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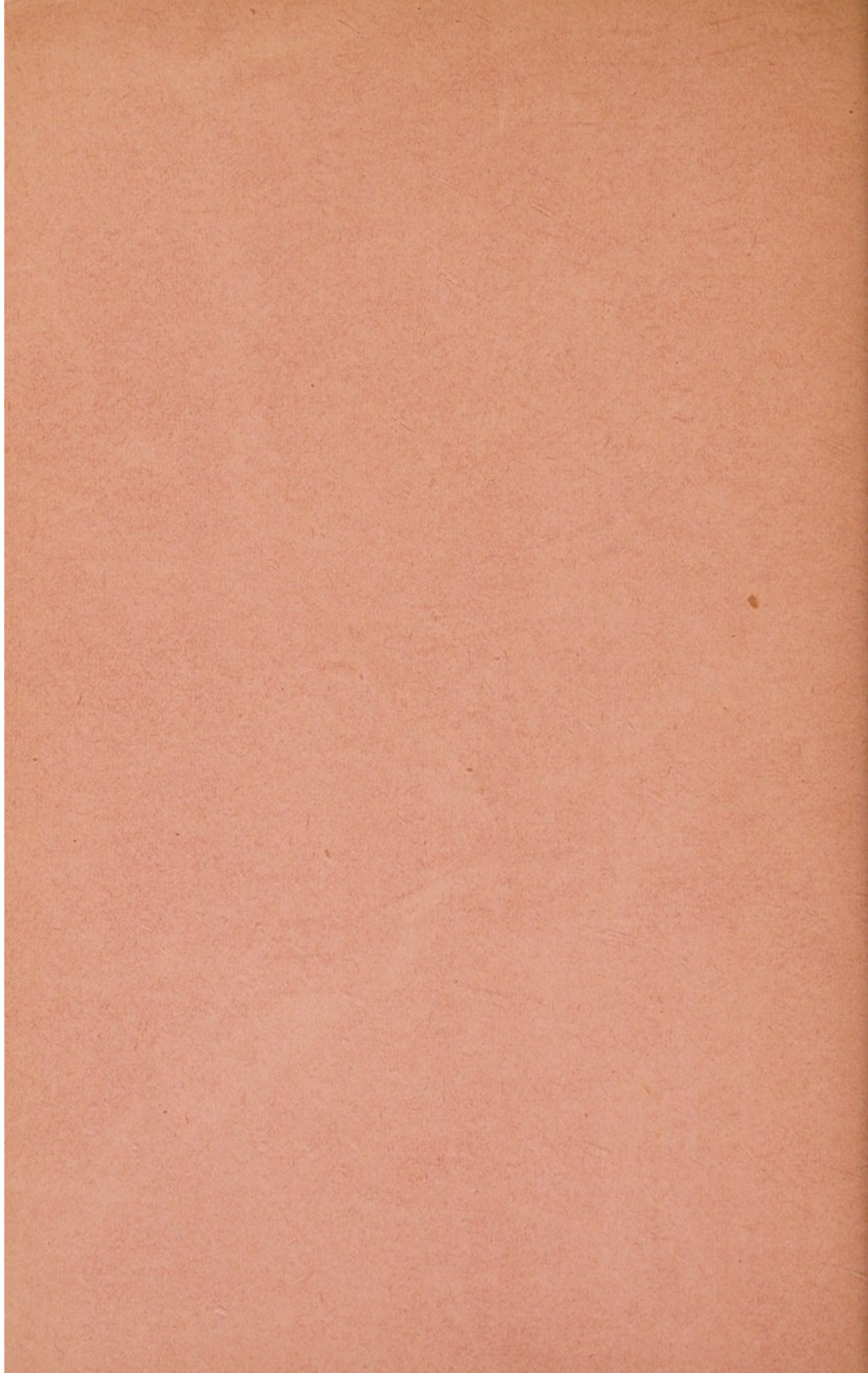
REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending  
31st December, 1937.

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TIVERTON :  
PRINTED BY MASLANDS, 42A, FORE STREET.





PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE  
AUTHORITY.

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TO THE  
TIVERTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA.

AREA. 114,139 Acres.

POPULATION (estimated) 1937, 19,130.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES, 5,158.

NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS, 5,207.

RATEABLE VALUE, £67,270.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE, £301.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. Agriculture being the chief occupation of the inhabitants, conditions are on the whole good. There are also the following Industries, none of which have any specially deleterious effect upon health.

## FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES.

Duchess of Devonshire Dairy Co., Ltd., Tiverton Junction.

R. S. Norrish & Sons, Milk Factory, Sampford Peverell.

Fox's Serge Factory, Cullompton.

„ „ „ Uffculme.

Sellwood's Tannery, Cullompton.

