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The Rural District Council of
Wellingborough.



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

BY

J. ARTHUR, M.D.

AND THE

Sanitary Inspector,

GEORGE BAYES,

For the Year 1925

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 1926.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, the Report is in the nature of a Survey Report.

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 1925.

Population (Census 1921)	...	...	...	...	12,434
Estimated Population, 1925	...	...	...	...	12,760
Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	16.4
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	10.3
Infantile Mortality	...	...	...	...	57.1
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	0.54
Total Births :—					
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	204
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	6
				—	210
Infantile Deaths :—					
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0
				—	12
Area of District in Acres (land and inland water)	...	...	...	...	33,115
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)	...	...	...	...	3,360
Average Number of Persons per House (1921)	...	...	...	...	3.7
Rateable Value (1925)	...	...	...	...	£81,772
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£250

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.—The Rural District of Wellingborough comprises 19 parishes and covers an area of 33,115 acres.

Population.—The 1921 Census Returns gave a figure of 12,434. The estimated population at mid-year 1925 was 12,760, and it is on this figure that the various rates are based.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.—The area 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. It is well wooded and watered.

The Number of Inhabited Houses.—At the last census was 3,360, but I have no information as to the number of families or separate occupiers.

Rateable Value and sum represented by a penny rate.—The rateable value of the area in 1921 was £80,779. In 1925 the sum was £81,722. The sum represented by a penny rate is about £250.

Social Conditions.—While many parishes are chiefly agricultural with a considerable portion of arable land, there are several large villages, notably Earls Barton, Irchester, Wollaston and Bozeat, which are in reality small towns engaged in the Shoe industry. This staple trade gives employment to a large section of the population. There is also a considerable amount of ironstone mining carried on.

The industries are carried out in healthy surroundings, there is no smoke nuisance and there is no evidence that any particular occupation has any injurious influence on the public health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The total births registered during the year were 210. Last year the figure was 192.

Of the total 98 were males and 112 females. There were 6 illegitimate births compared with 9 in 1924.

The birth rate for the year is 16.4 per 1,000, compared with 15.1 in 1924. The rate for England and Wales is 18.8.

Deaths.—The total nett deaths numbered 160, which is two less than in the preceding year. A reference to page 24 will show that heart disease, as in previous years, comes first in the list as regards number, being responsible for 24 deaths. Respiratory diseases (pneumonia, bronchitis, etc., but excluding phthisis) is second with 19 and cancer comes third with 17. As regards respiratory tuberculosis or phthisis, there were 7 deaths, one less than in 1924.

Influenza was responsible for 9 deaths, while among the infectious diseases there was one death each from scarlet fever and whooping cough. It is satisfactory to note that no deaths were recorded from puerperal sepsis, or from infantile diarrhoea.

The local death rate works out at 12.5 per 1,000, while the corrected death rate is 10.3. The rate for England and Wales is 12.2.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 12 deaths among infants under one year of age, and no less than 10 of these were due to congenital debility and premature birth. There were no deaths among illegitimate infants. The infantile mortality figure is 57.1 compared with 52.1 in 1924, and is the fourth lowest on record. The rate for England and Wales is 75.

Poor Law Relief.—I have no definite information as to the amount of poor law relief given during the year. There are no hospitals in the district, cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the General Hospital, Northampton, or the Union Infirmary, Wellingborough.

There has been no particular cause of sickness which has been specially noteworthy during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals.—There are no hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or the County Council. Indeed, there are no hospitals of any kind in the area. There is an arrangement in force with the Wellingborough Urban Council whereby cases of infectious disease are admitted to the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital if accommodation is available, and a few cases were sent in last year.

There is still no small-pox hospital in the area, and no provision of any kind for isolating cases of small-pox. In spite of the prevalence of this disease in surrounding districts during the year, nothing definite was done to put an end to this scandalous state of affairs. The question of finding suitable premises for the isolation of small-pox cases, or of building a hospital was gone into, but no conclusion was come to, and now that the disease has for the time being disappeared from the neighbourhood the matter has been dropped. It would appear, therefore, that we must wait for another outbreak before any steps are taken, and one knows from experience of other districts how costly such emergency measures are.

