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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF WELLINGBOROUGH.

1920.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

BY

J. ARTHUR, M.D.

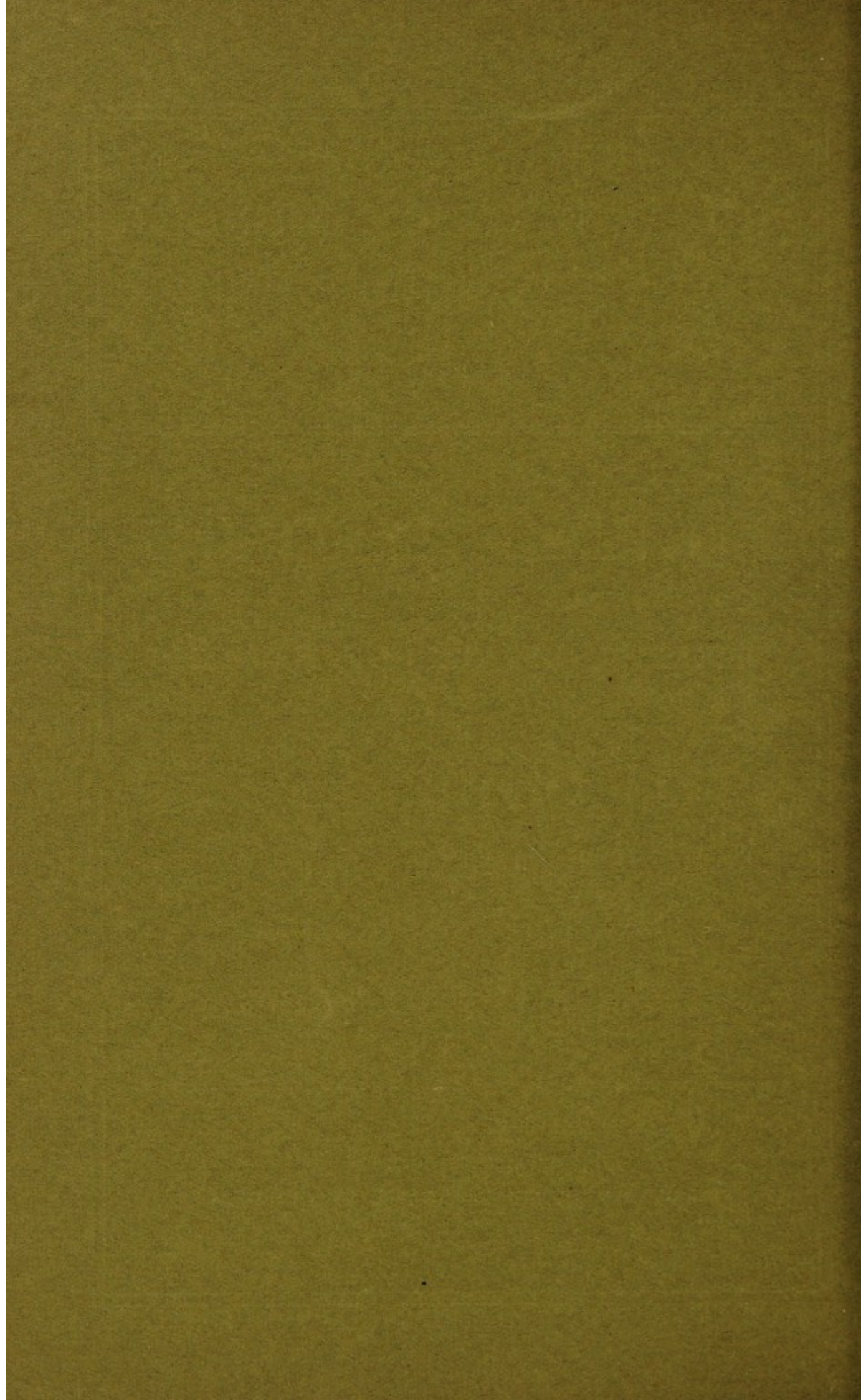
AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR,

GEORGE BAYES.

WELLINGBOROUGH :

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30, HIGH STREET,

WELLINGBOROUGH.

**To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Wellingborough Rural District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1920.

I have to thank the Members of the Council and the Officials for their ready and courteous help in the work of this Department, and especially your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. George Bayes.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. ARTHUR,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

CHIEF FIGURES FOR THE YEAR 1920.

