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The Urban District Council of  
Wellingborough

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# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

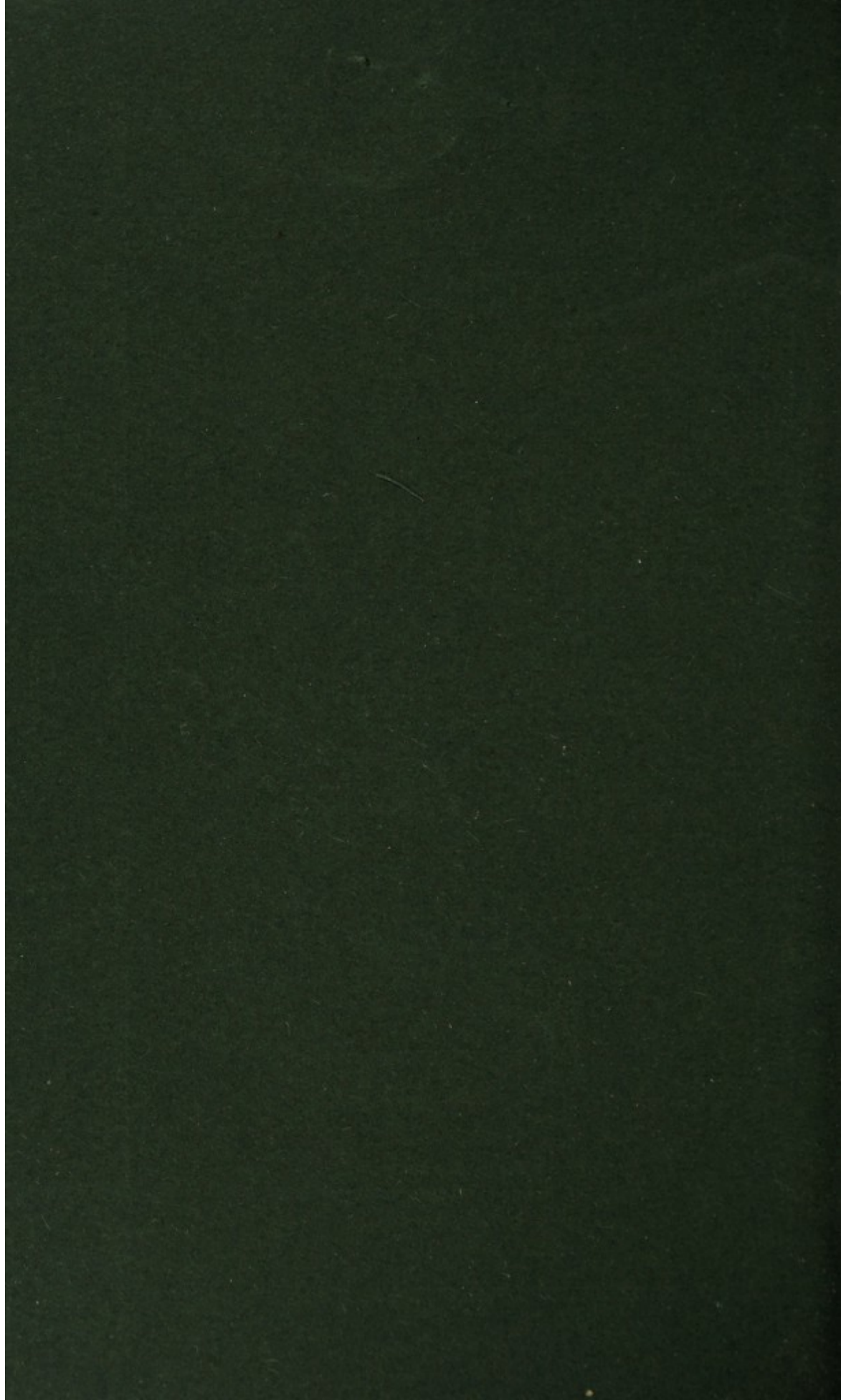
For the Year 1938

BY

JAMES ARTHUR, M.D.

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# The Urban District Council of Wellingborough.

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## REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to herewith present to your notice my report on the health of the District during the year 1938.

As requested by the Ministry of Health, it is an " Ordinary Report " and not a " Survey Report."

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the officials of the Council to whom I am greatly indebted for their courtesy and help in carrying out this work of the Department.

In particular I am much indebted to the Sanitary Staff, Messrs. W. E. Hall and Pickering.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. ARTHUR,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*May, 1939.*

## STATISTICS FOR 1938.

WELLINGBOROUGH AND FINEDON COMBINED.

