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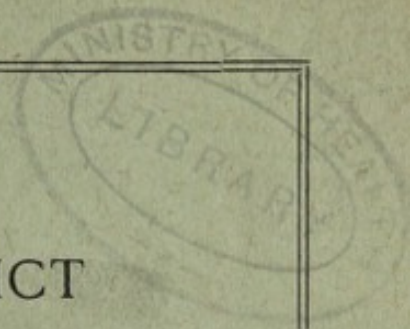
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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1925,

BY

S. T. COCHRANE, M.D., D.P.H.

INCLUDING THE

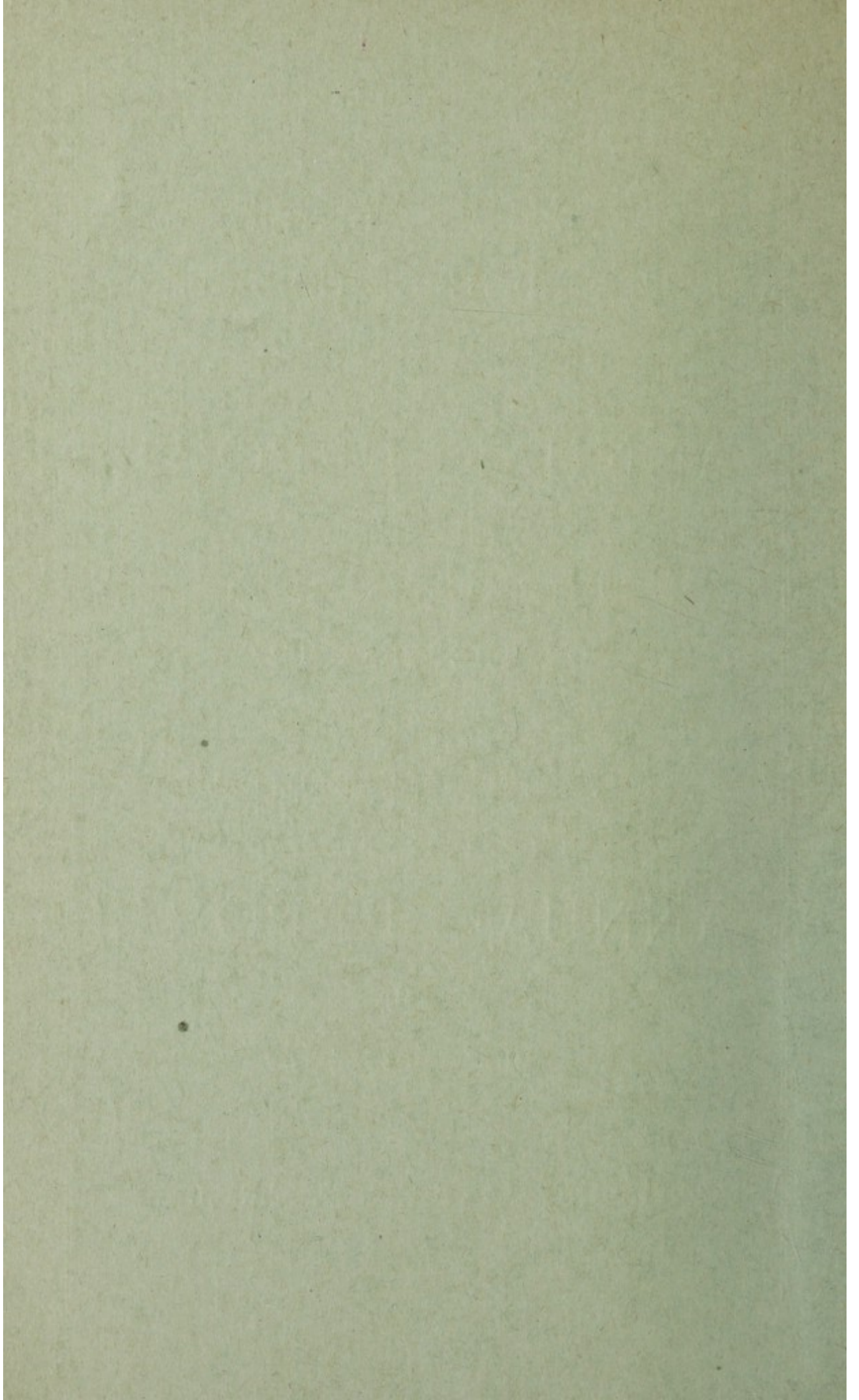
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

BY

GEORGE POLLARD, C.R.S.I.