Population (Census 1911)	...	...	...	...	...	12594
Estimated Population (from Registrar General)						13349
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	23.1
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	11.1
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	58.4
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	0.22
Total Births :—						
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	287	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	21	
					—	308
Infantile Deaths—						
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	17	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	
					—	18
Area of District in Acres (land and inland water)	...	...	...	...	...	33,115
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	3,369
Average Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	3.99

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. The Wellingborough Rural District is situated in the Eastern part of Northamptonshire, with Bedfordshire forming its Southern boundary. It is an undulating plain through which the river Nene flows. The District comprises 19 parishes, three of which have a population of over 2,000 inhabitants each.

2. **Population.** At the last census taken in 1911, the population of the District was returned at 12,594. For 1920 the estimated population based on the Registrar General's Return is 13,349.

This shows a slight decrease on the estimate of the previous year, the estimated figures for 1919 being 13,372.

It will be interesting to see what the new census figure will be.

3. **Social Conditions.** While many parishes are chiefly Agricultural, as is to be expected in a rural district, some of the villages, notably Earls Barton, Irchester, Wollaston and Bozeat, are centres of the boot and shoe industry and are in reality small towns, and the manufacture of boots and shoes and its allied trades is the staple industry. Ironstone mining is an extending industry in the district.

These industries are carried on in healthy surroundings, as the centres of them are scattered, and there is no overcrowding as in towns. The staple trade has been fairly good and there has been little need for Poor Law Relief.

VITAL STATISTICS.

4. **Births.** The total births registered during the year were 308, which is equal to an annual rate of 23·1 per 1000. I have no records beyond 1909, but the present rate is easily the highest since that year, the year that anything like approaches it being 1911 with a rate of 20·9.

Of the total births there were 171 males and 137 females. This shows a slight improvement as regards preponderance of male births on the previous year, when the sexes were practically equal.

Illegitimate births numbered 21 compared with 7 in each of the two preceding years, and the rate works out at 68·1 per 1000 births against 35·89 for last year, so that the illegitimate birth rate is practically double that of last year.

Deaths. The nett deaths from all sources totalled 149, but this year there was a greater female mortality, there being 67 male and 82 female deaths. The annual death rate works out at 11.1 per 1000, the lowest figure since 1912.

Turning to infantile mortality, it will be noted (page 23) that there were 18 deaths of infants under 1 year, 11 males and 7 females. As is generally the case, more males die in infancy than females. The infantile mortality rate works out at 58.44 per 1000 births, against 75.8 for 1919.

On analysing the cause of infantile deaths it will be found that no less than 11 of the 18, or 61% were due to congenital causes, premature birth, &c. Of the others who survived the first few days of birth, it is noteworthy that there was not a single death from epidemic diarrhoea, which is generally such a heavy factor in infantile mortality. The cool damp summer of 1920 had no doubt something to do with this.

Omitting infantile deaths and those due to violence and suicide, there were 126 deaths due to natural causes. Of this number 60 or practically 50% were in persons of 70 years of age and upwards. I find there were 28 deaths in persons over 80 years of age, while two were over 90.

Coming to the causes of death, I find that as in previous years the largest number of deaths due to any one cause was due to **organic heart disease** viz. : 23. It is interesting to note however, that of the total, 17 occurred in persons over 65 years of age, so that the existence of heart disease does not prevent many of its victims living to a good old age.

Respiratory Diseases are next in frequency on the list, totalling 19. This number is made up of bronchitis 10; pneumonia (all forms) 7; and other respiratory diseases 2. Here again it is interesting to note that two deaths from these causes were infantile, while there were 12 in old persons, leaving only 5 in what might be termed the prime of life.

Cancer is the third in order of frequency in the list, being responsible for 13 deaths. The age incidence is as follows: 25-45 one death; 45-65 five deaths; and 65 years and over, seven deaths.

Influenza accounted for 4 deaths compared with 12 in 1919, and 27 in 1918.

Turning to **Infectious Diseases** it will be noted that there were four deaths from diphtheria, two from measles, and one from whooping cough.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The most remarkable feature in the mortality table is that there were only three deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. This is the lowest figure for many years, the average for the three preceding years being 13. Why there should be this remarkable decline, I am unable to explain. In my report for 1919 I stated that there was no improvement in the mortality from the "white plague," and it is very pleasant to be able to report so differently this year. Whether the improvement will continue remains to be seen. The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis works out at 0.22 per 1000 compared with 0.9 in 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. **Water Supply.** There is a wholesome and abundant supply of pure water at Doddington, Earls Barton, Easton Maudit, Hardwick, Isham and Wilby. To the large villages or townships of Wollaston and Irchester an ample supply of good water is laid on from Sywell Reservoir which supplies the neighbouring town of Rushden.