|                                                   |     |     |     |     |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Population (Census 1931)                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25,321   |
| Estimated Population (1936) (Mid-year)            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26,210   |
| Birth Rate                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.4     |
| Crude Death Rate                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11.8     |
| Adjusted Death Rate                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10.8     |
| Infantile Mortality                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 46.6     |
| Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.49     |
| Maternal Mortality                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil.     |
| Total Live Births :—                              |     |     |     |     |          |
| Legitimate                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 289      |
| Illegitimate                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11       |
|                                                   |     |     |     | —   | 300      |
| Total Deaths from all Causes                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 310      |
| Total Deaths of Infants under One Year :—         |     |     |     |     |          |
| Legitimate                                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14       |
| Illegitimate                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil.     |
|                                                   |     |     |     | —   | 14       |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)...                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil.     |
| "    "    Whooping Cough (all ages)               | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil      |
| "    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)        | ... | ... | ... | ... | nil      |
| Area of District in Acres (land and inland water) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,738    |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (1931 Census)          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,396    |
| "    "    "    "    (Estimated)                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,550    |
| Average Number of persons per House (1931)        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3.7      |
| "    "    "    "    (1938)                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3.5      |
| Rateable Value, 31st December, 1938               | ... | ... | ... | ... | £150,502 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate (estimated)       | ... | ... | ... | ... | £572     |



## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

**Area.**—The area covered by the Urban District of Wellingborough amounts to 8,738 acres.

**Population.**—At the last Census taken in 1931, the population of the Wellingborough and Finedon combined Districts was 25,321. The estimated mid-year population for 1938, according to the Registrar General's figures was 26,210. It is rather an extraordinary fact that during the last three years, the estimated population was increased by the same figure, viz : 30.

**Number of Inhabited Houses.**—According to the Rate Books this number is 7,550, compared with 7,490 in 1937, an increase of 120 in the year. The average number of persons per house is 3.5 compared with the Census figure of 3.7.

**Rateable Value.**—At the end of 1938 the estimated Rateable Value of the area was £150,502, an increase on the previous year of £3,107, while the sum represented by a penny rate increased by £15 to £572.

**Social Conditions.**—The chief industries of the area are :—

Boot and shoe manufacturing, which is still the staple trade.

Ready-made clothing manufacturing.

Quarrying and smelting of ironstone.

Engineering of various kinds.

Employment in general remained fairly satisfactory during the year. As regards men, the following are the figures at the close of the last four years.

|            |                   |      |                       |     |
|------------|-------------------|------|-----------------------|-----|
| Dec. 1935. | Wholly unemployed | 195. | Temporarily suspended | 46  |
| „ 1936.    | „                 | 284. | „                     | 63  |
| „ 1937.    | „                 | 153. | „                     | 74  |
| „ 1938     | „                 | 194. | „                     | 109 |

On the whole, the various industries are carried on in healthy surroundings and there is no evidence that any particular occupation has any deleterious influence on the public health.

Fortunately most of the industries obtain their power from gas or electricity, so that there is an absence of the smoke nuisance which is such a problem in many industrial areas. The two chief troubles in this area are dust and grit from iron works, and the burning of leather bits in shoe factories. Both of these are public nuisances, but I am unable to prove that they are detrimental to health.

# Extracts from Vital Statistics.

|                                                         |                | Total      | M.         | F.                                                                 |                                                          |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Live Births                                             | { Legitimate   | 289        | 144        | 145                                                                | { Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 11.4. |      |
|                                                         | { Illegitimate | 11         | 5          | 6                                                                  |                                                          |      |
|                                                         |                | <u>300</u> | <u>149</u> | <u>151</u>                                                         |                                                          |      |
| Still Births                                            | ...            | 13         | 5          | 8                                                                  | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)             | 41   |
| Deaths                                                  | ...            | 310        | 165        | 145                                                                | Death Rate                                               | 10.8 |
| Deaths from Puerperal causes                            |                |            |            | { from Puerperal Sepsis Nil<br>from other puerperal causes ... Nil |                                                          |      |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births            |                |            |            | ...                                                                | ...                                                      | Nil  |
| Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—          |                |            |            |                                                                    |                                                          |      |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births                       |                |            |            | ...                                                                | ...                                                      | 46.6 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     |                |            |            | 48.4                                                               |                                                          |      |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births |                |            |            | Nil                                                                |                                                          |      |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                           |                |            |            | ...                                                                | ...                                                      | 53   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                          |                |            |            | ...                                                                | ...                                                      | 1    |
| ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)                            |                |            |            | ...                                                                | ...                                                      | Nil  |
| ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)                     |                |            |            | ...                                                                | ...                                                      | Nil  |

*Births.*—(a) *Live Births.*—The total number of births registered during 1938 was 300, a figure which was 9 less than in 1937, and gives a live birth rate of 11.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with a rate of 11.8 in 1937 and 12.8 in 1936. The sexes were almost equal.

As usual, it is well below the figure for England and Wales, which is 15.1 per 1,000. (vide table on page 22).

(b) *Still Births.*—There were 13 still born children registered which is one less than in 1937; five were males and eight females.

*Illegitimate Births.*—These remain much the same. In 1938 there were 11, the same as in 1937. In 1934 there were 14 and during the last four years the total has declined by one each year.

*Deaths.*—The total net deaths in 1938 were 310, compared with 304 in 1937. Male deaths exceeded female by 20, the figures being Male, 165; Female, 145.



Taking the estimated population as 26,210, the *crude* death rate for 1938 works out at 11.9, but the *corrected* rate, *i.e.*, the rate which would be arrived at if the age and sex constitution of the area was in the same proportion as the rest of the country, is 10.8 per 1,000, compared with 9.9 in 1937. The rate for England and Wales is 11.6.