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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, FOR THE YEAR 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

SITUATION.

The district is situated on the extreme south of the S. W. of Derby. N. Lat. 52.4. W. Long. 1.38.

GEOLOGY.

Throughout the district there is a clay subsoil with coal at varying depths.

AREA.

The total area of the district is 3,670 acres, five of these being under water.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS.

Seven houses have been inspected during the year. One house was condemned as unfit for human habitation.

Thirty three houses have been erected, and three pulled down by the owners for clay operations.

The work of converting Privies into Water Closets continues. During the year 142 Privies were converted into Water Closets, 96 Water Closets fixed in other available buildings in lieu of Privies, and 72 new Water Closets erected to re-place privies which could not be converted.

POPULATION.

The estimated population for the district is 21,700. The population in 1921 was 20,029, being an average yearly increase during the past five years of 334·2.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 493—Males, 263; Females 230. The number of illegitimate births was 17,—Males 9; Females 8.

The birth rate for the district is 22·72. For the whole of England and Wales the rate is 18·3. The number of births during the five years was 2,555, giving an average of 511 and an average birth rate of 24·37.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths occurring during the year was 260. Males 127; Females 133.

The death rate for the district was 11·98 per 1,000. For the whole of England and Wales it is 12·2, per 1,000.

The number of deaths occurring during the the five years was 1,082, giving an average of 216·4, and an average death rate of 10·48.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under 12 months was 50, giving an infantile mortality of 101·41. The total number of deaths during the past 5 years was 187, an average of 37·6 per year, and an average death rate of 72·76.

The local Child Welfare Centre or Mothers Welcome for which I am Medical Officer, was opened in October, 1915. Since then 1929 babies have been brought to the Centre for advice and observation, whilst the average attendance of mothers per session for 1925 was 42, or 2,016 attendances for the year, whilst the number of infant consultations given has been 2,735. In addition 174 consultations have been given to expectant mothers.

The primary object of the Centre is to provide an educational Centre where mothers can obtain such information concerning the laws of Health as may enable them to prevent disease, and since most of the really crippling diseases

are attributable to factors operating in early childhood, we make it our work to keep children under observation, pointing out to the parents any deviation from the normal, or any circumstance likely to produce abnormalities, teaching week by week in a simple way the causes of disease, and the methods of prevention.

This teaching is given individually by means of private consultations, and collectively by means of a short Lecture each week. In spite of adverse circumstances as regards overcrowding and economic conditions, there has been, since the work commenced, a very appreciable fall in the Infantile Mortality rate, and we believe we are justified in claiming that not only have many lives been saved, but many children enjoy, and will continue to enjoy a greater measure of health in consequence of the more enlightened state of public opinion which is the inevitable result of such educational work.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

The number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases was 14, giving a death rate of .64 per 1,000 population.

TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis reported was 27. The number of deaths arising therefrom was 10, giving a Phthisis death rate of .46 per 1,000 population.

CANCER AND OTHER MALIGNANT DISEASES.

The number of deaths occurring from these causes was 20. Males 7; Females 13.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases reported under the Notification of Diseases Acts was :—

Infectious Disease.	In 1925.	During the past five years.	Average per year.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	27	96	19.2
Scarlet Fever	93	333	66.6
Diphtheria	7	188	37.6
Enteric Fever	1	2	0.4
Puerperal Fever	2	6	1.2
Erysipelas	9	56	11.2
Small Pox	—	141 cases in 1923-4	

SCARLET FEVER.

93 cases were reported, and 1 death resulted from this cause. For 1924 the number of cases was 24 with 1 death.

DIPHTHERIA.

7 cases were reported, Anti-Toxin was freely used, 2 deaths occurred. For 1924 the number of cases was 17, with 1 death.

ERYSIPELAS.

Nine cases were reported.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease is not notifiable, 3 deaths occurred from this cause.