Paper Mills, Cullompton (Reed & Smith, Ltd.)

Paper Mills, Bradninch (Wiggins, Teape & Co., Ltd.)

Paper Mills, Silvertown (Reed & Smith, Ltd.)

Wilts United Dairies, Ltd., Hemyock.

Lime Stone Quarries, Burlescombe and Holcombe Rogus.

## SLAUGHTERING INDUSTRIES.

Lloyd Maunder, Ltd., Tiverton Junction.

C. & T. Harris & Sons (Calne) Ltd., Tiverton Junction.

Spear Bros. & Clark, Ltd., Cullompton.

## EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	250	125	136	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population—13.1
	Illegitimate	11	4	7	
Stillbirths...	...	15	9	6	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still-births) births—57.1
Deaths	...	251	127	124	} Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—13.6
					} Corrected Death Rate 11.1
					} Comparability Factor .82
Deaths from diseases & accidents					from sepsis Nil.
of pregnancy & child-birth					„ other causes 2



Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	65.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	64.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	90.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2
„ „ Cancer	...	...	39

STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Births per 1,000 of population	...	...	Live 14.9
			Still 0.60
Deaths...	...	...	12.4
Deaths under one year of age	...	...	58

TABLE OF DEATHS.

	M.	F.
Cancer...	16	23
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	3
Other Tuberculosis	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Influenza	8	6
Whooping Cough	0	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0
Appendicitis	1	0
Diarrhœa	0	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	7	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	0	3
Bronchitis	1	3
Other Circulatory Diseases	9	9
Heart Disease	32	27
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3	6
Diabetes	1	2
Other defined causes...	11	7
Suicide	2	0
Other Violence	9	3
Senility	6	8
Congenital Debility or Premature Birth	5	6
Nephritis	5	5
Other Digestive Disease	2	4
Other Liver Disease	0	0
Septic Ulcer	2	0
Diphtheria	2	1



## EXCESSIVE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR.

Deaths from Cancer are very much the highest yet recorded.

## SICKNESS AND INVALIDITY.

Nothing of note.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. NURSING in the Home. No change.
2. NUMBER OF MIDWIVES practising in the Area. The District Nurses of which there are 16 act in this capacity.
3. LABORATORY FACILITIES. Clinical material is examined at the County Laboratories as before.
4. LEGISLATION IN FORCE. There has been no change during the past year with regard to Legislation in Force throughout the Area.
5. HOSPITALS. No change. The only Hospital connected with the Local Authority is the Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital. This has proved adequate in accommodation during the past year.
6. VOLUNTARY. The District is served by the Tiverton and the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospitals. The former has recently carried out an extension scheme. A maternity wing, consisting of a general ward of six beds and three private beds, has now been completed.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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### WATER SUPPLIES.

With the exception of the Parishes included in the Regional Water Scheme, supplies generally are satisfactory, although in one or two cases there is a possibility of shortage in a dry period.

The Oakford Water Scheme is now in operation and has been found satisfactory.

Thorverton. Levels have now been taken in connection with the proposed Scheme for this Village.

17 Samples have been taken from Private Wells during the year for Chemical and Bacteriological examination, 2 of which were satisfactory and 15 unsatisfactory.

All these unsatisfactory sources will be superseded by the Regional Scheme.

CLEANSING OF SWIMMING BATHS. None in area at present.

SHOPS ACT. No action taken.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Disposal of Sewage throughout the District is fairly satisfactory although there is need for improvement.

It is hoped that a new Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme for Bampton will soon be put in hand as present conditions are bad. The new Senior Schools are not connected to the present works and the sewage is discharged into a ditch.

A Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme has been prepared for the Parish of Hemyock, and one is being prepared for Westleigh in the Parish of Burlescombe. A scheme is urgently required for Culmstock.

The disposal of sewage at Orchard View Council Houses, Halberton is now in order, but the Village as a whole still requires a disposal scheme.

The question of the disposal of effluents from the abattoirs and milk factory and crude sewage from the Council's sewers at Tiverton Junction in the Parish of Willand is now receiving attention.

#### SCAVENGING AND REFUSAL DISPOSAL.

The regional collecting scheme is now in force in 17 Parishes and is working satisfactorily.



## SCHOOLS.

The general condition and sanitation of schools are satisfactory. New schools have been erected at Bampton by the County Council and the Church Council. Halberton school is badly in need of repair, and will be taken over by the County Education Authority who will bring it up to a proper standard.

Sampford Peverell Church School is in need of attention, but until the water supply and a sewer is available, little can be done.