As regards the cause of death, the analysis will be found on page 21. It will be noted that as usual *diseases of the circulation* are responsible for the greatest number of deaths, no less than one third of the total. The second is *Cancer* which was responsible for 53, or roughly, one in six of the total deaths. These two classes of disease are responsible for the majority of the Senile deaths. *Respiratory diseases*, excluding tuberculosis, are third with 24 deaths, which is much the same as in previous years. The only noteworthy difference was the few deaths recorded from *Influenza*, compared with most years. Only 4 were registered in 1938.

*Infantile Mortality.*—It was not to be expected that the astonishingly low record of 1937 would be maintained. The infantile deaths rose in 1938 from 7 to 14, double the 1937 figure. Ten of the total were due to congenital malformations or premature birth. The rate is 46 per 1,000 live births, which however is less than the average, the rate for England and Wales being 53 per 1,000.

*Maternal Mortality.*—It is satisfactory to again have to report no Maternal Mortality during 1938.

*Zymotic Deaths.*—There was one death each from Measles and Diphtheria.

To sum up the vital statistics for 1938 :—the birth rate remains practically the same as in 1937 ; the death rate and infantile mortality rate are both higher than in the previous year ; the tuberculosis death rate is slightly lower than 1937 ; and once again there has been no Maternal Mortality.



## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### (i) **Public Health Officers :—**

(a) *Medical.* One part-time Medical Officer.

(b) *Others.* One Chief Sanitary Inspector, who holds Certificates of Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Foods Inspector of the Royal Sanitary Institute: Fellowship Certificates of the Institute of Sanitary Engineers; Clerk of Works Certificate. One Assistant Inspector who holds the Certificates in Sanitation and Meat Inspection of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—As in former years the work is carried out at the Laboratory of Northampton General Hospital, and considerable use is made of the facilities.

The total number of specimens examined during the year was 148 as compared with 287 in 1937.

Of the total, there were 111 swabs; 26 specimens of sputum; 8 blood tests; 2 faeces; 1 urine.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—There have been no changes during the year. Infectious cases are removed by the Council's motor ambulance.

Non-infectious, accident, and maternity cases are moved by the ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade—a well managed and expeditious service.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—There have been no changes during the year.

(a) *General.* There are District Nurses working in the area, provided by the County Nursing Association, but they are in no way under the administration of the Local Authority.

(b) *Infectious Cases.*—Nurses for Measles, etc., are provided by the County Council as and when required.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**—These are all under the administration of the County Council.

(e) **Hospitals.**—There have been no changes during the year in the hospital services, either public or voluntary. There are only two provided by the Local Authority, the Isolation and the Small-pox Hospitals.

It was finally decided during 1938 that a Joint Hospital Board should be appointed to provide Hospital facilities for infectious diseases and possibly some progress with that in view will be made during 1939.

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

1. (i) *Water*.—The rainfall in 1938 at the waterworks area was 24.1 inches, which is practically the average amount (24.4). This, however, is considerably less than in the two preceeding years when the total was over 30 inches.

The consumption of water increases every year and therefore the provision of a constant supply is an ever increasing source of anxiety to every Local Authority.

In 1938 the supply was ample for all purposes and the total consumption increased by 11,000,000 gallons, the figures are as follows :—

Total consumption : 174,222,692 gallons.

Average daily consumption : 477,322 gallons.

Average daily consumption per head : 17.1 gallons.

It is interesting to note that the daily consumption per head in the last three years has been—15.58, 16.69 and 17.1 gallons respectively. In 1913 the average was  $9\frac{1}{2}$  gallons.

The quality of the water has been excellent, and bacteriological examinations were made from time to time, the results being most satisfactory.

During the year a 5in. rising main was completed from the Bushfield Station to Finedon, at a cost of £7,000. This gives an additional and adequate supply to the Finedon Ward.

A new 8in. trunk main costing £1,500 was constructed from the reservoir to the new building estates on both sides of the Northampton Road, and there have also been the usual extensions to other new houses.

*Drainage and Sewerage*.—During the year the New Pumping Station in the Cattle Market Paddock together with the new mains and settling tanks were finished, and came into operation before the end of the year. These pumps are supposed to pump a maximum of 66,000 gallons per hour but in practice it is found that this amount can be exceeded. 35,000 gallons (dry weather flow) can be pumped to the new settling tanks and twice that quantity of storm water dealt with.

Extensions of sewers were made as and when required to new housing estates.

During 1938 the number of gallons pumped on to the Farm from the old pumping station was 171,295,840, which is roughly  $8\frac{1}{2}$  million gallons less than in the previous year ; but this difference is due to the fact that pumping from the New



Station at the Cattle Market commenced on 1st November, so reducing the quantity delivered into the old tanks.

The sewage farms at Wellingborough and Finedon were well maintained, and at frequent intervals samples of the effluent from both farms have been sent to the laboratory. In every instance the report has been satisfactory.

2. *Rivers and Streams*.—Considerable improvements were made during the year in the case of the river Nene, by the Catchment Board—dredging of the stream and repairs to locks. The Swanspool brook was under constant supervision and there was a great improvement in the flow and general cleanliness of the stream.