The remaining villages draw their supply from shallow wells, which are at all times liable to pollution and a danger to health, and in several cases during the year action has been taken to remedy the grosser defects.

It is to be hoped that soon every village in the district will have a supply of pure water and be independent of these shallow wells.

2. **Rivers and Streams.** So far as I am aware there has been no pollution of any rivers or streams in the district during the year.

3. **Drainage and Sewerage.** Not much work has been done in this respect during the year. A little more "patching" has been done at Wollaston, and a few more ventilating shafts will be added as a result of Dr. Paget's visit. I do not hear of any contemplated improvements at Bozeat.

On the whole there is a general improvement as regards drainage. The sewage farms have been working fairly well, though in some instances the accommodation is fully taxed, and if some of the villages increase in size, new sewage schemes will have to be introduced.

4. **Closet Accommodation and Scavenging.** On page 21 will be found a table giving details of each parish, which shows some improvement on previous years. It will be seen from the Inspector's report that some pail closets have been con-

verted to the water carriage system, chiefly at Irchester. There is still much to be done, however, in this respect, and where needed, pressure should be brought to bear on owners to connect up their property with the sewers.

In most districts there is a great lack of proper receptacles with tight fitting covers for storage of refuse. Owing to the cost of these at the present time it is very difficult to get owners or tenants to provide them. No ash-pits have been done away with during the year. There are ash-pits in the smaller parishes and there are a few cesspools at isolated houses. All these are attended to periodically, and no nuisances have occurred.

5. **Sanitary Inspections of the District.** These will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report appended hereto.

6. **Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations.** Bye-Laws are in force with regard to Milk Supply, Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses. As regards buildings generally there were no bye-laws in force for this district, except at Great Doddington and Irchester, but I am glad to say that in 1915 up-to-date bye-laws were introduced for the whole district.

The matter of offensive trades is under observation. Lodging-houses and underground sleeping-rooms, so far as I am aware, do not exist in the district.

7. **Schools.** The public elementary schools of the district are under the administration of the County Education Authority

The following School Closures took place during the year :

SCHOOL.	PERIOD.	CAUSE.
Newton Bromshold	...16th April—3rd May	...Measles.
Ecton Council ...	...12th July—26th July	... „
Earls Barton Infants	...27th Sept.—18th Oct.	... „
Earls Barton Ch. of E.	...1st Nov.—8th Nov.	... „
Newton Bromshold	...10th Nov.—22nd Nov.	Diphtheria.

FOOD.

(A) **Milk Supply.** The quality and quantity of the Milk supply of this district compares favourably with that of similar rural districts. An important step in the path of progress has been taken by the appointment of a certified Veterinary Surgeon under the Contagious Diseases of Animals Act. There is much room, however, for improvement in supplying clean milk. Milk from healthy cows, which are housed and fed and

milked under clean conditions, and the milk protected from contamination during collection, storage and distribution is the thing to aim at, and to this end the co-operation of local authorities, dairymen, landlords, farmers and the public themselves is required. In the fight against tuberculosis and infantile mortality, the supply of pure clean milk is of prime importance.

(B) **Meat. 1. Inspection.** Instead of receiving Meat from the Central Depot where it was inspected before it was issued, we have returned to the *status quo ante* and each butcher kills in his own slaughterhouse.

In a scattered district like this, with big centres some miles apart, and fairly large towns on its borders, it is obvious that efficient meat inspection is impossible unless one or more whole time inspectors are appointed.

2. Public Abattoir. There is not one in existence. The Wellingborough Urban District tried to start one when de-control came along, but this district did not back it up.

The inspection of meat at the time of slaughter is practically not done. It is impossible for your inspector with his manifold duties and appointments to do it.

3. Action under the Public Health Acts, 1875. No prosecutions under this section were undertaken during the year.

4. There was no meat condemned on account of tuberculosis during the year.

The following table shows the number of slaughter houses in use in the district at the dates mentioned :—

		In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec. 1920.
Registered	...	Nil.	—	—
Licensed	...	Nil.	14	15
Total	...	Nil.	14	15

(c) **Other Foods.** Bakehouses and premises used for the storage or preparation of foods have been visited and on the whole found to be satisfactory.

