STOW ON THE WOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1925.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD,

Gloucestershire,

6th August 1926.

To:-
The Urban District Council of Stow-on-the-Wold.

Gentlemen,

I beg to append my report for the year 1925 in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health, this report is to be a Survey Report, dealing in great detail with all matters done, or needing to be done, for the improvement of the health of the area, but in a small Urban District such as ours, very isolated and very Healthy there is but small opportunity or need to enlarge on the usual form of the Ordinary Report.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA.

The area of the Urban District is now 84 acres, having been increased from 45 acres in 1922 so as to include the new houses, 25 in number built under the Council Housing Scheme.

POPULATION.

The population of the old 45 acres at the 1921 cencus was 1204 after the enlargement of the area in 1922 1201 and now estimated at 1176, so that it would appear that the population has just spread itself out over the larger area and into the increased number of houses.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

I can say nothing under this heading as I do not understand its meaning.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - 366 and the Poor Law Institution.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS - is 352.

RATEABLE VALUE - £3401. Penny rate represents £14. 3. 1.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

It is difficult to understand why Stow on the Wold should continue to exist having, in these days of cheap and rapid transport, outlived its function of a market town for a surrounding agricultural area. It survives as a health resort attracting more and more visitors from the large towns each year, and as a centre of supply of the necessities of life for the large private houses, farms and cottages of the

surrounding area.

The supply of these necessities is the chief occupation of its inhabitants.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female
Total Births	22	16	6
Total Deaths	15	6	9

There has been no excessive mortality and in fact sickness of any sort has been remarkably slight. No deaths in consequence of childbirth.

There was one death only of a child under one year and that was a seven months, premature, baby which lived only 10 minutes.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

There has been no epidemic, but three sporadic cases of scarlet fever, the origin of each was impossible to trace, three cases of erysipelas and six cases of pneumonia.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The Poor Law Institution is now within the area and has 18 ordinary beds in the Infirmary and 3 beds for maternity cases, there is no other Institution. Provision is made there for all cases needing institutional treatment, when recommended by the Medical Officer from the whole of the Rural as well as Urban District of Stow-on-the-Wold.

There are no ambulance facilities, and when such is needed there is an ambulance at Chipping Norton, Red Cross Society and Fire Brigade Ambulance at Oxford.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS ARE TWO ONLY.

The Medical Officer of Health is L. R. King M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., a part time M.O.H. only, with no special qualifications for the appointment.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Mr Percy Alcock occupied this position until August 30th 1925 there was no Inspector from that date until Mr B. R. Harris a plumber and decorator was appointed on September 29th.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

This is carried out by the Cotswold Nursing Association a private Charity who have now one Nurse only, a very efficient one, who is also a Health Visitor employed by the County Council.

MIDWIVES.

The same nurse is also a Midwife but is not employed by or subsidised by the Local Authority.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Arrangements are with the County Council only and work fairly satisfactorily.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

There are no Local Acts or Orders existing.

WATER.

The supply is from a well in Stow-on-the-Wold from which it is pumped into a large storage tank. From this tank the water is turned on twice a day morning and evening ~~for one hour~~. The majority of the houses in the area now have water laid on to them but there are still 3 stand pipes in the streets from which water has to be fetched in buckets for some of the houses.

The water was again examined this year for any possible contamination and was found to be perfectly pure and good drinking water.

RIVER AND STREAMS.

Are not polluted.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The arrangements for this are quite satisfactory. There is a natural drainage from the town into large crevases in the rock on which the town is built. All sewerage which is washed down into these cracks in the rock disappears completely.

CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

There are still large numbers of privy vaults in existence which cause a certain amount of trouble, especially as between landlord and tenant concerning the clearing of them. As a general rule however they are kept in very good order and are quite sanitary. As they become in some cases past repair they are being replaced by earth closets with buckets contents of which are taken away and buried by the occupiers of the premises. As this is a much more simple matter than the emptying and disposing of the contents of a privy vault, they are undoubtedly much more sanitary.

All new houses have water closets, which empty into modern cesspits.

SCAVENGING.

House refuse is collected once a week and deposited in an approved spot outside the inhabited area. All houses have moveable ashbins or boxes, there are no fixed recepticles.

The arrangements are most Satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Seven houses were inspected.

I Walls and roof of privy needed repair.
Repaired by owner on informal action by Sanitary Inspector.

II Three cottages all of which required repairs to drainage.
Repaired by owner on informal action by Sanitary Inspector.

III A cottage in Back Walls - unsafe roof and wall owing to callapse of a roof beam.
Repaired by owner on informal action by Sanitary Inspector.

IV A cottage in Union Street - leakage from a privy vault penetrating a blacksmiths shop.
Nuisance abated by owner on informal action.

V Cottage Park Street - Wall of Privy needed repair and privy cleaning out.
Necessary work done by owner on informal action.

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All new houses have water closets, which empty into modern cesspits.

SCAVENGING.

House refuse is collected once a week and deposited in an approved spot outside the inhabited area. All houses have movable dustbins or boxes, there are no fixed receptacles.

The arrangements are most satisfactory.

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III. A cottage in Abbey Yard, a separate roof and wall owing to collapsed privy roof.
Repaired by owner on informal action by Sanitary Inspector.

IV. A cottage in Sheep Street, Stowe, change from a privy vault to a water closet.
Repaired by owner on informal action.

V. Cottage in Sheep Street. Wall of privy needed repair and privy cleaning out.

SCHOOLS.

Sanitary condition and water supply of all schools is very good.

There has been no serious epidemic of infectious disease.

HOUSING.

I The housing accomodation now meets the requirements of the District and no further housing measures are needed or comtemplated.

The population has not changed during the last five years and the previous population seems to have just expanded into the 25 new houses built in 1922.

II Overcrowding does not exist.

III Fitness of Housing.

(1) Generally good, but there are a few groups of cottages which are so old that it is difficult to keep them habitable also the cost of doing so is prohibitive for the landlord. But at the present moment they are in very good repair.

(2) & (3) Informal action only has been needed to secure necessary repairs.

(4) Water supply, closet accomodation fair, refuse disposal good.

IV Unhealthy areas do not exist.

V There are no byelaws, nor does there appear any need for them.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

New houses - none.

1. Unfit dwelling houses.

(1) Seven Houses inspected for housing defects.

(2) None inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations.

(3) One house was found to be so dangerous as to be unfit.

Six (6) houses were found to not to be reasonably fit for human habitation.

2. Five houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Sanitary Inspector.

3. (a) Proceedings under Housing Act 1925 - None.

(b) 1. There were two houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

2. Two were remedied by the owner.

(c) Proceedings under Housing Act 1925 - none.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk supply.

There is no milk produced in the area and that brought in can have no complaint made against it, as general health is very good and proven milk borne discease absent.

(i) Tuberculosis Milk and Cattle do not exist in the area.

(ii) No licences ever granted and therefore none refused.

(iii) No samples of milk taken.

(b) Meat - Slaughter houses, three in number are kept clean and in good repair. Regular inspections have been made.

(c) Two bakehouses regularly inspected and in excellent condition.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been remarkably little during the year, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases of Erysipelas, and 6 cases of pneumonia. Influenza has been marked by the absence of any real epidemic, or severity.

Yours faithfully,

LESLIE KING.