Ambulance Facilities.—(a). Infection cases, if removed to the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital, are transported by the hospital ambulance. Otherwise there is no provision made. As there is no small-pox hospital I suppose it is only logical that there should be no vehicle available for moving cases of small-pox.

(b). Non-infectious and accident cases are moved by the ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Clinics, Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis Dispensaries, etc. are all under the administration of the County Council.

Public Health Officers consist of a part-time Medical Officer and part time Sanitary Inspector. Their salaries are contributed to by Exchequer Grants.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—There are no nurses provided or financed by the local authority. The County Nursing Association has district nurses in most parishes. Midwives also are under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

Legislation in Force.—The following Acts, bye-laws, are in force in the district, with the dates of their adoption :—

The Public Health Act. 1890.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act. 1890-1901.

Public Health Act, 1907 (part of).

Notification of Births Act. 1907-1908.

Byelaws in respect of buildings were adopted in 1915.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE AREA.

Water.—There is a wholesome and abundant supply of pure water at Easton-Maudit, Hardwick, Isham, Wilby, Great Harrowden, while the larger centres, Earls Barton, Wollaston and Irchester receive their main supply from the excellent water from Sywell which supplies the neighbouring towns of Higham Ferrers and Rushden.

The remaining villages draw their supplies from shallow wells, which are at all times liable to pollution, and a danger to health. Probably the worst cases are Little Harrowden, Bozeat and Grendon.

Little Harrowden is dependent for its supply on private wells, many of which are liable to gross pollution. Bozeat suffers considerably in periods of drought and during the summer of 1921 a large proportion of the population was dependent for its supply on one well, which received the surface drainage from a roadway on the opposite side of which were, and still are, pig styes. Doddington also suffers in dry seasons, though the Rushden supply passes within a short distance of the village.

The water supply of Grendon has been much discussed in the public press recently, and in this connection I may quote from my report for the year, 1913.

“ In July I visited Grendon and made an inspection of the Water Supply of the village, which is obtained from various wells. As the result of my investigation, and the analysis of samples taken, I found that only one well in the whole village gave a supply of water which was wholesome and fit for drinking purposes. I understand that steps are now being taken to obtain a public supply for the whole parish.”

Thirteen years have elapsed, but no steps have been taken. Instead it has been a case of marking time, and to-day the water supply is just as bad, if not worse. Owing to recent agitation, a visit was paid to the district towards the end of the year by one of the Ministry of Health Inspectors, Dr. Glover. As a result of his report to the Minister, a letter was sent to the Council from the Secretary to the Ministry of Health, who referred to the Grendon supply as follows :—“ I am to state that the Minister is advised that the present water supply of the parish of Grendon is seriously polluted, besides being insufficient, and that under the circumstances the Rural District Council are incurring serious risk in allowing the present condition to remain.”

Opponents of any change in the water supply of this parish point to the good health of the inhabitants, and the absence of epidemics. Up to a point that may be true, for good health is compatible with bad water, provided the latter is boiled or sterilized.

The fact remains, however, that many of the inhabitants of Grendon are dependent on a good supply that in some cases is more than a mile from their dwellings ; otherwise they have to depend on water from a polluted well, or rain water barrel which has to be boiled before it can be used, and when that source fails in dry weather, to resort to the nearest wayside stream. That such conditions should exist in this year of grace is a disgrace to the parish and district.

As I have pointed out before, there is an ample supply of excellent water belonging to the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board which could supply Grendon and the other villages in the district.

River and Streams.—Considerable trouble has been caused by the effluent from the Wollaston Sewage Works polluting the stream into which it flows. The Wollaston Parish Council is considering a new scheme for sewage disposal which it is hoped will put an end to this nuisance. So far as my information goes no other complaints of pollution have been received, nor any cases discovered.

Drainage and Sewerage.—"In Bozeat, a culvert which runs through the principal street is the parish sewer." This is a statement in my report for 1913 and still holds good. Many complaints have been made of nuisance from this main sewer. The sewage disposal works are inadequate and in poor condition.

The Wollaston drainage and sewerage requires reconstruction and the sewage disposal is inadequate and has been causing a nuisance, as stated above.