If adequate inspection of food, and the premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, is to be carried out, the whole time services of a fully qualified inspector must be obtained; and until this is done, food inspection will be more or less a dead letter in this district.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Infectious Diseases Generally. The district on the whole was comparatively free from infectious disease. On page 22 is given a table showing the number of cases notified from each parish. There is an all-round decline in the number of cases compared with the previous year, viz. : 66 notifications for 1920 against 146 for 1919.

Diphtheria. This disease was much in the public eye, chiefly through newspaper reports, during 1920. There were 26 cases notified throughout the district compared with 34 in 1919, a considerable decrease. Four cases occurred in one household at Newton Bromshold, in a family which had just arrived in the district, and had contracted the infection elsewhere. Three cases occurred at Grendon, but one of the cases had doubtless been infected at Wollaston, and another was due to a convalescent case which had been discharged from an Isolation Hospital in a neighbouring County, and had come to the village on a visit ; so that practically all the cases that arose in this district originated in Bozeat and Wollaston. Five cases were notified from the former village, while 14 were notified from Wollaston. This is a considerable decrease compared with 1919 when 22 cases were notified from this centre.

As regards the cause of infection, there is little doubt in my mind that faulty sanitation was the most important factor, and I have dealt with this frequently in my reports. This opinion was also supported by the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Paget, when he was called in at the request of the Wollaston Parish Council. At the same time a carrier was discovered during the year, a youth who was engaged in distributing food in the village and neighbourhood. He was isolated and treated with satisfactory results.

In the isolation and treatment of Diphtheria, a helpful factor was the arrangement whereby cases were admitted to the Wellingborough Urban Council's Isolation Hospital, and seven cases were removed to that Institution, all of whom recovered.

Bacteriological Examination is provided, and Diphtheria Antitoxin is freely issued and was used in all cases.

There were four fatal cases, compared with 1 in 1919, so that the mortality was much higher. It is possible that if these cases had been removed to Hospital, it would have been less.

Skilful nursing is one of the most important factors in the treatment of Diphtheria, and this for most people is only obtainable in a properly staffed Isolation Hospital.

Many of the cases notified were very mild ones, and one naturally wonders how many slight cases escaped detection because medical advice was not sought.

Scarlet Fever. Only two cases were notified; one at Earls Barton, and the other at Newton Bromshold. Both were very slight and there were no "return" cases.

Enteric Fever. Three cases occurred at Earls Barton, and faulty sanitation was discovered, and was probably the cause.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified, one from Wollaston, and one at Bozeat.

Under the Regulations of 7th January, 1919, 9 cases of Pneumonia were notified, and 3 of Malaria contracted abroad. As regards this district, it would appear that the usefulness of these Regulations has now ceased.

Small Pox. No cases occurred in the district, so once again we are fortunate, for there is no accommodation for any cases that might arise. The question of providing facilities for dealing with an outbreak has been burked for many years. There is bound to be trouble sooner or later.

There were no primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed during the year under the Public Health (Small Pox) Regulations 1917.

Non-notifiable acute Infectious Diseases. **Measles** was prevalent during the year in the district. It is no longer notifiable, and it is difficult to say to what extent it was prevalent. There were two deaths from this disease. **Whooping Cough** was also prevalent; it is practically endemic, and there was one death. **Influenza** was somewhat prevalent in the Spring, but was much milder in type. There were 4 deaths compared with 12 in 1919. With these exceptions the district was free from infectious disease.

Tuberculosis. The administration of this disease is carried out by the County Council. As will be seen from page 22 there were 15 notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and none of non-pulmonary forms. This is a decrease on the preceding year, when the figures were 18 and 6 respectively.

Of the 15 cases notified, 4 were males and 11 were females. That all cases of tuberculosis are notified is doubtful, there being a reluctance to notify until the disease has been diagnosed

without doubt, and the present notification fee of one shilling, out of which the practitioner has to pay postage, is not conducive to prompt notification.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The administration of the Acts concerning this branch of Preventive medicine is carried out by the County Council.

No cases of puerperal fever were notified during the year. There were two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum—1 case at Bozeat and Wollaston respectively. Both cases were mild. Measles and Whooping Cough have been already referred to. Epidemic Diarrhoea and Poliomyelitis were conspicuous by their absence.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. **Staff.** There is only one part time Sanitary Inspector and Inspector of Nuisances for the district, and with a widely scattered district which embraces agricultural villages and small industrial towns, there is quite enough work for him to do.

2. **Hospital Accommodation.** As I have stated before there is no hospital in the district, either for small-pox, or other infectious disease. There is a site belonging to the Council on which it was intended to erect a small-pox hospital, but the site is still vacant. I suggested on my return that at least one of the Army Huts that were being disposed of should be purchased, but nothing has been done in the matter.