PNEUMONIA.

71 cases were reported, 19 deaths occurring therefrom, last year 92 cases were notified, and there were 18 deaths.

SMALL POX.

No cases were reported during the year.

OCCUPATIONAL MORTALITY.

Our industries are Collieries, Sanitary Pipe Works, and Potteries. The health of the Workers is satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 40 Cowsheds in the district, 102 inspections of these premises have been made by the Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is both good and plentiful.

SEWAGE.

The Sewerage System is satisfactory. The Scavenging has been carried out in an efficient manner, and complaints promptly attended to.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, OFFENSIVE TRADES, FACTORIES AND
WORKSHOPS, ETC.

Are fully reported upon by the Inspector.

SCHOOLS.

The Schools in the district are satisfactory as to lighting,
ventilation, and sanitary condition.

I have by Monthly Reports and otherwise, kept you
informed of the Health and Sanitary Condition of your district.

I am,

Yours obediently,

S. T. COCHRANE, M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report, 1925.

COUNCIL OFFICES, SWADLINCOTE,

February, 1926.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Fourteenth Annual Report showing the general character of the various works carried out in the Sanitary Department of your Council during the year 1925. The Report is on similar lines to those of previous years, this being necessary for comparison and future reference.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

101 cases of infectious diseases have been notified to me by the Medical Officer of Health, as against 69 in the previous year. In all cases the infected houses were visited, particulars of the nature of the disease taken, and printed leaflets giving the necessary instructions how to treat and prevent the spread of the disease were left, also a plentiful supply of Soap and Liquid Disinfectant supplied.

After the recovery or otherwise of the patients the infected rooms were fumigated with Formaldehyde Gas and afterwards thoroughly cleansed by the occupants. Owing to the large number of Scarlet Fever cases reported from the infants and girls departments at York Road Schools, it was deemed advisable to disinfect same.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES UNDER THE HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS, 1909, 1919, AND 1925.

7 houses have been inspected, 3 in Church Gresley and 4 in Newhall. A Closing Order under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1925, was made and complied with in connection with 2 wood buildings used as a dwelling house in Common Road, Church Gresley, notices under Section 3 of the same Act were served upon the owner of the 4 houses in Newhall, and preliminary notices served upon the owners of the other two houses, asking them to carry out the necessary work to make the said houses reasonably fit for human habitation.

During the past year 3 houses off Hill Street, Swadlincote, were pulled down by the owners for clay mining operations. Two new Sculleries have been built at 29, Pool Street, and 109, Park Road, also a new Scullery and Bath Room built at 99, Station Street.

The following is a list of new houses erected during the year :-

- 1 New house in Station Street, Castle Gresley.
- 1 Public House in Castle Road, (To replace existing one).
- 2 New houses in Castle Road, Castle Gresley.
- 2 New houses in Eureka Road, Swadlincote.
- 1 New house in Stanhope Road, Church Gresley.
- 9 New houses in Hill Street, Swadlincote.
- 1 New house in Park Road, Newhall.
- 7 New houses in Burton Road, Newhall.
- 2 New houses in Midway Road, Swadlincote.
- 1 New house in Sunnyside, Newhall.
- 1 New house in Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley.
- 2 New houses in Oxford Street, " "
- 1 New house in Meynell Street, " "
- 1 New bungalow in Stanhope Road, " "
- 1 New bungalow in Church Street, " "

The approximate number of houses in the district at the present time is 4,184.

HOUSING ACT. 1925.

No. of houses inspected under Section 3	...	...	...	7
No. of houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	1
No. of representations made to the Local Authority	...	...	...	1
No. of closing orders under Section II	...	...	...	1
No. of houses closed without closing orders being made	...	...	...	nil.
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	3
No. of houses the defects of which were remedied under Section 3	...	...	...	6
No. of new houses built during the year	...	...	...	33

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

534 visits have been paid to supervise drainage, sanitary and housing improvements which have been carried out in various parts of the district. The conversion of Privies into Water Closets has proceeded steadily throughout the year. Special attention has been given to this work, and property owners advised as to the best and most economical manner in which these conversions can be carried out. I have pointed out in previous reports that separate specifications and in some cases plans are got out for each block of closets, the same amount of work being entailed in carrying out one conversion as in six or seven in other cases.