Unfortunately, the rivers and streams in the area have a very slight fall, and constant work in cleaning out weeds and deposited mud is the only way to keep them in good condition.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—With the closing down of old houses, and the emigration of their inhabitants to new houses, there is a steady improvement in this matter, and the number of hand flushed closets is declining gradually every year. There should be no hand flushed closets; every W.C. should have a flushing cistern.

There are no privies, except in the agricultural part of the area.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—There were no changes of note during 1938. The question of the Council providing and maintaining dustbins for the reception of house refuse under the Public Health Act, 1936 (Sec. 75) was given consideration but has not so far been proceeded with. There is no doubt that the adoption of such a scheme would be a great improvement on the present method and would increase economy and efficiency in the collection of refuse. Many of the present containers in use are most unsatisfactory. Generally the collecting of refuse has been well done, and house refuse goes on increasing. It is becoming more difficult for householders to burn much of their refuse, owing to the new methods of domestic heating. Householders should be encouraged to burn as much as they can, and thus lessen the amount to be conveyed to the tip.

There have been fewer complaints about the tip in Sidegate Lane, but the conditions are not too satisfactory with this method. The number of rats has been reduced, but never will be eradicated in a tip of this sort. The advocates of controlled



tipping claim that such tips are free from vermin, and the method might well be tried in this area; it could not be worse than the present uncontrolled system.

There have been gradual extensions during the year in the amount of scavenging, which on the whole is quite well done. There is still a large amount of unnecessary paper litter in the streets, and not sufficient use is made of the litter baskets attached to the lamp posts. Possibly if more conspicuous ones were attached to every lamp post in the main thoroughfares more use would be made of them.

In the winter of 1938 there were fewer complaints about the dust and grit from the streets, caused by the sprinkling in frosty weather of sand and gravel. This is probably due to the fact that there was very little frost apart from the snow, and a good deal of the grit was swept up with the snow.

(iii) *Sanitary Inspection of the Area.*—This work has been efficiently carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Hall and staff, and I append his report. It will be noted that it was not necessary in one instance to issue a Statutory Notice.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

FROM 1st JANUARY, 1938 to 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

|                                    |     |     |     |                  |
|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| Dwelling-houses and other Premises | ... | ... | ... | 1104             |
| Bakehouses                         | ... | ... | ... | 59               |
| Slaughter-houses                   | ... | ... | ... | 410              |
| Dairies and Milkshops              | ... | ... | ... | 96               |
| Factories and Workshops            | ... | ... | ... | 56               |
| Infectious Cases Investigated      | ... | ... | ... | 45               |
| Rooms and Clothing Disinfected     | ... | ... | ... | 132              |
| Re-Inspections, etc.               | ... | ... | ... | 375              |
|                                    |     |     |     | <hr/> 2277 <hr/> |

## SUMMARY OF NUISANCES AND INFRINGEMENTS.

A tabular statement of the work performed by the Sanitary Inspector during the year 1938, supplied in pursuance of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

| Nature                               | Found | Informal Notices | Statutory Notices | Remedied or in hand |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Houses or Premises Insanitary ...    | 29    | 29               |                   | 29                  |
| Houses Dilapidated ... ..            | 26    | 26               |                   | 26                  |
| Yards Defective ... ..               | 35    | 35               |                   | 35                  |
| Drains Defective ... ..              | 25    | 25               |                   | 25                  |
| Drains Choked ..... ..               | 17    | 17               |                   | 17                  |
| W.C.'s Defective ... ..              | 13    | 13               |                   | 13                  |
| Sinks Defective ... ..               | 30    | 30               |                   | 30                  |
| Rainwater Guttering Defective ...    | 32    | 32               |                   | 32                  |
| Accumulation of Refuse ... ..        | 8     | 8                |                   | 8                   |
| Bakehouses, Limewashing required ... | 3     | 3                |                   | 3                   |
| Offences under Factory Acts ... ..   | 11    | 11               |                   | 11                  |
| Miscellaneous ... ..                 | 19    | 19               |                   | 19                  |
|                                      | 248   | 248              |                   | 248                 |

## FOOD CONDEMNED.

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Meat ... ..              | 17 cwts. |
| Fish ... ..              | 50 lbs.  |
| Tins of Fruit &c. ... .. | 286.     |

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

|                                      | Inspections | Notices | Complied |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Factories ... ..                     | 23          | 1       | 1        |
| Workshops ... ..                     | 39          | 10      | 10       |
|                                      | 62          | 11      | 11       |
|                                      | ==          | ==      | ==       |
| Defects in Factories and Workshops.  |             |         |          |
| Want of Cleanliness ... ..           |             |         | 9        |
| Sanitary Accommodation defective ... |             |         | 1        |
| Other Nuisances ... ..               |             |         | 1        |
|                                      |             |         | 11       |
|                                      |             |         | ==       |



## SHOPS ACT.

|                             |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Inspections under Shops Act | ... | ... | ... | ... | 210 |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

## MILK SAMPLES.

|                                                         |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Number of Samples taken for bacteriological examination | 96     |
| Number of Samples found to be good                      | ... 43 |
| Number of Samples found to be bad                       | ... 35 |
| Number of Samples found to be moderate                  | ... 18 |

W. E. HALL,  
Sanitary Inspector.

1st January, 1939.

