

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, St Albans Urban Sanitary District.

Contributors

St. Albans (England). Urban Sanitary District.

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/r6vrut23>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

INTELL LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

St. Albans

Urban Sanitary Authority

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

BY

RICHARD R. K. PATON,

M.B., CH.B., GLASGOW, D.P.H., CAMBRIDGE,

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.

1926.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

St. Albans

Urban Sanitary Authority

FOR THE YEAR 1925.

BY

RICHARD R. K. PATON,

M.B., CH.B., GLASGOW, D.P.H., CAMBRIDGE,

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.

1926.

INDEX.

	Page
ADOPTIVE ACTS	28
BAKEHOUSES	24
BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS	28
DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS	24
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	19
GENERAL SANITATION :—	
Water Supply	17
Sewerage	18
Closet Accommodation	19
GENERAL STATISTICS	4
HOSPITALS, NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c.	12
HOUSING	25
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS	26
INFANT MORTALITY TABLE	8
INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—	
Diphtheria	9
Scarlet Fever	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10
Chicken Pox	10
Tuberculosis	9
Typhoid Fever	10
PREVENTIVE MEASURES	10
LODGING HOUSES	25
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	16
MORTALITY TABLE	7
OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL	3
PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS	16
REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR	30
REPORT OF VETERINARY INSPECTOR	34
SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT	23
SLAUGHTER HOUSES	24
VACCINATION	11
VITAL STATISTICS	5 & 6

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. F. T. NEGUS, M. INST. MUN. AND C.E.
Deputy Surveyor (whole time)	...MR. F. A. MOORE, M. INST. MUN. AND C.E.
Second Assistant Surveyor (whole time)	MR. FINDLAY, A.M. INST. MUN. AND C.E.
*Medical Officer of Health (whole time)	DR. R. R. K. PATON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
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.

MISS WIX AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you the Report for the year 1925 of the Medical Officer of Health for the City of St. Alban.

This Report is as suggested by the Minister of Health, a "Survey Report."

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, 6,255.

Number of new houses erected, 171.

Rateable value, £158,053.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £630.

The chief industry of the City is straw hat making, but there are also various engineering and printing works, and two hosiery factories.

The population is mixed, industrial and residential, and the factories mostly employ female labour.

There have been no epidemics of great severity during the period under review, nor are there in the District any conditions of occupation or environment which have a prejudicial effect on health, except that in many of the older houses there is inadequate ventilation.

The following table gives the Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1925, from which it will be seen that though the Birth rate in St. Albans is low, our Death rate compares favourably with other parts of the country. The Infantile Mortality Rate is low, and on turning to the Infant Mortality Table it will be noted that 12 of the deaths occurred in the first week of life from unpreventable causes, and that 3 others were due to Prenatal conditions, one incurable, and the other two only curable by treatment of the mother before her period of confinement.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	18·3	12·2	75
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	18·8	12·2	79
157 Smaller Towns (1921 adjusted Populations 20,000 to 50,000).	18·3	11·2	74
London	18·0	11·7	67
St. Albans City	15·24	10·81	58

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

WARD.	Population as Given by Registrar General.	Births.			Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Deaths.			Death Rate per 1000 Population.	Infant Deaths.			Infant Death Rate per 1000 net Births.
		M	F	Totals		M	F	Totals		M	F	Totals	
North Ward ...	...	75	78	153	17.12	44	64	108	12.08	2	3	5	32
South Ward....	...	70	85	155	14.20	70	66	136	12.46	8	4	12	74
East Ward ...	...	48	40	88	14.34	36	33	69	11.24	2	4	6	68
Totals ...	25,980	193	203	396	15.24	150	163	313	12.04	12	11	23	58
Rates for year.													
1924	...				14.07				11.56				84
1923	...				15.35				8.70				45
1922	...				16.28				10.06				73
1921	...				17.23				8.62				65
1920	...				21.41				9.02				27

* The Ward Populations are approximate only.