A considerable amount of work has been done at Kentisbeare School, but the sanitary accommodation is still in need of attention. This also is waiting for the water supply.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Houses cleansed and redecorated	...	...	30
Nuisances from Cesspools and Waste Deposits	...	...	27
Wells closed	...	...	Nil.
Water Certificates issued in respect of New Dwellings			34
Number of Cowsheds and Dairies on the Register at the end of Year	...	...	699
Number of Inspections	...	...	107
Milk Samples Taken	...	...	123
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	10
Shops and Food Stores	...	...	220
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	1143
Inspection of Butchers and Other Shops	...	...	220
„ „ Hide Stores	...	...	Nil.
Carcases condemned	...	...	775
Amount of unsound meat	...	59 tons 3½ cwt.	
Inspections of Schools	...	...	35
Disinfections—Infectious Diseases	...	...	33
„ Verminous	..	...	Nil.

# 1.—INSPECTION FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

*Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or  
Inspectors of Nuisances.*

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories .. ... (Including Factory Laundries)	32	Nil	Nil
Workshops .. ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Workplaces .. ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ... ..	32	Nil	Nil

DISINFECTION FOR BED BUGS. None required.

# 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Nil.



## HOUSING.

### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...  | 269 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 869 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...       | 35  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose   | 52  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...                                   | 26  |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, and found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 162 |

### 2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	68
---	----

### 3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

#### A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... | 3    |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :     |      |
| (a) By owners (work in hand) ...  | 3    |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...   | Nil. |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
  - (a) By owners ... Nil.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted ... 3
- (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition order ... Nil.

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act of 1936 ... Nil.

4. *Overcrowding* :—

- (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. ... 28
2. Number of families dwelling therein ... 28
3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... 138½
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... 3
- (c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year... ... 1
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... 6
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil.



- (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.

Plans are now being prepared for erection of houses to abate remaining cases of overcrowding.

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

A great deal of steady progress has been made during the year, thanks chiefly to the effects of the accredited scheme.

#### SAMPLES OF MILK.

123 were taken for cleanliness with the result that 52 were reported as being satisfactory.

With regard to the unsatisfactory samples, producers' methods were corrected with satisfactory results.

All samples taken for tubercle were found to be negative.

### (b) MEAT INSPECTION.

*Meat Regulations and Slaughterhouses (R. D. C.) Order, 1924.*

No important change has taken place regarding the above. As a general rule premises are fairly satisfactory and any suggestions by the Sanitary Authorities are promptly carried out.

*Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and General Meat Inspection.*

It was pleasing to note that with few exceptions, the slaughtermen now approve of the use of the gun, it was not found necessary to take any statutory action under the Act.

Meat inspection at the Willand abattoirs is now on a much better footing, as a whole time Inspector was appointed for this duty, early in the year.

(c) ADULTERATION.—No action taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.  
—This only applies to milk in this area. Samples are regularly submitted to the County Laboratories in Exeter.

(e) NUTRITION.—No action taken.

#### GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

In connection with the work of supervising the general sanitary conditions throughout the District, periodical inspections have been made of Council houses, cottages, bakehouses, slaughterhouses, also butchers' shops, and dairy premises, where food is prepared and deposited for sale.

### SECTION F.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

This disease was not so prevalent in 1937, and was of the mild type which now seems to be the regular thing and which is correspondingly difficult of control. There were 21 cases in all.

#### DIPHTHERIA.

The villages of Bampton, Uffculme and Sampford Peverell were immunised against Diphtheria during the year. The school children of these villages receiving .25 and .5 C.C. doses of A.P.T. with an interval of 14 days between injections.

The percentage of school children treated at Bampton and Sampford Peverell was slightly over 90%, but at Uffculme only 60%.

The cases of Diphtheria reported, occurred at Oakford, but I am glad to say the children of this village are now inoculated.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during  
the year 1937.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	24	22	—
Diphtheria ... ..	8	8	3
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	1	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	0	—
Pneumonia ... ..	18	4	10
Erysipelas ... ..	7	3	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	0	0	0
Dysentery (Sonné) ..	3	0	0

Under 1 Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Puerperal Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.	Enceph- alitis. Lethar- gica.	Dysen- tery. (Sonné)
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
2—3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
4—5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	8	3	—	—	3	—	—	1
10—15	5	1	—	—	3	—	—	2
15—20	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
20—25	3	1	1	—	2	—	—	—
25—30	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
30—35	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 - over	—	1	—	—	5	4	—	—
Total	24	8	2	1	18	7	—	3

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. No cases notified.

DYSENTERY (Sonné). Although only three cases of this disease were notified towards the end of the year, there is no doubt the disease was widespread, affecting large numbers of children. The type of the disease was not a severe one and no deaths were attributed to it.

# TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

It is satisfactory to note the steady diminution in this disease.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
10	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
20	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 up	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	5	4	7	—	2	1	1

All the above deaths had been notified according to the Regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62. No action was taken.

I am indebted to the officers of the Council for their help during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. NICHOLSON.