(iv.) *Shops*.—During the year 210 inspections of shops were made, but no action was taken under the provisions of the Shop Acts, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

(v.) *Smoke Abatement*.—There have been no grave complaints to remedy during the year. The chief trouble has been caused by the burning of leather bits. I have referred to this nuisance in previous reports. In the case of factories some improvement has been effected by co-operation, but constant vigilance is required. Where these leather bits are burned in domestic fires it is almost impossible to take action.

(vi.) *Swimming Baths and Pools*.—(a) *Public*.—There are no public swimming baths or pools in the area. The only public swimming place in the area is the Bathing Place in the River Nene, which has been maintained satisfactorily on the whole by the Council. Why the present site was chosen remains a mystery, when a much better one in every way would have been above the main road bridge in the vicinity of the Nene Wharf. Quite a satisfactory bathing place and swimming pool could have been made there, away from the main stream; but probably there were difficulties in the way that we know nothing of.

Now that the river is to become a highway, for the navigation of barges up and down stream, the bathing place is going to be more difficult to maintain, and even at present there is always the possibility of pollution from Little Irchester. In my opinion the ideal for bathing facilities in this area



would be an open air pool *above* the road bridge, which could be fed with running water from the river and the construction of an indoor swimming bath, which would be open all the year round.

In addition, the provision of slipper baths is urgently needed, as there are many houses in this area which have no bathrooms.

(b) *Private*.—There is a swimming pool in the grounds of Wellingborough School which is equipped with an efficient filtering and chlorinating plant.

(vii.) *Eradication of bed bugs*.—Not much has been done in this matter unfortunately, possibly owing to some lack of co-ordination.

Six council houses were reported to be infested during the year, and measures taken to disinfect them.

No other houses were reported during the year.

The measures taken have been to clear out the houses, remove architraves and skirtings and spray with various insecticides. So far, "Zaldecide" has proved to be the most efficacious.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Council.

4. *Schools*.—The administration of Schools is under the County Education Authority. As regards sanitation, there has been gradual improvement in the lavatory accommodation, provision of hand basins and drinking water facilities. A new School was in process of erection in Croyland Road to serve new building estates.

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

There was a lull in the building of new houses during 1938. Only 84 new houses were completed during the year, and all were built by private enterprise.

Progress was made however, with a new estate off Croyland Road, where 214 houses are being built by the Council. Considerable delay has been caused in obtaining a suitable site for new houses for the Finedon Ward.

In consequence there was little progress made in the re-housing of tenants and demolition of the Clearance Areas which were condemned. No re-development of Clearance Areas took place and no progress made in re-building on the unsightly

vacant plots in the centre of the town. There are some central sites which are crying out to be treated as Re-development Areas.

The question also arises whether sufficient consideration is being paid to the provision of houses for two widely differing types of tenants.

Firstly, the overcrowding survey of 1936 showed that a very high proportion of families consist of not more than two people. This emphasizes the need for building small houses especially designed for elderly couples and single persons who can only pay a low rent, and would leave larger houses for larger families.

Secondly, there are still some large families who need houses with four to six bedrooms.

In some areas, large houses are often built to interlock with small houses for couples or single people, so that if need be at any future time the blocks can be redivided to make two houses of average size.

*Overcrowding.*—Until more new houses are forthcoming, progress in alleviating overcrowding is bound to be slow. There has been some reduction, however, compared with the previous year; 52 houses containing 432 persons were found to be overcrowded, according to the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, compared with 62 houses and 516 persons in 1937.

The average number of persons in these houses is 8.3, the same figure as in 1937.

### Housing Statistics.

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) ... .. 359
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 359
  - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932 ... 42
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 42
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 42



|                                                                                                                                                                     |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 207 |
| 2. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—</i>                                                                                    |     |
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..                                  | 207 |
| 3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—</i>                                                                                                          |     |
| (a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936 : ... ..                                                                                      | 5   |
| (b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts ...                                                                                                                        | Nil |
| (c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :                                                                                                 |     |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made...                                                                                    | 79  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...                                                                                      | 63  |
| (d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :                                                                                                         |     |
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..                                                           | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...         | Nil |
| 4. <i>Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.</i>                                                                                                                   |     |
| (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..                                                                                                | 52  |
| 2. Number of families dwelling therein ...                                                                                                                          | 52  |
| 3. Number of persons dwelling therein ...                                                                                                                           | 432 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..                                                                                             | Nil |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..                                                                                             | 10  |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases                                                                                                                      | 84  |



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

(a) *Milk Supply*.—There has been little change in this area during the year. At the end of 1938, there were 19 premises occupied by Registered Cow keepers, the herds comprising 7 accredited and 12 non-designated, containing 264 cattle. The Veterinary Inspector, Lt.-Col. E. W. Parks, reported that the condition of these cattle may be regarded as satisfactory, and the only matters dealt with were one or two cases of neglected lime washing and defective floors.