Of the 396 Births, 17 were Illegitimate (9 males and 8 females).

Of the 23 Deaths of Infants under one year of age, 3 males were Illegitimate.

Mortality Table for Year 1925.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever	...	2	2
Small Pox	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	2
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	...	1
Diphtheria	1	2	3
Influenza	4	5	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	12	8	20
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	5	5	10
Cancer, Malignant Disease	24	28	52
Rheumatic Fever	2	3	5
Diabetes... ..	1	1	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	10	12	22
Heart Disease	27	34	61
Arterio-sclerosis	4	2	6
Bronchitis	6	9	15
Pneumonia (all forms)	9	5	14
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	1	3
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	...	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	4	6	10
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	6	7	13
Suicide	1	3	4
Other Deaths from Violence... ..	6	3	9
Other Defined Diseases	21	23	44
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...
All Causes	150	163	313

Infant Mortality during the Year 1925.

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 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	2
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	8	...	1	1	10	...	...	...	...	10
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Other Causes ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Total ...	...	...	...	12	...	2	2	16	1	1	2	3	23

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASES.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	9	10	5	24	22	3
Scarlet Fever	11	10	7	28	26	1
Pneumonia	17	9	9	35	...	14
Erysipelas	2	...	1	3	...	...
Chicken Pox	29	61	36	156	...	...
*Typhoid Fever	3	...	2	5	...	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	...	1	2	...	1
Total	73	90	61	224	48	21
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary ...	21	20	21	62	...	20
.. other forms ...	4	6	10	20	...	10
Totals	98	116	92	306	48	51

* Includes two Paratyphoids.

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows the state of the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and end of 1925 :—

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Tuberculosis Other Forms.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Jan. 1st ...	68	75	13	15
Dec. 31st ...	89	100	23	22

Diphtheria.

24 cases were notified during the year, 22 of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

There was a small epidemic in the Priory Park District. The earliest possible removal to Hospital of suspected cases is very advisable.

Scarlet Fever.

28 cases were notified during the year, 26 of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Chicken Pox.

The Council continued the Order making Chicken Pox notifiable which came into force on November 18th, 1922.

126 cases were notified which were distributed as follows:—North Ward 29; South Ward 61; and East Ward 36.

Typhoid Fever.

Five cases were notified; as far as could be traced, all were infected outside the City.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Only one case has been reported of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Preventive Measures.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Thresh's Steam Disinfecter where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is 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, whitewashed 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 64 reports from them as follows :—

Fifty-three on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 6 of which were positive.

Eleven on Sputum examined for Tubercle Bacilli, of which six were 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, 1925.

The following figures therefore are given for the 12 months ending June 30th, 1925, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Rogers, the Vaccination Officer :—

During this period there were 391 children born in the City, 17 of which died in infancy without being vaccinated. Of the remaining 374, only 91 have been vaccinated, that is 24 per cent.

15 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

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

261 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.

Only 25 per cent. of the school children inspected in 1925 were vaccinated.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed 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 or in respect of Patients.

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

Accommodation about 50 beds.

Staff : 8 Hon. Medical Officers besides Hon. Consulting Surgeons, Hon. Dental Surgeon and Hon. Radiographer.

Last year there were 445 in-patients treated.

Out-patients numbered 2116 (involving 5712 attendances) made up as follows :—

Ordinary out-patients brought forward from 1924	70
General Cases	522
Casualties	833
X-Ray Cases	344
Dental	203
Massage	76
County Council School Children	68
	2116

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

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

Medical Superintendent : Dr. R. R. K. Paton (non-resident).

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

1. Administration Block.
2. Scarlet Fever Block (accommodation 24 beds), over which are 2 Wards of 4 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 16 beds.

At this Hospital there is also an emergency tent.

A Horse Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

Caretakers : Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins.

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. Spire Dempsey.

Superintendent Nurse : Miss Wrigley and 13 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 the Sick Poor in their own homes, throughout the City and immediate neighbourhood.