Reconstruction schemes for both these parishes are under consideration. The Earls Barton sewage farm has been far from satisfactory. A new tenant has been found and the works will in future be more closely supervised.

At Grendon the sewage tanks have not been efficiently worked and require attention.

Otherwise throughout the district, there have been no serious complaints.

Closet Accommodation.—On page 26 will be found a table giving details of each parish, and there is a steady, though slow, conversion to the water carriage system. I am unable to give the figures for each parish, but 15 closets were so converted during the year throughout the district.

Scavenging.—In the letter from the Ministry of Health referred to above, the following comments are made with regard to scavenging: "The Minister is further advised that there is a lack of proper scavenging in several of the parishes, and cases of overfull ash-pits in close proximity to imperfectly protected wells were observed. He understands that at Wilby refuse is removed only once a quarter and at Great Doddington once a month. In addition very little use would appear to be made generally of covered moveable receptacles for refuse.

I am to request therefore, that the question of scavenging may receive special attention, particularly with regard to the provision of proper receptacles and the securing of more frequent and efficient scavenging. As regards the latter, the Minister considers that it would be advisable for the District Councils themselves to undertake the work in the latter villages instead of leaving it to the Parish Councils."

There is one improvement to record in this connection, viz.: that at Wilby and Doddington house refuse is now collected once a fortnight.

On page 26 will be seen the method of scavenging in the various parishes. In the larger parishes, house refuse is collected at regular intervals, but as the Minister points out, there is much room for improvement as regards the receptacles. The only sanitary receptacle is the proper ashbin with a *tight-fitting* cover, and the cover should be kept on. Otherwise the refuse might just as well be thrown on the ground.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—This has been done regularly, though in a district of this extent, it is difficult to do it as thoroughly as it should be done. I append the Sanitary Inspector's Report which shows in detail the work done.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1925.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary condition, including the work done in the district during the past year.

The district has been inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health for any existing nuisance.

Every case of notified infectious disease was visited, disinfectants supplied and directions given. Dwellings, bedding, clothing, etc., were fumigated and infected rooms and others (when necessary) were cleaned and renovated, and other defects connected with the case dealt with.

As to cases of cancer, pulmonary tuberculosis, or pneumonia, all were visited, disinfectants supplied, bedding destroyed when deemed necessary, and compensation paid.

Number and status of inspections made during
year 1573

Number of Notices served during the year—

Statutory 4. Informal 102.

Nuisances were found to exist, and on Owners attention being called to same the order for abatement was put in hand at once, with very few exceptions, and they were immediately dealt with.

Dwelling houses kept in such a filthy state as to be injurious to health caused through filthy tenants

6 All cleansed.

Defective and insanitary drains affecting forty-one dwellings ...

All remedied.

Defective W.Cs., broken pans ...

7 Ditto

Defective flush

5 Ditto

Broken Inspection Covers ...

2 Ditto

Insanitary Privies at a Lodge ...	2	Put on Pail System
Closets on the Pail System, or Dry Earth	15	Connected to Sewer
Polluted well water	2	Town supply laid on
Other polluted wells, with de- fective covers	3	Cleaned & repaired
Overcrowded dwellings	3	Nuisance abated
Other nuisances	19	Abated.

Sewage Farms.—The Sewage Farms and drainage outfalls have received the necessary attention during the year. At Earls Barton and Little Harrowden new managers have been appointed. Complaints have been made re pollution of stream from Wollaston, but there now appears that an improved system for the disposal of sewage will be brought forward at an early date. The Parish of Bozeat are also formulating an improved system, and are on the look out for a new site, having received notice to quit the present outfall works.

No complaints have been received from the Irchester or Isham farms during the year, and the other outfalls are working satisfactorily.

Night Scavenging.—The system of night scavenging is carried on at Bozeat, Grendon, Little Harrowden and Wollaston.

Practically only one half of the latter Parish have been connected with the main sewer, and the only reason is, the sewage outfall being insufficient.

The collection of house refuse has much improved. In my last report attention was called to the mode of collection at Wilby and Great Doddington, which was both dilatory and insufficient. Collections are now made every fortnight.