So far as I can ascertain no samples of accredited, pasteurized, or T.T. milk were submitted during the year.

Ninety-six samples of ordinary milk were submitted for bacteriological examination: of these forty-three were good and thirty-five bad. No action was taken.

These results cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Whereas in 1937, 83% of the samples submitted were "good" last year only 44% were up to standard. There is evidently great room for improvement here.

(b) *Meat, etc.*—There were no changes during the year in the number of slaughter-houses or slaughtermen. Inspections were carried out as usual.

Twenty-one thousand, four hundred and twelve carcasses of home killed animals were examined during the year as follows:—

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

|                                                                                                  | Cattle<br>exclud-<br>ing<br>Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------------------|-------|
| Number killed (if known)                                                                         | 1845                              | 205   | 290     | 7556                  | 11806 |
| Number inspected ...                                                                             | 1845                              | 205   | 290     | 7556                  | 11806 |
| <i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>                                                         |                                   |       |         |                       |       |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                        | —                                 | —     | —       | 1                     | —     |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was con-<br>demned. ...                                 | —                                 | —     | —       | —                     | —     |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>disease other than tuber-<br>culosis. ... | —                                 | —     | —       | 0.001                 | —     |
| <i>Tuberculosis only.</i>                                                                        |                                   |       |         |                       |       |
| Whole carcasses condemned                                                                        | 2                                 | —     | —       | —                     | 3     |
| Carcasses of which some<br>part or organ was con-<br>demned ...                                  | 2                                 | —     | —       | —                     | —     |
| Percentage of the number<br>inspected affected with<br>tuberculosis ...                          | 0.20                              | —     | —       | —                     | 0.002 |

During the year the total meat condemned weighed 17 cwts. In addition 50 lbs. of fish were destroyed.

(c) *Adulteration, etc.*—The Acts and Regulations under this heading are enforced by the County Council.

(d) *Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.*—This work is carried out by the County Council.

(e) *Nutrition.*—No special work has been done on this subject.

(f) *Shell Fish (Molluscan).*—There is not a great quantity of shell fish marketed in the district, and it is not known from what layings exactly they come, as they are procured chiefly from wholesalers at the usual fish markets.



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

### GENERAL.

*Scarlet Fever.*—Scarlet fever, or the illness which is still designated as such, was responsible for 42 notifications, which is three more than in 1937. Thirty-six cases were admitted to hospital. All cases were mild and there were no deaths.

*Diphtheria.*—Only 4 cases were notified during 1938, which is three less than in the previous year. This is the lowest number for a great many years. There was one death, a woman of twenty-six years of age. There seemed to have been some difficulty in the diagnosis of this case, and she died the day after admission to hospital.

All the diphtheria cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital and Serum is freely provided to practitioners on request.

*Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.*—One case was notified and admitted to the Isolation Hospital. It was a very mild case.

*Puerperal Pyrexia.*—6 cases were notified. There were no deaths from any puerperal causes.

*Erysipelas.*—The only real increase in the year was in this malady. 16 cases, just double the number in 1937. It is a mystery why this condition should still remain on the list of notifiable diseases, while such infectious and fatal ailments like measles and whooping cough are not included.

*Regulations of 19th October, 1927.*—22 cases of acute primary pneumonia were notified, and for the first time since these Regulations were introduced, a case of malaria was notified. This was the case of a soldier recently returned to civil life after service in the East.

#### *Non-Notifiable Infectious Disease.*

*Measles* was prevalent at the beginning of the year. The epidemic, which started in November, 1937, lasted until April, 1938. Compared with recent epidemics it was a comparatively mild type of the disease with few complications. There was only one death, an infant of 8 months.

*Chicken-pox* was fairly prevalent in the infant schools. Indeed it appears to be almost endemic, but is a very mild ailment.

*Whooping Cough* was practically absent during the year. Fortunately there were no deaths to record.



# Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1938.

| Disease                      | Under<br>1<br>year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5  | 10 | 15 | 20 | 35 | 45 | 65 | Total<br>Cases<br>notified | Cases<br>admitted<br>to<br>hospital | Total<br>Dths. |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Small-pox ...                |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | —                          |                                     | —              |
| Diphtheria ...               |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    | 2  | 2  |    |    |    | 4                          | 6*                                  | 1              |
| Scarlet Fever ...            | 1                  |   | 2 | 8 | 2 | 20 | 6  | 2  | 1  |    |    |    | 42                         | 36                                  | —              |
| Enteric Fever ...            |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    | 1                          | 1                                   | —              |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ...        |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    |    | 4  | 2  |    |    | 6                          | —                                   | —              |
| Pneumonia, Acute Primary     |                    |   | 1 |   | 3 | 1  |    | 1  | 5  | 2  | 5  | 4  | 22                         | —                                   | 15†            |
| Erysipelas ...               |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    | 4  |    | 3  | 6  | 3  | 16                         | —                                   | —              |
| Ophthalmia<br>neonatorum ... | 1                  |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1                          | —                                   | —              |
| Malaria ...                  |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    | 1                          | —                                   | —              |
|                              |                    |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |                            |                                     |                |
|                              | 2                  |   | 3 | 8 | 5 | 21 | 6  | 9  | 13 | 8  | 11 | 7  | 93                         | —                                   | 16             |

\*Including contacts. †All forms.