Staff: 3 Midwives, 3 District Nurses and one Health Visitor.

Last year 229 Maternity Cases were nursed, to which some 3,546 visits were paid, and 553 General Cases were nursed, to which some 8,885 visits were paid.

This Association also undertakes the Health Visiting, School Nursing, &c., for the County Council.

The following is a record of the work of the Health Visitor, besides weekly attendances at the School Dental Clinic, Child Welfare Centre, and Tuberculosis Dispensary.

3,594 Health visits to children under one year of age.

150 visits to Schools.

1,831 visits to School children.

The County Council Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Dental Clinic is 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.

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.

Masseuse in Charge : Miss Reeves.

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 and Infants from the Welfare Centre. Also by nominal fees paid by civilian patients.

(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.

(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 Fire Station, St. Albans, 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 13 Public Elementary Schools in the City, of which 4 are Church of England Schools, 1 is a Roman Catholic School and 8 are County Council Schools.

The following Schools were closed during the year :—

Camp School Infants, on 28th September for three weeks for Measles.

Fleetville School Infants, on 6th October for two weeks for Measles.

Garden Fields Infants, on 27th July for four days for Measles.

Central Pupil Teachers, on 6th February for three days for Influenza.

St. Michael's Senior, on 16th March for one week for Influenza.

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

This Centre has been held regularly on Wednesday afternoons throughout the year in the premises at Wellington Court.

The object of the work has been, as heretofore, the improvement and maintenance of the health and general nutrition of the children.

All cases of illness are referred to their own doctor or to a hospital for treatment.

The actual numbers at the Centre in 1925 are as follows :

Number on register :—

Expectant mothers, 16.

Children (under 5), 427.

Number of attendances :—

Expectant mothers (consultation with doctor), 19.

Children, 3,003.

Average weekly attendance, 58 children.

No. of deaths among these children, 6.

No. of children who have been referred to the Orthopædic Clinic, 23.

Breast feeding, up to 6 months old :—

Entirely breast-fed, 62 per cent.

Partly breast-fed, 22 per cent.

Entirely bottle-fed, 16 per cent.

Number of defects and ailments treated, 103.

General Sanitation.

Water Supply.—The City receives its water supply from the St. Albans Water Company. This Company has two pumping stations :—

1. The Stone Cross Pumping Station, the original one at the top of St. Peter's Street, where they have two wells 196 feet and 204 feet deep respectively, both going into the chalk with headings driven out at a length of about 800 feet. The pumping capacity at this station is 40,000 to 60,000 gallons per hour. This pumping station is now only used occasionally.

2. The Holywell Pumping Station, where there are three wells 160 feet deep, going into the chalk, lined with steel tubes to a depth of 55 feet. The pumping capacity of the three pumping engines at these works is respectively 80,000, 40,000 and 25,000 gallons per hour.

The water, though hard, is of a very high degree of purity, and in my opinion an exceedingly wholesome supply.

The hardness is mainly temporary; the total hardness is 19.0 of which 16.0 is temporary.

Sewerage.—With few exceptions all the houses in St. Albans are connected with the main sewer, with the exception of the older houses in the Fleetville area which are still served by dumb wells. Since the last Survey Report, in 1919, the following alterations have been made in the existing works, which are now capable of dealing with over 600,000 gallons of sewage daily, as well as the storm water, excluding that from the roads which is separate and conveyed by storm water sewers to the River Ver.

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

Since 1919 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 Crosta Sprinklers, diam. 105-ft. depth 4-ft.
- 3 Secondary circular filters, with Ames Crosta Sprinklers, diam. 105ft. 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 Accommodation.—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 accommodation.

Factories and Workshops.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories ... (including Factory Laundries)	108	...	...
Workshops ... (including Workshop Laundries)	121	...	...
Workplaces ... (other than Outworkers' premises)	49	...	...
Total ...	278	...	...

