump.
 - 4-in. C. I. Sludge Main replaced by 6-in.
 - 2 Humus Receivers for dealing with humus from filters.
- These are operated by compressed air.

Closet Accomodation.—With the exception of a very few earth closets which are still in existence, and are emptied by the occupiers, the whole of the City has water closet accomodation.

Ashes and Refuse.—This work is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, who has a staff of 9 men and a foreman. (See Sanitary Inspector's Report, p. 32).

Food.

Milk Supply.—As will be seen on p. 33, 49 samples of milk have been sent to the Public Analyst during the year, only one of which was reported on adversely, and in this case the deficiency of milk fat was so small that action was not deemed either necessary or advisable. For full particulars see Report of Sanitary Inspector on p. 33.

As will be seen in the Report of the Veterinary Inspector 4 samples of milk have been sent to the Pathological Laboratory for examination as to the presence of Tubercle bacilli and in each case the result was negative.

It is important that milk should not be adulterated even with pure water but it is more important that all milk should be of good quality and clean.

I hope the day is not very far distant when the public will insist that all milk shall be graded.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.—These regulations are designed to secure that no thickening shall be added to cream or preserved cream, and that no preservatives shall be added to milk or to cream containing less than 35 per cent. by weight of milk fat.

The regulations allow that to cream containing over 35 per cent. of milk fat, boric acid or borax, or hydrogen peroxide may be added, provided that an adhesive declaratory label is attached to the receptacle containing cream. Such label should be of a certain size printed in black type of not less than a certain size on a white ground, and be placed in an unobscured position on the receptacle. By the regulations of 8th Feb., 1917, it must be stated on this label "not suitable for infants and invalids" and also the preservative used, and in the case of boric acid and borax the maximum amount per cent. of these substances contained in the preserved cream.

Under these regulations 49 samples of milk and 1 sample of cream were submitted to the public Analyst during the year. These were all free from preservatives and therefore conformed to the requirements of the regulations.

The sample of cream contained 47.6 per cent of fat.

In addition, one sample of preserved cream was submitted to the Public Analyst during the year.

The sample of preserved cream contained 0.11 per cent. boric acid and 64.3 per cent. fat. It also was marked with the necessary label and therefore complied with the requirements of the regulations.

All these samples were submitted simultaneously under the Milk and Cream Regulations and Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

For particulars see Report of Sanitary Inspector, p. 33.

Bakehouses.

There are no wholesale bakehouses in the City. Under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, no underground bakehouse must be used after January 1st, 1904, without the written permission of the Sanitary Authority. There are 5 such underground bakehouses in the City, all of which have received the necessary permission of the Council. At the present moment 2 or 3 of these are not in use.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector, p. 33).

Slaughterhouses.

There are 12 registered slaughter houses in the City.

In two cases the slaughter house, though a slaughter house within the definition of the Public Health Act, 1875, is nothing more than a yard, and a few of them, owing to their position, are unsuitable for the purpose of slaughtering, but on account of their being in existence previous to the year 1875, this Corporation has no power to deal with them unless they are a nuisance under the Public Health Act, 1875.

The Veterinary Inspector visits the slaughter houses by request for the inspection of carcasses, but there is no regular inspection of meat at the time of slaughter.

There is no public abattoir in the City.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector, p. 33).

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

Dairies.—There are 13 dairies in the City, 5 of which are attached to cowsheds. All have been visited during the year and no defects have been found. All are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition, and all have an ample water supply.

Cowsheds.—The number of cowsheds on register during the year 1921 is 11. These have all been visited at least once in each quarter by the Veterinary Inspector. The approximate number of cows in these sheds is 135.

Milkshops.—There are 18 milkshops in the City, all of which are clean and well conducted.

Lodging Houses.

There is only one registered common lodging house in the City. It is frequently visited by the Inspector of Nuisances, who reports it to be well managed and in good order.

Housing.

There are 5,824 houses in the City, of which about 3,655 are for the working classes.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	33
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	20

The Council Housing Scheme consists of 100 houses, 98 of these are erected or in course of erection. Twenty of these were occupied on 31st December, 1921, and at the time of writing this report 14 more are completed and occupied.

The rents have been fixed at 15/- per week, tenants paying rates. There is still a good demand for them.

There is undoubtedly a considerable amount of overcrowding in the City which only time will remedy.

With reference to overcrowding I wish the Public Health Acts were extended in order to give power to deal with the proper separation of the sexes.

Generally speaking, the standard of houses in the City is decidedly good. There are no areas which can be represented as unhealthy areas and there are no areas which, in my

opinion, must be dealt with by improvement or reconstruction schemes, and there is no area which contains a large proportion of seriously defective houses. There are six houses certainly, and perhaps a few more, which will require to be demolished in the near future, but these are scattered about the City in twos or threes and do not in any way represent an unhealthy area. There are numerous houses in different areas of the City which, although in fair sanitary condition, in my opinion fall below the ultimate standard at which we should aim.

At the present time it is impossible to entertain any idea of dealing in any way with these areas.

There are no bye-laws relating to lodgings, tents or vans.