## WELLINGBOROUGH ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1938.

List of Admissions and Discharges at the Hospital.

Number of Patients in Hospital on December 31st, 1937:—

|           | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Typhoid & Paratyphoid | Measles | Total |
|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| Urban ... | 4             | —          | —                     | —       | 4     |
| Rural ... | 1             | —          | —                     | —       | 1     |
|           |               |            |                       |         | 5     |

Admitted to Hospital during the year 1938.

|               | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. | Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever. | Measles. | Observation Cases. | Total |
|---------------|----------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------|-------|
| Urban ...     | 36             | 6           | 1                            | 2        | 2                  | 47    |
| Rural ...     | 5              | —           | —                            | —        | —                  | 5     |
| Irthlingboro' | 3              | 2           | —                            | —        | —                  | 5     |
| Rushden ...   | 1              | —           | —                            | —        | —                  | 1     |
|               | 45             | 8           | 1                            | 2        | 2                  | 58    |

Discharged during year.

|               |    |   |   |   |   |    |
|---------------|----|---|---|---|---|----|
| Urban ...     | 36 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 46 |
| Rural ...     | 5  | — | — | — | — | 5  |
| Irthlingboro' | 3  | 2 | — | — | — | 5  |
| Rushden ...   | 1  | — | — | — | — | 1  |
|               | 45 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 57 |

Died during year.

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Urban ... | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Remaining in Hospital.

31/12/38.

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Urban ... | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Rural ... | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
|           | 5 | — | — | — | — | 5 |

Beds occupied 1,657 days.

M. O'NEILL,  
*Matron.*



4 (a) *Prevention of Blindness.*—No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act of 1925.

(b) *Tuberculosis.*—No action was taken during the year under the Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, or under section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

*Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis during 1938 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 ...          | —         | —  | 1         | 2  | —         | —  | —         | 1  |
| 5—10 ...         | —         | —  | 1         | 1  | —         | —  | —         | —  |
| 10—15 ...        | —         | 1  | —         | —  | —         | —  | —         | —  |
| 15—20 ...        | 1         | 1  | —         | —  | —         | —  | —         | —  |
| 20—25 ...        | —         | 3  | 1         | —  | 1         | —  | —         | —  |
| 25—35 ...        | 4         | 4  | —         | 1  | 3         | 4  | —         | —  |
| 35—45 ...        | 4         | 3  | —         | —  | 2         | 2  | —         | —  |
| 45—55 ...        | —         | 1  | —         | —  | —         | 1  | —         | —  |
| 55—65 ...        | —         | —  | —         | —  | —         | —  | 1         | 1  |
| 65 upwards ...   | —         | —  | —         | —  | —         | —  | —         | —  |
| Totals ..        | 9         | 13 | 3         | 4  | 6         | 7  | 1         | 2  |
|                  | TOTAL 29  |    |           |    | TOTAL 16  |    |           |    |

The total number of notifications received during the year was 29, compared with 25 in 1937. As regards pulmonary tuberculosis there were 22 cases, compared with 24 in the previous year, and of non-pulmonary there were 7 compared with 4.

The tuberculosis deaths numbered 13 compared with 15 in 1937, and non-pulmonary three, one more than in 1937. There is therefore little change in 1938 as regards the incidence and death rate from this disease.

# ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

During the Year 1938.