An arrangement has been made with the Wellingborough Urban Council for cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever to be admitted to their Isolation Hospital when accommodation is available. I hope this may be the first move towards establishing a joint Isolation Hospital for Wellingborough and the surrounding districts.

3. **Local Acts and General Adoption Acts.** These are the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890 and the Notification of Births Act, 1907.

4. **Bacteriological Work.** Arrangements are in force whereby practitioners send bacteriological specimens, e.g., throat swabs, blood serum, sputum, etc., to the Pathological Laboratory, Northampton General Hospital. This arrangement is a great improvement on the previous one, when specimens had to be sent to London.

HOUSING.

(I.) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.

The housing problem has been much to the front lately, and I think one can say without fear of contradiction it is the greatest problem of the day, and the difficulties in dealing with it are enormous. I have no doubt, however, that with the active co-operation and goodwill of all parties concerned in the provision and building of houses, the difficulties will be overcome.

In this district, the problem is not so great as in many places, the population apparently being more or less stationary. Still, there is much to do, and many arrears to be made up, both as regards present houses, and the provision of new ones.

For some years prior to the war, building was at a standstill and there were practically no empty houses in the district in 1914. During the war, in addition, the upkeep and repair of existing houses, owing to the scarcity of labour and material, practically ceased. As the majority of houses in the district are old ones which require a lot of repairing, arrears accumulated. These arrears however, are now being gradually overtaken. It is only possible, however, to have the minimum of work done, for which the present cost of repairs, and the pre-war value of rents, the small owner of cottage property is in an unenviable position.

The total number of inhabited houses in the district is 3,369, of which approximately 2,500 are working class dwellings. On page 21 will be found the number of houses in each parish.

During the year two new houses were built, one at Finedon Furnaces Cottages and one at Bozeat.

2. (a) **Extent of Shortage of Houses.** During the Housing Survey of 1919 it was estimated that the number of working class houses required during the next three years to remedy the present shortage was 98, distributed as follows:—

Great Doddington	...	...	10
Little Harrowden	...	...	8
Earls Barton ...	...	...	8
Irchester	...	...	36
Little Irchester	...	...	8
Isham	...	...	8
Wollaston	...	...	20
			—
Total	...	...	98
			—

2. (b) **Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.**
 When, however, the various parishes began to consider the Housing Schemes, the above figures showed some fluctuation, and so far as I can ascertain, the present position of affairs is that the parishes have passed schemes to build the following number of houses.

Great Doddington	...	...	0
Little Harrowden	...	...	8
Earls Barton	...	...	0
*Irchester	...	...	36
Little Irchester	...	...	8
Isham	...	...	0
*Wollaston	...	...	20

*In the case of these two parishes the figures are provisional, but Irchester has decided to build 4 houses forthwith, and Wollaston 6.

3. It is not anticipated that there will be much change in the population in the immediate future. If anything, it is probable that there may be a slight decrease.

II. **OVERCROWDING.**

It is difficult to say to what extent overcrowding exists in the district. There are a good many cases, but with the demand for houses greater than the supply, no definite figures can be given. It was ascertained that in 28 houses, two or more families were living, and that 190 people were living in 30 tenements with more than two occupants per room. No action was taken during the year.

III. **FITNESS OF HOUSES.**

1. (a) **General Standard of Housing in the District.** As I have already mentioned, the majority of houses in the district are fairly old; indeed many are ancient, and some time in the future when new houses are available many will be demolished.

The Ministry of Health has laid down a standard of fitness which should be regarded as the minimum in connection with existing houses, as follows:—

A fit house should be—

- (1) Free from serious dampness.
- (2) Satisfactorily lighted and ventilated.

- (3) Properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposal of slop water, and
- (4) In good general repair.

And should have—

- (5) A satisfactory water supply.
- (6) Adequate washing accommodation.
- (7) Adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food, and,
- (8) A well ventilated store for food.

This, be it noted, is the minimum standard to aim at. Of course during the present abnormal conditions, it is not practicable to enforce these conditions at the present time, but as and when new houses are available, existing houses will have to be brought into line with the above standard.

(b) **Defects found to exist in unfit houses.** As regards this district, there is no overcrowding of houses, practically all are well-lighted and ventilated; the water supply on the whole is satisfactory, and it is under Nos. (1), (3) and (8) that there is most fault to be found. Defects of drainage and general repairs were the chief defects found. Dampness, chiefly through the absence of damp proof courses, is very common.