142 Privies have been converted into Water Closets in Coppice Side, Swadlincote Road, West Street, Drayton Street, Frederick Street, Granville Street, Midland Road, Court Street, and Burton Road, Swadlincote. School Street, Pool Street, Wood Street, Mount Pleasant, John Street, Oxford Street, Moat Street, York Road, Wilmot Road, Queen Street, and Stanhope Road, Church Gresley. Beards' Road, Thorn Tree Lane, High Street, Oversetts Road, Meadow Lane, Rose Valley, New Road, and Dalston Road, Newhall.

96 Water Closets have been fixed in other buildings in lieu of Privies in Frederick Street, West Street, Swadlincote Road, Bernard Street, Burton Road, Court Street, James Street, and Granville Street, Swadlincote. Wood Street, School Street, Windmill Street, Station Street, Oxford Street, Princess Street, Regent Street, Glebe Street, Gresley Wood Road, Moat Street, and Queen Street, Church Gresley. High Street, Oversetts Road, Church Road, Dalston Road, and Parliament Street, Newhall.

72 new Water Closets have been built to replace Privies in Bernard Street, Midway Road, Court Street, North Street, Hill Street, and Granville Street, Swadlincote. Princess Street, Station Street, Oxford Street, Common Road, Wilmot Road, Alexandra Road, and Station Street, Church Gresley. Park Road, Main Street, Dalston Road, Beards' Road, Rose Valley, Hill Street, and High Street, Newhall.

5 Slop Water Closets have been taken out and replaced with ordinary Water Closets at No. 5 to 9, New Street, Church Gresley, and 65, Heathcote Road. Three additional Water Closets have been provided at 99, Station Street, 45, West Street, and 1, New Street, also 2 new Water Closets fixed in new buildings to replace hand flushed closets in old and dilapidated buildings.

4 houses in Hill Street, Swadlincote, 1 in Newhall Road, and 1 in Darklands have been re drained into the Council's sewers.

SUMMARY.

Privies converted into Water Closets	...	...	...	142
Water Closets fixed in other available buildings, in lieu of Privies	...	...	...	96
New Water Closets built in lieu of Privies	...	...	...	72
Additional Water Closets provided	...	...	...	3
Slop Water Closets converted into ordinary W.C's	...	...	...	5
Water Closets provided to new buildings and houses	...	...	...	33
Water Closets fixed in Shops, etc.	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
			Total	354
				<hr/>

Length of 6 inch drain pipe laid	...	...	...	132 yards.
Length of 4 inch drain pipe laid	...	...	...	2,314 yards.
No. of trapped gullies fixed	...	...	...	75
" " ventilating shafts fixed	...	...	...	33
" " inspection chambers built	...	...	...	86
" " access pipes fixed	...	...	...	32
" " intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	3
" " new connections made to Councils' sewers	...	...	...	21

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Galvanized iron dust bins provided	...	...	...	186
Ash pits abolished	...	...	...	59
Defective house drains repaired	...	...	...	1
Defective water closet drains repaired	...	...	...	1
Stopped house drains cleansed	...	...	...	5
Stopped water closet drains cleansed	...	...	...	10
Defective spouts repaired	...	...	...	40
" fall pipes repaired	...	...	...	27
" house roofs repaired	...	...	...	13
" wash house roofs repaired	...	...	...	10
" closet roofs repaired	...	...	...	4
" coal house roofs repaired	...	...	...	1
" living room floors repaired	...	...	...	6
" wash house floors repaired	...	...	...	2
" bedroom floors repaired	...	...	...	2
" ceilings repaired	...	...	...	19
" plaster on walls repaired	...	...	...	63
" yard pavings repaired	...	...	...	2
" doors repaired	...	...	...	1
" brick walls repaired	...	...	...	20
New sink stones fixed	...	...	...	4
" sink waste pipes fixed	...	...	...	6
" W. C. basins fixed	...	...	...	3
" W. C. seats fixed	...	...	...	4
" kitchen grates fixed	...	...	...	12
" register grates fixed	...	...	...	9
" coppers fixed	...	...	...	5
" copper grates fixed	...	...	...	4
" windows fixed	...	...	...	6
" doors fixed	...	...	...	5
" sculleries and wash houses built	...	...	...	3
" coal houses built	...	...	...	15
" sash cords to windows fixed	...	...	...	2
" bedroom stairs fixed	...	...	...	1
Damp walls cemented	...	...	...	2
Damp proof courses inserted in walls	...	...	...	1
Damp walls cement washed	...	...	...	1
Water taps fixed inside houses or sculleries	...	...	...	3
Town water laid on to houses	...	...	...	2
Hand flushed water closets provided with cisterns	...	...	...	1
Houses re-drained	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous sanitary defects and nuisances remedied	...	...	...	10