Dairy and Cowsheds are regularly inspected. In six cases it was necessary to call Cow-keepers attention to the insanitary condition of premises, such as accumulation of manure, defective drainage and dirty walls of Cowsheds. Nuisances were abated forthwith. The Dairy Cows are regularly inspected by Mr. E. W. Parks, Veterinary Surgeon, who presents his reports to the Council quarterly.

Dwellings found in a defective and dilapidated condition :—

Nature of Defects.			Number remedied.		
Defective Roofs	...	39	All repaired or new roofs		
Defective Chimney heads	...	18	All repaired or new heads		
Inside dilapidations	...	29	29 repaired.		
Defective Gutterings	...	21	21	,,	
Insanitary W.Cs.	...	3	3	,,	
Drainage Defects	...	4	4	,,	

Other Houses.—Extensive enlargements and improvements to houses at Irchester, Earls Barton and Chester House, the public Water Supply has been laid from Irchester at Owner's expense to Chester Farm.

Housing during the Year.

BY LOCAL AUTHORITY UNDER HOUSING SCHEME.

Houses completed during 1925		Houses in course of erection during 1925	
Bozeat	... 2	Irchester	... 18
Irchester	... 2	Grendon	... 2
Wollaston	... 2	Isham	... 1
Orlingbury	... 1	Wollaston	... 12
	—		—
	7		33
	—		—

BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Houses completed during 1925		Houses in course of erection	
Earls Barton	... 2		
Great Doddington	... 1		
	—		
	3		
	—		

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

No less than 1844 Rats were caught during the year.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The inspection of Meat has received every attention. My attention was called to inspect a beast recently killed,

which shewn every sign of tuberculosis, same was condemned as being totally unfit for the food of man, and was destroyed.

Slaughter Houses throughout the district were found on each visit to be well kept and clean with one exception. This was at once put in a sanitary condition. They are 15 in number.

Factories and Workshops, including Bakehouses and Laundries, have been visited as usual. It is sometimes necessary to call Owners' attention to the insanitary condition of the Lavatories in the Factories, but the fault is attributable to the carelessness and uncleanness of the workpeople employed, in many cases. It is the wish of the Employers that these conveniences should be kept in the best sanitary condition possible.

Outworkers are getting fewer each year.

Yours faithfully,

G. BAYES,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.—Bye-laws are in force dealing with dairies, bakehouses, and slaughter-houses. Model building bye-laws were adopted in 1925.

Offensive trades are under consideration. There are no lodging houses or underground sleeping rooms to the best of my knowledge.

Schools.—The sanitary condition of the Schools are fairly good on the whole. The public elementary schools are under the administration of the County Council.

HOUSING.

I. General Housing Conditions in the Area.

These vary greatly in different parishes. In places like Earls Barton and Wollaston there are a fair number of modern houses built within the last thirty years, which are on the whole much better than in many industrial towns. In many parishes however, the houses are very old and require a great deal of

repairing to keep them fit for habitation. The chief difficulty in getting repairs carried out within a reasonable time, owing to the conditions of the building trade.

On the whole the general housing conditions are rather better than are to be found in the average rural area.

(2). (a). *Extent of Shortage of Houses.*—In 1919 it was estimated that during the next three years 98 houses would be required to remedy the existing shortage. At the end of 1925, a total of 71 houses had been completed, of which 43 were State aided. It is probable therefore that another 100 working class houses are required in this area in the immediate future.

(b). To meet this shortage it is contemplated erecting the following houses subject to the sanction of the Ministry.

Irchester	...	...	...	24
Little Irchester	...	...	...	10
Isham	...	...	...	8
Little Harrowden	...	...	...	12
Wollaston	...	...	...	8
				—
Total	...	...	...	62
				—

There is therefore some improvement in the prospect, and it is to be hoped the promise will be fulfilled.

(3). There has been a slight increase in the population since the census, viz. 326. For 1925 the estimated increase in population was the small figure of 10 compared with 1924, and no important charge is anticipated.

II. Overcrowding.

(1). There is a good deal of overcrowding in the area, but it is difficult to estimate its extent. The chief parishes affected are Bozeat, Wollaston, Irchester, Isham and Little Harrowden.