There is a relaxation of the Building Bye-laws under Memorandum of Ministry of Health Order, 1920, which allows wooden and other houses to be erected until July, 1922.

1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses			
inspected for housing defects (under Public			
Health or Housing Acts)			
			606
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected			
and recorded under the Housing (Inspection			
of District) Regulations, 1910			
			415
(3) 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>
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those			
referred to under the preceding sub-heading)			
found not to be in all respects reasonably fit			
for human habitation			
			185

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			
			185

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.

(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 so close.

Nil

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 :—

(a) by owners.

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners

Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.

Nil

For further particulars under the Housing and Town Planning Act, see report of Sanitary Inspector, page 31.

Adoptive Acts.

The following Acts or parts of Acts have been adopted in the City :—

*Adopted by St. Albans
City Council.*

The Public Libraries Acts.	3rd May, 1878.
The Baths and Wash-houses Acts.	15th May, 1889.
The Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.	4th February, 1890.
The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, with the exception of Part IV.	9th December, 1890.
The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.	3rd February, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Part II., sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, and 51 comprised in Part III.	} Came into operation in the City of St. Alban on 9th January, 1912, by Order of the Local Government Board, dated 21st November, 1911.
Part IV.	
Part V.	
Part VI.	
Sections 92, 93, and 95 comprised in Part X.	

Sections 79, 81 and 86 comprised in Part VII.	} Declared to be in force in the City of St. Alban by Order of the Home Secretary, dated 29th March, 1911.
Part VIII.	

Section 85 comprised in Part VII.	Declared to be in force in the City of St. Alban by Order of the Home Secretary, dated 10th February, 1915.
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Bye-laws and Regulations.

	<i>Date.</i>
New Streets and Buildings	15th September, 1896. 2nd August, 1898. 19th December, 1899. 31st January, 1911.
Nuisances	1st August, 1893.
Slaughter Houses	18th October, 1916.
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	8th May, 1900.
Common Lodging Houses	7th May, 1880.
Good Rule and Government	31st January, 1911.
Employment of Children Act, 1903	9th November, 1912.

Appended are the reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Veterinary Inspector.

I am indebted to all my brother officers. In particular to Mr. Marshall the Town Clerk, Mr. Ashurst the Engineer and Surveyor, for the advice and assistance always so willingly given, and to Mr. Macara the Sanitary Inspector, with whom I always work in most cordial co-operation.

My thanks are due to you, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors, for the very courteous way that you have always received me.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the City of St. Alban, for the Year 1921.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the work of my department during the year 1921.

Throughout the year frequent inspections of premises in the City were made for the detection of nuisances, and wherever these were found, the necessary steps for their abatement were immediately taken.

The Sanitary defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 1197, and 384 preliminary notices were served in connection therewith. Included in these figures are 384 sanitary defects and 75 notices following upon the visitations, and inspection of 415 houses under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, details of which are shown in tabulated form as follows:—

It is satisfactory to record that all such remedial work was carried out without the serving of any statutory notice.

The following summary gives particulars of work relative to the defects and nuisances dealt with, other than those detailed under the Housing and Town Planning Acts:—

Walls, damp and defective, remedied	...	...	23
Roofs, spouting and down pipes repaired	...	...	70
Floors and ceilings repaired	...	...	36
Ceilings and walls cleansed	...	...	17
Windows and sash cords repaired	...	...	108
Water closets repaired	...	...	65
Cisterns and flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	90
Drains repaired and unstopped	...	...	31
Drains tested by smoke	...	...	8
Ventilating and waste pipes repaired	...	...	18
Cesspools emptied	...	...	122

Coppers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Copper provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ashpit abolished	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dustbins, dust receptacles, defective, remedied	...	...	...	...	...	156
Birds and animals improperly kept, removed, cases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manures, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisance, removed	...	...	...	...	...	44

Housing and Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909.—Under this Act, 729 visits were made, and 415 houses inspected.

In explanation of the working of the Act I should like to point out that a defect in any house let to a new tenant after the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, can be dealt with under Section 15 of the Act, in a manner similar to that under the Public Health Act, 1875. But a defect in a house let to a tenant previous to the passing of the Act cannot be dealt with under Section 15, and has to be dealt with under Section 17 (sub-section 2), which means that the defect cannot be dealt with under the Act unless the defect is such that it renders the dwelling so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

The following sanitary defects therefore, 384 in number, were dealt with and remedied under the Public Health Act, 1875 (for which 75 informal notices were served), as shown in the following table :—

Roofs, spoutings and downpipes, defective	...	...	...	...	44
Floors and ceilings, defective	...	...	...	...	24
Ceiling and walls, cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Windows and sash cords, defective	...	...	...	...	98
Coppers and copper fireplaces, defective	...	...	...	...	21
W.C.'s, drains and cisterns, defective	...	...	...	...	56
W.C.'s, seats and doors, defective	...	...	...	...	5
Dustbins and dust receptacles, defective	...	...	...	...	110
Ashpit abolished	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	20

No Closing Orders and no Demolition Orders were made.

There are no obstructive buildings in the City.

Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920.—There were 36 applications received for certificates under this Act. In respect to 32 of these the remedial work required in each case was carried out to the satisfaction of the respective applicants and without the necessity of the Sanitary Authority having to grant the certificates applied for.

Four certificates were granted, and in respect of three of these satisfaction was obtained, but in that of the fourth the house is still "not in a reasonable state of repair," and the increase of rent has had to be suspended.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 92 factories, 151 workshops, and 38 workplaces in the City. A periodical inspection was made of these and 20 sanitary defects found, which were, however, quickly remedied upon notice being given to the occupiers.

No case of a notifiable disease occurred in the home of an out-worker during the year.

House and Shop Refuse.—There is a daily collection of house and shop refuse in the shopping centre of the City and a weekly one in all other parts, which is made in covered carts built specially for the purpose. Approximately 4120 tons of refuse were collected during the year and removed to the Electricity Works, and there burned in the destructor provided by the Company.

Cesspools.—There were 588 loads of liquid sewage removed from 122 cesspools and deposited on farm land outside the City.

Fumigation and Disinfection.—The premises in connection with 78 cases of infectious diseases were fumigated,

and the infected bedding, clothing, and other articles removed for disinfection to the Sisters' Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

Lodging Houses.—There is one registered common lodging-house in the City. It has been frequently visited and always found to be clean and well kept.

Slaughterhouses.—There are 12 registered slaughterhouses in the City. These were visited frequently and found in good condition.

The Saturday Market was visited regularly and inspection made of the meat, fish and other food exposed for sale.

Food.—The following articles and quantities of food were condemned and destroyed as unfit for food:—

Articles.	Quantity.	Articles.	lbs.
Compressed Beef ...	6 tins	Beef Sausages ...	40
Colonial Rabbits ...	3 cases	Apples ...	51
Fish ...	1 box		

Bakehouses.—There are 30 bakehouses in the City, six of which are factories. Four of these were closed throughout the year. The bakehouses in use are all kept in good condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—These were visited and found to be in a satisfactory condition. At the end of the year there were 32 persons registered.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—74 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The samples collected were 49 of milk, 2 each of baking powder, borax, Epsom salts and liquorice powder, and one each of cream, preserved cream, milk of sulphur, lime water, ammoniated tincture of quinine, tincture of iodine, paregoric, butter, lard, ground coffee, cocoa, rice, sago, Demerara sugar, treacle, plum jam and egg powder.

The Public Analyst reported that 73 of these were genuine and one of the milk was deficient in milk fat to the extent of approximately 3 per cent.

The deficiency was so small that the Public Analyst was of the opinion that legal proceedings ought not to be taken in this case, but that another sample from the same vendor be submitted on an early date. This was done with satisfactory results.

Milk and Cream Regulations.—49 samples of milk, one of cream, and one of preserved cream were submitted to the Public Analyst.

All these were reported as having conformed to the conditions specified by these regulations.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. SIMPSON MACARA,
Sanitary Inspector.

VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Mayor and Corporation, City of St. Alban.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1921.

Weekly inspection of the cattle exposed for sale in the Cattle Market has been carried out; on one occasion the market was held up until after a visit by one of the inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture as one animal showed suspicious symptoms of Foot and Mouth Disease, this fortunately proved not to be a case.

Parasitic Mange.—There has only been one outbreak during the year. This is a great improvement on previous years.

Cows and Cowsheds.—The number of licensed cowsheds in the City is eleven while the average number of cows kept is 185.

The sheds are kept moderately clean and the whitewashing carried out.

Examination of each cow's udder is made, and in case of disease the necessary instructions are given to owner.

Milk.—Four samples of milk have been sent to the Pathological Laboratory for examination as to the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, but in each case the result was negative.

Meat Inspection.—Periodical visits have been made in conjunction with Mr. Macara, your Sanitary Inspector, to the Saturday market, also visits have been made to slaughter houses by request for inspection of carcasses.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE ELMES, F.R.C.V.S.

ANNUAL REPORT

The following table shows the results of the work done during the year 1900-1901. The work was done in the following order: first, the work done in the field; second, the work done in the laboratory; and third, the work done in the office. The results of the work done in the field are given in the following table:

Year	Number of specimens collected	Number of specimens examined	Number of specimens identified
1900-1901	1,234	1,000	800

The results of the work done in the laboratory are given in the following table:

Year	Number of specimens examined	Number of specimens identified
1900-1901	1,000	800

The results of the work done in the office are given in the following table:

Year	Number of specimens examined	Number of specimens identified
1900-1901	800	600

The following table shows the results of the work done during the year 1901-1902. The work was done in the following order: first, the work done in the field; second, the work done in the laboratory; and third, the work done in the office. The results of the work done in the field are given in the following table:

Year	Number of specimens collected	Number of specimens examined	Number of specimens identified
1901-1902	1,345	1,100	900

The results of the work done in the laboratory are given in the following table:

Year	Number of specimens examined	Number of specimens identified
1901-1902	1,100	900

The results of the work done in the office are given in the following table:

Year	Number of specimens examined	Number of specimens identified
1901-1902	900	700