NOTICES.

94 Preliminary Notices and 102 Statutory notices under the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907, have been served upon owners of property asking them under the former notices to carry out the necessary work to remedy sanitary defects existing on their property and under the latter notices for the conversion of Privies into Water Closets.

5 Statutory Notices were also served upon owners of houses under the new Housing Act, 1925, one being a closing order, the other four to make the houses reasonably fit for habitation. 125 letters and 320 post cards and other communications have been sent in connection with the above notices and other matters, such as the limewashing and cleansing of slaughter houses, bake-houses and cowsheds, etc. 148 letters and 157 post cards have been received, also 235 appointments with owners and contractors kept.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 25 Slaughter Houses in use at the present time, 5 of these being used for the slaughter of pigs only. There has been no change in the occupancy of such during the past year.

790 visits have been paid to these premises, which are well conducted and are kept in as clean a state as the nature of the work permits. March and September are the months set apart for the limewashing and cleansing of these premises, the occupants of which are notified by postcards to that effect.

Last year the Council adopted the Model Bye-laws of the Ministry of Health, these in several respects are more stringent than the old bye-laws. Section 9 requires all animals with the exception of sheep to be effectively stunned before bleeding, Section 17 calls for the premises to be limewashed fourtimes yearly as against twice. Other important Sections deal with the removal of offal, manure etc., from off the premises, and the general cleanliness of the buildings.

MEAT REGULATIONS.

The above regulations came in force last year and on the whole have been satisfactorily carried out, each butcher filled up a form stating the days upon which killing would take place in their slaughter houses. If slaughtering is carried on outside the stated times, I receive notification of same by post card (supplied by me to the butchers). In addition to the above I am insisting upon all pig keepers who kill pigs on their own premises, part or all of which is sold to outsiders to notify me as required by the regulations; during the year I received 79 such notifications.

The stallholders in the markets have endeavoured by screening their stalls to prevent as far as possible the meat becoming contaminated by dirt, dust, etc. At the best the open stall is not a very satisfactory arrangement, and it would be far preferable if the meat and pork butchers stalls could be entirely under cover.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Great attention has been paid to the inspection of meat and other food stuffs, as will be seen by the number of visits paid viz:- 790 to slaughter houses, 97 to food shops and meat stalls. The visits to the slaughter houses are made during the process of slaughter or as soon after as possible. The cattle, sheep, and pigs slaughtered have been of good quality, and rarely, if ever, affected with disease. On three occasions I have been requested by butchers to inspect carcasses of beef and the organs connected therewith, which were slightly affected with Tuberculosis and other forms of disease, also on 11 occasions by traders, other articles of food stuffs.

The total amount of meat and food stuffs condemned as unfit for food was:—

204 lbs of beef
 2 sets beasts bellies
 2½ cwts. of herrings
 2 beasts livers
 5—6lb. tins of corned beef
 1—6lb tin of tongue
 52 tins of fruit and tomatoes
 9 tins of fish
 2 tins condensed milk

MARKETS AND FOOD SHOPS.

I have paid 48 visits to the markets held on Friday and Saturday nights, also made 97 inspections of the butchers stalls above referred to and have inspected the food stuffs offered for sale, the class of which compares favourably with that sold in Markets of a similar character and called for no interference on my part. I have frequently inspected the fish stalls and fish carts in the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 26 offensive trades carried on in the district, viz:- 25 fried fish shops and 1 knackers yard. During the year licenses were granted to Mr. T. W. Bradford, 150, Station Street, and Mr. J. Barsby, 56, Princess Street, to commence the trade of fish fryers. One business in High Street, Swadlincote, has been discontinued.