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prose- cutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Re- medied. (3)	Referred to H.M. In- spector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	7	7	...	...
Want of ventilation	..	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances	3	3	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient	...	...	...	..
Sanitary Accommodation { unsuitable or defective	15	15	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation { not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	...	...	..	...
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	...	...	...	...
Total	25	25	...	...

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Factories, etc., 1925. Trades.

Trade	Factory	Workshop	Workplace	Total
Straw Goods	5	1	...	6
Engineers	16	4	...	20
Printers	9	1	...	10
Carpenters	8	18	...	26
Brewery	1	...	...	1
Builders	6	10	...	16
Flour Mills	3	...	...	3
Laundries	3	5	...	8
Bakehouses	7	19	...	26
Cycle Works	...	7	...	7
Boot Makers and Repairers	3	5	...	8
Brush Maker	1	...	...	1
Gas Works	1	...	...	1
Water Works	2	...	...	2
Silk Works	1	...	...	1
Electric Works	1	...	...	1
Mineral Waters	1	...	...	1
Wire Work	1	...	...	1
Bleach Works	2	...	...	2
Wood Works	8	...	...	8
Plumbers, Decorators ...	...	14	...	14
Milliners, Dressmakers ...	...	7	...	7
Blacksmiths	...	...	4	4
Tailors	2	5	...	7
Watch and Clock Repairers	...	...	6	6
Saddlers	...	2	...	2
Restaurants	...	...	12	12
Monumental Masonry	...	3	...	3
Cardboard Box Makers	2	1	...	3
Seed and Hub Packers	..	1	2	2
Stabling	...	...	14	14
Photographers	...	3	...	3
Billposting	...	...	1	1
Builders' Stores	1	3	...	4
Musical Instruments	1	...	...	1
Arc Lamps	1	...	...	1
Dye Works	1	...	...	1
Hosiery Works	1	...	...	1
Embroiderers, Helmets ...	2	...	...	2
Aeronoid Works	1	...	...	1
Felt, Velour Hats	1	...	...	1
Block Works	...	1	...	1
Brick Works	1	...	...	1
Motor Garages	4	...	7	11
Wearing Apparel... ..	...	...	...	...
Renovators	3	...	...	3
Metal Works	1	3	...	4
Tyres	1	...	...	1
Wholesale Clothing	...	...	1	...
	102	112	47	261

The Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, which came into force on 1st January, 1902, imposes on every Sanitary Authority the duty of keeping a Register of Workshops. Such Register is kept, and is up-to-date. Lists of Homeworkers have been received twice during the year and these lists are preserved. No case of a notifiable disease occurred in the home of an outworker during the year.

There is no overcrowding in any Workshop or Workplace in the City. All Workshops and Workplaces are well ventilated and kept in a clean and sanitary state.

Every Factory and Workshop has suitable conveniences with separate convenience for each sex.

There are 28 Factories and 2 Workplaces which employ more than 40 persons.

Three lists were received during the first half-year, including 19 outworkers doing straw hat work, and 5 doing brush work.

Two lists were received during the second half-year, including 6 doing brush work, and 1 in the straw hat trade.

During the first-half of the year one list of outworkers was received from another authority, this list consisted of one name in the straw hat trade.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 & 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 February, 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 44 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 56.4 per cent. of fat.

In addition, 1 sample of preserved cream was submitted to the Public Analyst during the year.

This sample of preserved cream contained 0.08 per cent. boric acid and 55.0 per cent. fat. It was also 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.

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 4 such underground bakehouses in the City, all of which have received the necessary permission of the Council. At the present moment 2 of these are not in use.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 10 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 has been appointed Meat Inspector under the Public Health Meat Regulations, and visits the slaughter-houses at their appointed time of slaughtering, and when notified of special cases of slaughtering. The new regulations are a great improvement on the old system.

There is no public abattoir in the City.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Dairies.—There are 20 dairies in the City, 8 of which are attached to cowsheds. All have been visited during the year. All are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition, and have an ample water supply.