(2). The chief cause is the shortage of houses. When young couples get married, there is nothing for it in many cases but to live under the parental roof, or obtain a room or rooms elsewhere. Large families do not exist to any great extent. Overcrowding cannot be on the increase because the population is now only 160 more than it was in 1911, roughly an average increase of eight persons per annum during the last twenty-four years, and there are now 50 more houses than there were in 1921.

(3). The only way of dealing with overcrowding is the provision of more houses and that is being done as far as possible under the difficulties that exist.

(4). Three cases of overcrowding were specifically dealt with. In two instances, there were two families in one house and in the other the family was too large for the house. Eventually other accommodation was found for them.

III. Fitness of Houses.

(1). (a). The general standard of housing in the area has been referred to above. Many are fairly old if not ancient, and if other more modern houses were available, many would be demolished. Many lack sufficient lighting, proper drainage and water supply, and suitable storage for food, while one of the commonest defects is dampness. There are no back to back houses and no overcrowding of houses, so that there is plenty of ventilation available.

(b). The chief defects are those mentioned above, and those of general repairs.

(c). It is difficult to say how far defects are due to faults of the owners or faults of the tenants, but many of the latter could have much better houses than they have, if they would take more care of them. Choked drains, broken W.C. pans, and interior defects are largely due to carelessness on the part of the tenants. A reference to the Sanitary Inspector's Report will show the chief defects remedied during the year.

(2). The action taken as regards unfit houses has been under the Public Health Acts and it will be seen that 102 informal and four Statutory Notices were served.

(3). The chief difficulty found in remedying unfitness has been getting the repair work done. The difficulties in the building trade and the delay in carrying out jobs is too well known to enlarge upon. There is also the cost, and if much work is required in making a house fit, the owner is more likely to close it down. Time and patience and the gradual carrying out of repairs seem to be the only way to get any improvements effected. No special action has been taken to secure improved management by owners, or better care of property by tenants, though much might be done in this direction.

(4). Water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal have been already dealt with.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a)	Total (including numbers given seperately under (b).	
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts.	
(i)	By the Local Authority...	—
(ii)	By other persons ...	7
	Without State Assistance ...	3

1.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection :—

1.	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	58
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	2
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
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 ...	37

2.—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 ...	37
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing, Act, 1925 :	
1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	2
2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners ...	1
	Demolished by Owner ...	1
(b)	By Local Authority ...	—

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	37
(2). Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	—
(a) By Owners	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing, Act, 1925 :	
(1). Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	—
(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	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The quality of the milk produced in the area is very good and compares favourably with that of similar areas.

As will be noted from the Veterinary Inspector's Report, a good deal of supervision is required to keep premises anything like clean and more importance should be attached to general cleanliness, not only of premises and utensils, but the udders of the cows and the hands of the milkers. The distribution of milk leaves much to be desired. One too frequently sees milk being transferred from churns on the highway.

On the whole the cows in the area are well bred and healthy.

No action has been taken during the year under the various orders and no licence granted under the Milk Order of 1923.

*To the Joint Committee of the Urban and Rural Districts
of Wellingborough.*

VETERINARY INSPECTOR'S SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

During the last twelve months, three inspections have been made of the premises in the occupation of the registered cowkeepers, and an individual examination of the dairy cows contained therein, special attention being paid to the udders.

The general sanitary condition of the cowsheds shows improvement, but there is still room for more. Strict supervision has to be exercised over limewashing and manure accumulations. The cleanliness of the floors, the cows' udders and extremities, and often the milkers' hands, do not receive sufficient attention.

The general condition of the cows throughout the year, with very few exceptions, has been most satisfactory. Fewer old cows are retained in the sheds; younger and consequently more healthy cows are taking their place.

On 1st September, The Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act and The Tuberculosis Order 1925 came into force. When these are properly applied and enforced, a great improvement should take place in the production of milk. Under the former Act, all Districts should eventually have their cows and cowsheds systematically inspected.

The number of cows inspected, the condition of their udders receiving special attention, is 3551, of which 3530 or 99.40 per cent., showed no clinical derangement. The udders found to be abnormal, whether from benign or serious affections, numbered 21 or .59 per cent., and were in a condition calculated to render the milk harmful for human consumption. Of these, 17, or .47 per cent. of the total number of cows, were affected with tuberculosis, the remainder being cases of either acute or suppurative mastitis.