Frequent visits have been paid to these premises, no complaint has been received as to any nuisance arising during the process of frying, etc. The occupants endeavour as far as possible to carry on their business as hygenically as possible.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The number of cowsheds in which milking cows are kept is 40 and the number of cows housed therein about 240. The milk from one cowshed is sent to London, the remainder in addition to that which is brought in from outside districts, is disposed of locally.

There are 23 persons on the register as Retail Purveyors of Milk, 10 of these live outside our area. Three persons have discontinued cow keeping, and three other persons have registered as such.

May and October are the months set apart for the limewashing and cleansing of these premises and the buildings connected therewith. 102 visits have been paid and the importance of keeping their premises clean, and complying with the bye-laws insisted upon.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

34 samples of milk were purchased from 27 different milk sellers and were submitted to Mr. J. White, the Public Analyst for analysis. His reports on same were that with two exceptions they were all genuine samples, of good quality, and free from preservatives. The exceptions referred to were both from the same milk vendor, and were of poor quality, the Clerk wrote to the person in question pointing out to him the low standard of the sample.

In addition to the above, 24 samples of milk were taken by the County Council's Food and Drugs Inspector.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND BAKEHOUSES.

There are 37 factories, 83 workshops, and 18 bakehouses on the register at the present time, to which I have paid 93 visits. 3 complaints were reported to me by the Factory Inspector and received attention.

Extensive alterations at the Church Gresley Fire Brick Company's works have been carried out during the year, new pail closets were erected for the use of the Employees at these works, also at Ensor's Works and the New England Fire Clay Works. There is no proper drainage systems at any of these works, otherwise water closets would have been provided.

RETAIL SHOPS.

In addition to visits paid to the Markets and Food Shops in the district, 175 visits have been made to the Retail Shops and Markets stalls on Friday and Saturday nights to see that the provisions of the Shops Early Closing Acts are being carried out.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.

As in former years a considerable part of my time has been spent in district inspection, which includes the inspection of yards, privies, ashpits, water closets, pigsties, etc. During the year the removal of ashes and night soil has been efficiently carried out, complaints received being attended to more expeditiously than in past years. 1519 privies, 2907 water closets, 2511 ashpits, 80 ashbins, and 222 pigsties have been inspected, and I have reported for cleansing, 691 ashpits and 651 privies, also 47 wastes of water to the water department, these being burst pipes, and defective water and bib taps.

318 water closets have been provided in lieu of privies, also 36 water closets in connection with new houses and buildings. The total number of W. C's. provided since I took office in connection with privy conversions, and excluding the 36 provided as above, being 1232, and 1093 ashbins have replaced offensive and open ash-pits and other forms of receptacles, 186 being provided during the past year, and 59 ashpits abolished.

SUMMARY OF THE NATURE, AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE.

Houses visited for infectious disease	101
Houses revisited for infectious disease	6
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	80
Rooms disinfected to get rid of vermin	2
Schools disinfected after infectious disease	2
Inspection of slaughter houses	790
Bakehouses inspected	43
Foodshops inspected	97
Cowsheds inspected	102
Factories and workshops inspected	47
Offensive trades, (Knackers Yard) inspected	22
Fried fish shops inspected	13
Urinals inspected	73
Vans used as dwellings inspected	3
Pigsties inspected	222
Accumulations of manure inspected	21
Drainage, housing and sanitary improvements inspected	534
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	7
Appointments and Interviews with Property Owners	235
Appointments with Contractors kept	71
Complaints received and attended to	123
Visits paid to outstanding nuisances	78
Visits paid to the markets	48
Visits paid to take particulars for the conversion of privies, etc. into water closets	93
Privies inspected	1519
Water closets inspected	2907
Ashpits inspected	2511
Ashbins inspected	80
Yards and passages inspected	14
Visits paid to retail shops	175
Miscellaneous visits paid	286
Total	10,305

In conclusion I have again to thank the members of the Highways, Buildings, and Sewerage Committee, for the help given me in the discharge of my duties.

Yours faithfully,

G. POLLARD,

Sanitary Inspector,