Cowsheds.—The number of Cowsheds on register during the year is 11, and have all been visited once in each quarter by the Veterinary Inspector. The approximate number of cows in these sheds is 160.

Milkshops.—There are 11 milkshops in the City, all of which are clean and well conducted.

Lodging Houses.

There are three registered common lodging houses in the City. They are frequently visited by the Sanitary Inspector, who reports them to be in good order.

Housing.

During the past year a considerable advance has been made towards a solution of the housing problem. The Council has arranged for the erection of 150 houses at a site in the Camp District of the East Ward, which scheme, when completed, should relieve some of the overcrowding which undoubtedly exists in the City. At present 56 of these are completed and occupied.

There are 6,255 houses in the City, of which about 3,800 are for the working classes.

The following table shows the progress made in housing during the last five years :—

Total			
1921	...	33	... 20 Townsend Scheme
1922	...	101	... 80 Townsend Scheme.
1923	...	62	... —
1924	...	97	... —
1925	...	171	... 56 Folly Mead and Camp Housing Scheme.

The figures for 1925 show a great increase over other years, even omitting those built directly by the City, and comprise 115 houses of which 72 are " Subsidy " houses and 43 built by private enterprise.

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	654
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	221
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	41
(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	427

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authorities or their Officers ...	427
---	-----

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.	} Nil
(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.	

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | ... | <i>Nil</i> |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :— | | | | |
| (a) by owners | ... | ... | ... | <i>Nil</i> |
| (b) Local Authority in default of owners | ... | ... | ... | <i>Nil</i> |

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. | } <i>Nil</i> |
| (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. | |

For further particulars under the Housing and Town Planning Act, see report of Sanitary Inspector, page 29.

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 Notifica- tion Act, 1889.	4th February, 1890.
The Public Health Acts Amend- ment Act, 1890, with the ex- ception of Part IV.	9th December, 1890.
The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.	3rd February, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amend- ment Act, 1907.

Part II., sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, and 51 com- prised 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.
-----------------------------------	---

Byelaws and Regulations.

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 have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD PATON,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the City of St. Alban, for the Year 1925.

— — —

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the work carried out in my Department during the year 1925.

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 defects and nuisances remedied or abated were 1,108, and 257 preliminary notices were served in connection therewith. Included in these figures are 303 defects, and 51 notices following upon the visitations and inspections of 221 houses under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, details of which are shown in tabulated form on the following page.

In addition to these notices the abatement of insanitary conditions is effected by an interview with those directly concerned.

It is satisfactory to record that all such remedial work was carried out without the institution of legal proceedings.

The following summary gives particulars of work done under the Public Health Acts :—

Houses inspected	...	...	433
Preliminary notices served	...	...	206
Walls, damp and defective, remedied	...		50
Roofs, spoutings and downpipes, repaired	...		92
Floors, walls and ceilings, repaired	...		118
Rooms cleansed	...	...	45
Windows and sash cords repaired	...	...	111

Cisterns and flushing apparatus repaired	...	57
Drains repaired and unstopped	... ..	74
Drains tested by smoke	... ..	7
Ventilating and waste pipes repaired	...	17
Coppers and copper fireplaces repaired	...	25
Grates or stoves defective, remedied	...	32
Dustbins, dust receptacles, defective, remedied		85
Ashpits abolished	... ..	7
Yards, paving repaired	... ..	15
Miscellaneous	... ..	77

Housing and Town Planning, Etc., Acts.—Under these Acts 221 houses were inspected, 51 preliminary notices served, and 303 defects remedied. The defects dealt with are as follows :—

Walls, damp	... ..	17
Roofs, spoutings and downpipes defective	...	36
Floors, walls and ceilings defective	... ..	34
Rooms cleansed	... ..	29
Windows and sash cords defective	... ..	38
W.C.'s, drains and cisterns defective	... ..	39
Ventilating and waste pipes defective	...	11
Coppers and copper fireplaces defective	...	5
Grates or stoves defective	... ..	11
Dustbins, dust receptacles defective	... ..	37
Yards, paving defective	... ..	10
Miscellaneous	... ..	36

Factories and Workshops.—There are 102 factories, 112 workshops, and 47 workplaces in the City. A periodical inspection was made of these and 25 sanitary defects found which were remedied upon notice being given to the occupiers.