The cowkeepers continue to display willingness to act on my suggestions, and to abate the various nuisances when pointed out.

Attached is a Tabular Statement of the Inspections, Nuisances, etc., for the year, showing the total figures for the whole area, and for the Urban and Rural areas respectively : also, for comparison, the figures for last year, when, owing to the prevalence of foot and mouth disease, only two inspections were made.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. W. PARKS, Lt.-Col. M.R.C.V.S.

Veterinary Inspector.

31st December, 1925.

	TOTAL.		URBAN.		RURAL.	
	1925	1924	1925	1924	1925	1924
No. of Cowkeepers ...	101	102	14	15	87	87
No. of Properties inspected	310	184	39	27	271	157
Accumulation of Manure in too close proximity to Cowsheds ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping Swine in Cowsheds	1	—	—	—	1	—
Insanitary and not satisfactory floors ...	2	5	—	1	2	4
Neglect of Limewashing ...	26	7	3	3	23	4
No. of cows inspected	3551	2076	489	338	3062	1738
No. of Healthy Udders	3530 or 99.40%	2058 or 99.13%	488 or 99.79%	334 or 98.81%	3042 or 99.34%	1724 or 99.19%
No. of abnormal Udders secreting harmful milk ...	21 or .59%	18 or .86%	1 or .20%	4 or 1.18%	20 or .65%	14 or .80%
*No. of tubercular Udders...	14 or .39%	16 or .77%	1 or .20%	4 or 1.18%	13 or .42%	12 or .68%

* The No. of Tubercular Udders is also included in the No. of Abnormal Udders.

(b). **Meat.**—(1). The inspection of Meat is rather a difficulty in a wide and scattered area like this, and to be done efficiently requires the services of a qualified inspector who can devote more time to it than a man who has the other multifarious duties of a Sanitary Inspector to carry out. Under the Meat Regulations, 1924, the butchers notify the Inspector of their fixed days for killing, and at other times when necessary.

Shops, stalls and vehicles are inspected as far as possible, and on the whole the Regulations are being carried out as well as can be expected.

During the year one beast was found to be tuberculous on inspection after killing, and was condemned.

Slaughter-houses are licensed year by year.

	In 1920.	In January 1925.	In December 1925
Registered	—	—	—
Licensed	15	15	15
	—	—	—
Total	15	15	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.

(d). No cases of food poisoning occurred in the area during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

Since 1920 the two chief infectious diseases prevalent in the area have been scarlet fever and diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of notifications of this disease for the last five years have been respectively 9, 34, 40, 80 and 71. A total of 234. It is noteworthy that of this total Wollaston contributed 112 cases, or nearly 50%. Why it should do so, I do not know.

During the last four years scarlet fever was very prevalent in surrounding areas as well; the majority of cases were very mild and there is no doubt that the undiscovered mild cases were a certain source. Also the increased transport facilities between towns and villages, particularly the closed in motor buses, no doubt help in the spread of infection. As proving the comparative mildness of the disease, only two deaths occurred in the 234 cases notified. There were no 'return' cases.

Diphtheria.—The number of notifications of this disease during the five years were respectively 11, 10, 1, 10, 11, a total of 43. Out of this total Bozeat and Wollaston furnished respectively 14 and 15 cases. During the five years there were 8 deaths. How many of these cases were due to "carriers" it is difficult to say. Efforts were made to trace any, and in one instance, in Wollaston, a carrier was found, a lad who delivered bread and therefore a good subject to spread the disease. There is no doubt however that many cases were due to direct infection.

Unfortunately there is no Isolation Hospital for these cases, though a few are removed to the Wellingborough Isolation Hospital. In diphtheria skilful nursing may mean all the difference between life and death, and all cases should be treated in hospital. Anti-toxin is supplied free to doctors and is used promptly in all cases. Unfortunately some cases are not seen until it is too late for the serum to be effective.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—Only one case was notified, in 1923, and it recovered.

Ophthalmia Monatorum.—Only two cases were notified, one in 1922, and the other in 1925, and in neither was there any serious permanent damage.