(c) It cannot be said that many defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners. The chief difficulty is that many owners would rather close their houses than spend money on repairs.

(2) In the Inspector's Report will be found particulars of action taken under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

(3) As regards remedying unfitness, the chief difficulty has been the cost of labour. With so many arrears, and shorter working hours, without any increase in the personnel, it has been very difficult to get work done. To pay 2/2 per hour for repairing cottages let at from 1/6 to 3/- per week, is not a proposition that appeals to owners. No special measures have been taken to deal with the matter.

There has, however, been a considerable increase compared with 1919 in carrying out repairs.

(4) On page 18 will be found particulars of measures taken during the year to remedy defects in water supply, closet accommodation.

IV. **UNHEALTHY AREAS.**

There are none in the district.

V. **BYE-LAWS.**

Prior to the war there were none, but bye-laws were adopted by the Council in September, 1915, and allowed by the Local Government Board in November of the same year, and are working satisfactorily.

VI. **GENERAL.**

No action, not covered by the above particulars, bearing on the Public Health has been taken by the Council during the year.

VII.—**APPENDICES.**

1.—**GENERAL.**

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	13349
(2)	General Death-rate	...	...	...	...	11.1
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.22
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	58.4
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	3369
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	2500	approx.	...	...	
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected...	...	...	...	...	2

2.—**UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.**

I.—**Inspection.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	341
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	68
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	13
(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	...	...	...	...	273

II.—**Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	267
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919	...	...	No action taken.
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :			
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	6
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—			
(a)	by owners	...	...	6
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	—
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	...	...	17
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made...	...	...	4
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit			None
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	1
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	1

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890... .. None

4. Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 None

5. Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer No special Staff

**REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1920.**

24, GRIFFITH STREET,
RUSHDEN,

MAY 10TH, 1920.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

DEAR SIR,

I hereby submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1920.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, the District has been regularly and systematically visited and inspected during the year.

Infectious Diseases. At Bozeat 5 cases of diphtheria were visited, 1 January, 1 May (fatal), 1 June, 1 August, 1 September (fatal).

At Earls Barton one case of Scarlet Fever in January, four Erysipelas 1 January, 1 March, and 2 in April, and 3 cases Typhoid Fever, 3 in October and 1 in December.

Grendon, 1 Diphtheria in September, 2 in October, one being an adult 27 years of age.

Irchester, 1 Erysipelas and 1 Malaria Fever.

Newton Bromswold, 1 Scarlet Fever in May. During the month of November 4 cases of Diphtheria were reported to exist; and when I got to the house one of the children had died. The mother and the other children were removed to Hospital.

This family came to Newton Bromshold from Rothwell on November 1st, and the child that died was unwell with swollen glands on arrival. The Medical Practitioner was not called in until November 8th and the cases were at once notified and visited. The Schools were closed for a fortnight and no further cases were reported.

Wollaston. 14 cases of Diphtheria were visited—two in April (1 fatal), 1 in May, 2 in June, 1 in July, 3 in September, 2 in October, one 28 years of age and one 40 years of age; 2 in November, one 28 years of age; and one in December.

Where deaths from Cancer, Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, &c., occurred and in every case of infectious disease, bedding and dwellings were fumigated, all bedding destroyed (when necessary) and compensation given.

All dwellings or parts of dwellings cleaned, repaired and renovated where infection existed.

Nuisances. One hundred and forty-five nuisances were found to exist and in nearly every case were abated without Statutory Notices being served. Last year I reported on the difficulty in getting work done owing to the scarcity of labour. I am pleased to say that difficulty has now been removed and many improvements are being made, especially in improved drainage, &c.

The Sewage Farms throughout the district have been well managed and the various outfalls have received every attention. Arrangements are in hand for improving the Farms at Wollaston and Earls Barton. Also the Bozeat Outfall.

The Parish of Irchester have discontinued the collection of night soil and in the near future all Closets will be connected with the sewer.

At Bozeat, Grendon, and Wollaston the collection of night soil is still in vogue, but several connections have been laid into the sewer at Wollaston and new W.Cs. erected, and the sooner all are connected up the better.

House Refuse. Regularly collected by Scavengers at Bozeat, Earls Barton, Grendon, Little Harrowden, Irchester and Wollaston. There have been complaints from Earls Barton calling attention to an increase of RATS caused through the tipping of refuse in certain parts. I attribute the RATS to other causes and not to the tipping of refuse. Where rats exist it is the duty of the occupier to get rid of them ; and the sooner some of them start to rid themselves of the rodents, the better.