Fumigation and Disinfection.—The houses in which 105 cases of infectious diseases occurred were fumigated, and the infected bedding, clothing and other articles removed for disinfection to the Sisters' Hospital. At the Hospital there is a Thresh Steam Disinfector.

Lodging Houses.—There are three registered common lodging houses in the City. These were visited periodically and found to be clean and well kept.

Slaughterhouses.—There are 10 licensed slaughterhouses in the City. These were visited frequently and found in good condition.

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

Bakehouses.—There are 26 bakehouses in the City, seven of which are factories. They are all kept in good condition.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—These were visited and found to be clean and well kept. At the end of the year there were 33 persons registered.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—68 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

The samples collected were 44 of milk, 7 of butter, 2 each of baking powder, self-raising flour, apples, citric acid and ammoniated tincture of quinine, and one each of margarine, cream, preserved cream, coffee, strawberry jam, olive oil and camphorated oil.

The Public Analyst reported against five of the milk, and that all the other samples were genuine.

One of these milks was adulterated with 7.6 per cent. of added water. Legal proceedings were taken in respect of this sample, but the Justices dismissed the summons as, in their opinion, the sample was not genuine owing to there being a small quantity of soot in the bottles when the sample was taken.

Another of these milks was adulterated with 4.9 per cent. of water. Legal action was taken and the vendor was ordered to pay two guineas costs.

The third sample reported against was adulterated with 1.9 per cent. of water, and the fourth sample with 2.4 per cent. of water, but in each case the fat percentage was high, it was therefore considered inadvisable by the Public Analyst to take any legal action.

In the fifth sample of milk there was an adulteration of 8.2 per cent. of water. The fat percentage (3.93 per cent.) however, was high, and the total solids (11.75 per cent) above the limit laid down by the Board of Agriculture. It could not be contended that the sale of this milk was to the prejudice of the purchaser, and the Public Analyst was of the opinion that no legal action should be taken.

Other samples of milk were taken shortly afterwards from these three vendors, with satisfactory results.

Milk and Cream Regulations.—44 samples of milk, one of cream, and one of preserved cream were submitted to the Public Analyst.

All these samples 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 of the City of St. Alban.

Miss Wix and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1925.

Weekly inspection of the cattle exposed for sale in the Cattle Market has been carried out; in the case of cows being overstocked, instructions are given for milking out.

Diseased or unfit animals have been removed, and any animal showing symptoms that come within the Tuberculosis Order, notices have been served on their owner.

I venture to say that the new market with its conveniences for dealing with cattle, pigs, sheep, and poultry, is a very great boon to the animals, and has added greatly to their comfort.

Parasitic Mange.—There have been two cases of Sarcopic Mange, and one suspected case that on microscopical examination of the skin scraping proved negative; the weekly reports to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chief Constable have been sent in.

One animal dead of suspected Anthrax, on examination of the blood, death was found to be due to some other cause than Anthrax.

Cows and Cowsheds.—The cows are kept clean, the majority having their udders, flanks and tails clipped twice during the winter months, this greatly assists in the production of clean milk. In the case of any cow with disease of the udder, suspicious of tuberculosis, there has been a microscopical examination of the milk, and during the year

no positive case has been found. The sheds are kept in good order, and are good as regards ventilation, light, impervious floors, and drainage; the walls have been regularly scraped down and limewashed.

Meat Inspection.—Ten butchers have registered for regular hours of slaughter.

The following meat and offal has been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—Beef, 72 stones; mutton, 11 stones; pork, 7 stones.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,
GEORGE ELMES, F.R.C.V.S.