Enteric Fever.—In the five years only one case was notified, which unfortunately died.

Puerperal Fever.—It is very satisfactory to note that in five years there has been only one notification of this disease, and what is still more satisfactory, no deaths.

Small-pox.—Although this disease was rife in other districts in the county in 1925, this area escaped, a matter of luck. It is fortunate that there were no cases, for had any occurred, they would have had to stay in their own homes, as there is no accommodation provided for isolation of this disease.

Chicken-pox.—Owing to the prevalence of Small-pox it was thought desirable to make this disease notifiable in May, 1925, and from then until the end of the year, 18 cases were notified.

Laboratory Work.—Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Northampton General Hospital. During the year 24 specimens, all throat swabs, were sent to the Laboratory. Most of them were suspected cases of diphtheria, or contacts.

No use has been made during the year of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever. No vaccinations were performed under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Non-notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—For information regarding these diseases one is chiefly dependent on the Form M.I. 47, a copy of which is sent to me by the head-teachers of the various elementary schools. **Whooping Cough** was prevalent during the early part of the year, particularly at Bozeat. There was one death from this malady, which is frequently treated too casually by parents. **Rubella** or German Measles, made its appearance in the autumn when it was epidemic in neighbouring districts.

Otherwise the district was remarkably free from non-notifiable infectious diseases.

There are no facilities in the area for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings. The Sanitary Inspector visits the premises where there has been any infectious disease, and disinfects premises and articles which have been exposed to infection. Vide Sanitary Inspector's Report.

On page 25 will be found a tabular statement of the notifiable diseases set out according to the incidence in the various parishes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year was 16 of which 14 were pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary and I append a table giving details of notifications and deaths. It will be noted in both cases that the pulmonary form of the disease would appear to be more prevalent among females. There has been some improvement in the death rate of the disease in the last three years, as will be noted on referring to page 29.

Notification of tuberculosis in this area is on the whole quite efficient, and there has been no necessity to take any action as regards neglect or refusal to notify.

Of the tuberculosis deaths, 10 in number, 2 were unnotified, at any rate in this district. Both unnotified cases were non-pulmonary forms of the disease.

NOTIFICATION AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1925.

Showing age periods.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non.-Pul.		Pulmonary		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
15 ...	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—
20 ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
25 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
35 ...	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
45 ...	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	4	10	1	1	2	5	2	1

ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

During the Year 1925.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				TOTAL.	MALES.	FEMALES
1.	Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	—	...	—
2.	Small-pox ... ..	...	...	—	...	—
3.	Measles ... ..	...	...	—	...	—
4.	Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	1	1	—
5.	Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	1	—	1
6.	Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	—	...	—
7.	Influenza ... ..	...	...	9	6	3
8.	Encephalitis lethargica ... ..	...	...	—	...	—
9.	Meningococcal meningitis ... ..	...	...	—	...	—
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ... ..	...	...	7	2	5
11.	Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	...	...	3	2	1
12.	Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	...	...	17	10	7
13.	Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	1	—	1
14.	Diabetes ... ..	...	...	4	2	2
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	...	...	12	6	6
16.	Heart Disease ... ..	...	...	24	15	9
17.	Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	...	...	5	3	2
18.	Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	12	6	6
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)... ..	...	...	4	3	1
20.	Other respiratory diseases ... ..	...	...	3	2	1
21.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	...	...	2	1	1
22.	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 yrs.) ... ..	...	...	—	—	—
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis ... ..	...	...	2	1	1
24.	Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	...	...	—	—	—
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis ... ..	...	...	3	—	3
26.	Puerperal sepsis ... ..	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ... ..	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth ... ..	...	...	10	6	4
29.	Suicide ... ..	...	...	1	1	—
30.	Other deaths from violence ... ..	...	...	4	3	1
31.	Other defined diseases... ..	...	...	33	20	13
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	2	2	—
Total				160	92	68

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1925. Shewing Number of Cases in each Parish.