Overcrowding. There are numerous cases owing to house shortage, but we are doing the best we possibly can. One very bad case has left the district.

Two new houses have been erected during the year, one at Bozeat and one at Furnace Cottages, Little Harrowden.

Houses examined where infectious Diseases, including Tuberculosis, Cancer, &c., (and other houses).

Dirty Houses (caused by dirty tenants)	...	10	All cleansed
Defective Drainage	...	136	Remedied.
Defective W.Cs., Broken Pans, &c.	...	29	Remedied.
Defective Roofs	...	43	Repaired.
Unwholesome Well Water	...	7	Wells closed.

EARLS BARTON :

Water laid on over Sink	...	5
Water supplied by Stand-pipe	...	7
Water laid on to W.Cs.	...	2

IRCHESTER :

Water laid on over sink	...	3
Water supplied by Stand-pipe	...	4
Water laid on to W.Cs.	...	3

WOLLASTON.

Water laid on over sink	...	7
Water supplied by Stand-pipe	...	6
Water laid on to W.Cs	...	6

OTHER PARISHES :

Wells cleaned out and repaired	...	4
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Total Houses examined	...	273
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Nuisances found to exist in the above or in other houses :

NATURE OF DEFECTS.		NO. REMEDIED.	
Defective Roofs	... 33	New Roofs or repaired	33
Dampness	... 39	Remedied	... 39
Dirty or Dilapidated	... 34	Remedied	... 34
Houses where infectious disease existed, including Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Cancer, Malaria, Pneumonia, &c.	43	Renovated	... 43
Defective Closets	... 19	Repaired	... 19
Defective Wells	... 3	Crowns of Wells raised	3
Defective Covers	... 3	New Covers fixed	... 3
Other Nuisances	... 28	Abated	... 28
	202		202
Under Housing Acts	... 68	Under Housing Acts	... 68
Total Nuisances found	270		270

Thirty Pail Closets at Irchester and Nine at Wollaston have been closed and have been converted to the Water Carrier

system. New drainage has been laid, and closets connected to sewer. Two lengths of Sewers have been laid in Berrill Street and Thrift Street, and an extension of Sewer at the bottom of Wollaston Road, Irchester.

Dairies and Cowsheds, Slaughter Houses, Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses and Laundries have been visited and inspected.

A complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories calling attention to the filthy and disgraceful condition of the Sanitary conveniences at one of the Shoe Factories in the District.

I visited at once and came to the conclusion that the Manufacturer was doing all he could in providing suitable conveniences for his workpeople, but owing to their filthy habits they had made the places in a disgraceful condition. Water had been laid on so that workmen could have a wash and brush up ; but the piping had been torn down and the hand basins broken, and 4 closet seats had been smashed, purposely to all appearance. The water cisterns had all been damaged.

The repairs were attended to and a workman has been appointed to supervise them.

Extensions to Shoe Factories have been made at Bozeat, Little Irchester, Earls Barton and Wollaston. Some Factories have been closed through scarcity of work.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACTS, 1909.

A Closing Order was made on the 11th February and served on the Owner with regard to 4 houses situate in Spangle Row, Bozeat. Two of the houses are closed but the other two are still occupied ; as the tenants cannot get another house. All four of these houses are unfit for occupation, and are a danger to health.

Coleman's Yard, Earls Barton. Seven houses were reported as being unfit for occupation. The owner agreed to a Closing Order. Three of the houses have been demolished, three closed, and the remaining house, the most dangerous of the lot, is occupied.

Earls Barton. Four houses reported as 'unfit for occupation' Two were made fit for habitation, the remaining two closed.

Five were closed in 1914, have this year been put in repair and renovated throughout, are now good homes and all occupied.

Bozeat. Six were reported as unfit for habitation. Three old thatch roofs have been taken off ; side walls raised three to four feet higher and new slate roofs put on, also new chimney heads. The other three have been made fit for occupation.

Wilby and Doddington. One house at each Parish made fit for habitation.

Irchester. Three houses here reported as unfit ; have been put in thorough repair and all are occupied.

Two other houses here have been practically demolished ; re-built and made into good homes. At Newton Bromshold one house has been demolished.

Inspections under the Housing Acts.

No. of Houses Inspected ...	...	...	...	68
No. Unfit for Habitation ...	...	...	...	13
No. of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	4
One Owner agreed to close...	...	...	...	7
No. of Houses in which defects were remedied				
without Closing Orders being made...	...	...	...	13
No. Renovated under Section 15 ...	...	...	...	7

The principal defects found were defective walls, dampness, no through ventilation, dilapidated walls and ceilings ; broken and dangerous firegrates, defective floors, windows and doors, and dangerous chimneys.

At Great Doddington most of the tenants have purchased their houses and a number have been put in repair.

No difficulty has been experienced in carrying out my varied duties with either Owner or occupier, and in only a few cases was it necessary to serve a Statutory Notice.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE BAYES.

CLOSET AND SCAVENGING SYSTEM IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES.

PARISH.		NO. OF INHABITED HOUSES.	CLOSET SYSTEM.	SCAVENGING.
Bozeat ...	...	339	Pail or Dry Earth ...	Collected.
Doddington ...	...	124	Hand Flushed W.Cs.	Ashpits
Earls Barton ...	...	737	Water Carriage ...	Refuse collected
Easton Maudit ...	...	39	Pail or Dry Earth ...	Ashpits
Ecton ...	...	141	Water Carriage ...	Do.
Grendon ...	...	126	Pail Closets ...	Refuse collected
Hardwick ...	...	29	Pail Closets ...	Ashpits
Harrowden, Great ...	...	28	Pail (part) and W.Cs.	Do.
Harrowden Little ...	...	179	Pail Closets ...	Collected
Irchester ...	...	569	Water Closets ...	Refuse collected
Isham ...	...	100	Do. ...	Ashpits
Mears Ashby ...	...	109	Do. ...	Do.
Newton Bromshold and Higham Park ...	...	26	Pail Closets ...	Do.
Orlingbury ...	...	69	Do. ...	Do.
Strixton ...	...	15	Do. ...	Do.
Sywell ...	...	49	Do. ...	Do.
Wilby ...	...	115	Water Closets ...	Do.
Wollaston ...	...	575	Water Closets 210 Pail Closets 365	Collected
Total ...	...	3369		

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1920. Shewing Number of Cases in each Parish.

DISEASES.	BOZEAT.	GT. DODDINGTON.	FARLS BARTON.	EASTON MAUDIT.	ECTON	GRENDON	HARDWICK	GT. HARROWDEN	LITTLE HARROWDEN	HIGHAM PARK	IRCHESTER	ISHAM	MEARS ASHBY	NEWTON BROMSHOLD	ORLINGBURY	STRIXTON	SYWELL	WILBY	WOLLASTON	TOTALS.
Erysipelas ...	1		4								1									6
Scarlet Fever ...			1											1					14	2
Diphtheria ...	5					3								4						26
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...																				—
Enteric Fever ...			3																	3
Puerperal Fever ...																				—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1		2			2					3							1	6	15
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...																				—
Encephalitis Lethargica																				—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1																	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	7																	1		9
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	1																		1	3
Dysentery ...																				—
Trench Fever ...																				—
TOTALS ...	16	10				5					5			5	1			2	22	66

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

During the Year 1920.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				TOTAL.		MALES.		FEMALES.
All Causes	...	...	...	149	...	67	...	82
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
3. Measles	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	—
6. Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	2
7. Influenza	...	...	...	4	...	2	...	2
8. Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
9. Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	3	...	2	...	1
10. Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	1
12. Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	13	...	3	...	10
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
14. Meningitis	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
15. Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	23	...	9	...	14
16. Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	...	5	...	5
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	7	...	3	...	4
18. Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
19. Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	—
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
21.A Alcoholism	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
23. Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
24. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	...	...	...	3	...	—	...	3
25. Congenital Debility and Malfor- mation, including Premature Birth	...	...	...	11	...	6	...	5
26. Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...	4	...	3	...	1
27. Suicide	...	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
28. Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	52	...	27	...	25
29. Diseases illdefined or unknown	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	149	...	67	...	82
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	...	18	...	11	...	7

**COMPARISON OF BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE DURING THE
LAST TEN YEARS.**

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1911	20.9	13.52	141.0
1912	17.8	10.07	57.2
1913	17.7	11.7	75.3
1914	18.67	13.0	88.6
1915	16.7	12.8	113.2
1916	16.42	14.92	87.15
1917	14.8	14.5	84.6
1918	12.46	14.05	47.9
1919	14.5	13.5	75.8
1920	23.1	11.11	58.44

**NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS
RECEIVED DURING THE PAST FIVE YEARS.**

Year.	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1916	23	17	6
1917	37	31	6
1918	33	30	3
1919	24	18	6
1920	15	15	-