DISEASES.	BOZEAT.	GT. DODDINGTON.	EARLS BARTON.	EASTON MAUDIT.	ECTON.	GRENDON.	HARDWICK.	GT. HARROWDEN.	LITTLE HARROWDEN.	HIGHAM PARK.	IRCHESTER.	ISHAM.	MEARS ASHBY.	NEWTON BROMSHOLD.	ORLINGBURY.	STRIXTON.	SYWELL.	WILBY.	WOLLASTON.	TOTAL.
Small Pox ...									1											Nil.
Erysipelas ...									2		3		6		1	1	2	1	51	4
Scarlet Fever ...	1	2	3			1														71
Diphtheria ...	2																2		7	11
Encep. Lethargica ...																				Nil.
Enteric Fever ...																				Nil.
Pneumonia ...	1																			1
Respiratory Tuberculosis			3			1		1			3				1			2	3	14
(Other Forms) ...			1								1									2
Puerperal Fever ...																				Nil.
Chicken Pox ...		1	1								11							2	3	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum						1														1
	4	3	8			3			4		18		6		2	1	4	5	64	122

CLOSET AND SCAVENGING SYSTEM IN THE VARIOUS PARISHES.

PARISH.		CLOSET SYSTEM.	SCAVENGING.
Bozeat	...	Pail or Dry Earth	Collected.
Doddington	...	Hand Flushed W.Cs.	Ashpits, emptied fortnightly.
Earls Barton	...	Water Carriage	Refuse collected.
Easton Maudit	...	Pail or Dry Earth	Ashpits.
Ecton	...	Water Carriage	"
Grendon	...	Pail Closets	Refuse collected.
Hardwick	...	"	Ashpits.
Gt. Harrowden	...	Pail (part & W.Cs.)	"
Lt. Harrowden	...	Pail Closets	Collected.
Irchester	...	Water Closets	"
Isham	...	"	Ashpits.
Mears Ashby	...	"	"
Newton Bromshold & Higham Park		Pail Closets	"
Orlingbury...	...	"	"
Strixton	...	"	"
Sywell	...	"	"
Wilby	...	Water Closets	Emptied fortnightly.
Wollaston	...	Part Water Closets Part Pail Closets	Collected.

WATER SUPPLIES IN THE PARISHES OF THE COUNCIL.

Parish.	No. of Inhabited Houses.		Supply.
Bozeat	342	Shallow Wells.
Gt. Doddington	...	125	Partial Scheme supplied by stand pipes, made up from shallow wells.
Earls Barton	740	Public Supply.
Easton Maudit	...	39	„
Ecton	141	„
Grendon...	127	Shallow Wells.
Hardwick	20	Public Supply.
Gt. Harrowden	...	28	Supplied from Private Water.
Little Harrowden	...	179	Shallow Wells.
Irchester	581	From Higham and Rushden Public Supply.
Isham	100	Public Supply.
Mears Ashby	109	H.F. and Rushden Supply and Wells.
Newton Bromshold & Higham Park	...	26	Deep and Shallow Wells.
Orlingbury	74	Shallow Wells.
Strixton	15	„
Sywell	49	„
Wilby	115	Public Supply.
Wollaston	577	Tower. Supplied from the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Public Supply.

**Comparison of Local Vital Statistics with those of the
Whole Country.**

1925	Birth Rate per 1000 total pop.	Deaths	Deaths under 1 year to 1000 births
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	75
105 Great Towns, including London	18.8	12.2	79
157 Smaller Towns	18.3	11.2	74
London	18.0	11.7	67
Wellingborough Rural District	16.4	10.3	57.4

**Comparison of Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infantile
Mortality Rate for the last fifteen 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	13.1	11.11	58.41
1921	20.8	13.28	76.9
1922	17.9	12.4	61.9
1923	17.2	11.4	77.9
1924	15.1	12.7	52.1
1925	16.4	10.3	57.4

**Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis
During the last ten years.**

Year	Total Notifi- cations	Respira- tory	Other Forms	Total Deaths	Respira- tory	Other Forms
1917	37	31	6	21	17	4
1918	33	30	3	12	10	2
1919	24	18	6	13	12	1
1920	15	15	0	6	3	3
1921	18	16	2	14	12	2
1922	22	20	2	15	12	3
1923	12	11	1	8	5	3
1924	15	12	3	11	8	3
1925	16	14	2	10	7	3