| CAUSE OF DEATH. |                                                           |     |     | TOTAL |     | MALES |     | FEMALES. |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|----------|
| 1.              | Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers                              |     |     | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 2.              | Measles                                                   | ... | ... | 1     | ... | —     | ... | 1        |
| 3.              | Scarlet Fever                                             | ... | ... | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 4.              | Whooping Cough                                            | ... | ... | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 5.              | Diphtheria                                                | ... | ... | 1     | ... | —     | ... | 1        |
| 6.              | Influenza                                                 | ... | ... | 4     | ... | 1     | ... | 3        |
| 7.              | Encephalitis lethargica                                   |     |     | ...   | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 8.              | Cerebro-Spinal Fever                                      |     |     | ...   | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 9.              | Tuberculosis of respiratory system                        |     |     | ...   | ... | 6     | ... | 7        |
| 10.             | Other tuberculous diseases                                |     |     | 3     | ... | 1     | ... | 2        |
| 11.             | Syphilis                                                  | ... | ... | 1     | ... | —     | ... | 1        |
| 12.             | General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis           |     |     | 2     | ... | 2     | ... | —        |
| 13.             | Cancer, malignant disease                                 |     |     | 53    | ... | 28    | ... | 25       |
| 14.             | Diabetes                                                  | ... | ... | 5     | ... | 2     | ... | 3        |
| 15.             | Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.                                |     |     | 24    | ... | 11    | ... | 13       |
| 16.             | Heart disease                                             | ... | ... | 76    | ... | 40    | ... | 36       |
| 17.             | Aneurysm                                                  | ... | ... | 3     | ... | 3     | ... | —        |
| 18.             | Other circulatory diseases                                |     |     | 14    | ... | 8     | ... | 6        |
| 19.             | Bronchitis                                                | ... | ... | 7     | ... | 5     | ... | 2        |
| 20.             | Pneumonia (all forms)                                     |     |     | 15    | ... | 7     | ... | 8        |
| 21.             | Other respiratory diseases                                |     |     | 2     | ... | 2     | ... | —        |
| 22.             | Peptic Ulcer                                              | ... | ... | 2     | ... | 2     | ... | —        |
| 23.             | Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 yrs.)                            |     |     | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 24.             | Appendicitis                                              | ... | ... | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 25.             | Cirrhosis of Liver                                        |     |     | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 26.             | Other diseases of Liver                                   |     |     | 1     | ... | —     | ... | 1        |
| 27.             | Other digestive diseases                                  |     |     | 5     | ... | 2     | ... | 3        |
| 28.             | Acute and chronic nephritis                               |     |     | 4     | ... | —     | ... | 4        |
| 29.             | Puerperal sepsis                                          |     |     | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 30.             | Other puerperal causes                                    |     |     | —     | ... | —     | ... | —        |
| 31.             | Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc. |     |     | 10    | ... | 6     | ... | 4        |
| 32.             | Senility                                                  | ... | ... | 10    | ... | 2     | ... | 8        |
| 33.             | Suicide                                                   | ... | ... | 5     | ... | 4     | ... | 1        |
| 34.             | Other violence                                            | ... | ... | 9     | ... | 8     | ... | 1        |
| 35.             | Other defined diseases                                    |     |     | 31    | ... | 17    | ... | 14       |
| 36.             | Causes ill-defined or unknown                             |     |     | 9     | ... | 8     | ... | 1        |
| Total           |                                                           |     |     | 310   | ... | 165   | ... | 145      |



**Comparison of Local Vital Statistics with those of the  
Whole Country.**  
(Provisional Figures)

| 1938                                                                    | England<br>and<br>Wales | 126<br>County<br>Boro's<br>including<br>London | 148 Smaller<br>Towns<br>(25,000—<br>50,000)<br>population<br>at 1931<br>census | London<br>Adminis-<br>trative<br>County | W'boro'<br>Urban<br>District |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rates per 1,000 population.                                             |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| <i>Births :—</i>                                                        |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Live ... ..                                                             | 15.1                    | 15.0                                           | 15.4                                                                           | 13.4                                    | 11.4                         |
| Still ... ..                                                            | 0.60                    | 0.65                                           | 0.60                                                                           | 0.48                                    | 0.53                         |
| <i>Deaths :—</i>                                                        |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| All causes ... ..                                                       | 11.6                    | 11.7                                           | 11.0                                                                           | 11.4                                    | 10.8                         |
| Typhoid and para-<br>typhoid fever ... ..                               | 0.00                    | 0.00                                           | 0.00                                                                           | 0.00                                    | nil.                         |
| Measles ... ..                                                          | 0.04                    | 0.05                                           | 0.03                                                                           | 0.06                                    | 0.03                         |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                                                    | 0.01                    | 0.01                                           | 0.01                                                                           | 0.01                                    | nil.                         |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                                                   | 0.03                    | 0.03                                           | 0.02                                                                           | 0.03                                    | nil.                         |
| Diphtheria ... ..                                                       | 0.07                    | 0.07                                           | 0.06                                                                           | 0.05                                    | 0.03                         |
| Influenza ... ..                                                        | 0.11                    | 0.10                                           | 0.11                                                                           | 0.06                                    | 0.15                         |
| Rates per 1,000 Live Births.                                            |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Deaths under 1 year<br>of age ... ..                                    | 53                      | 57                                             | 51                                                                             | 57                                      | 46                           |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea<br>and Enteritis, under<br>2 years of age. ... .. | 5.5                     | 7.8                                            | 3.6                                                                            | 13.1                                    | nil.                         |
| <i>Maternal Mortality :—</i>                                            |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Puerperal Sepsis ... ..                                                 | 0.89                    | Not available                                  |                                                                                |                                         | { nil.<br>nil.<br>nil.       |
| Others ... ..                                                           | 2.19                    |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Total ... ..                                                            | 3.08                    |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).                    |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| <i>Maternal Mortality :—</i>                                            |                         |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Puerperal Sepsis ... ..                                                 | 0.86                    | Not available                                  |                                                                                |                                         | { nil.<br>nil.<br>nil.       |
| Others ... ..                                                           | 2.11                    |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |
| Total ... ..                                                            | 2.97                    |                                                |                                                                                |                                         |                              |

**Comparison of Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Infantile  
Mortality Rate for the last thirty one years.**

| Year  | Birth Rate | Death Rate | Infantile<br>Mortality. |
|-------|------------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1908  | 21.8       | 12         | 103.8                   |
| 1909  | 22.5       | 10.9       | 78.7                    |
| 1910  | 20.7       | 10.5       | 96.2                    |
| 1911  | 19.17      | 11.7       | 109.7                   |
| 1912  | 18.7       | 11.03      | 103.7                   |
| 1913  | 20.1       | 9.38       | 69                      |
| 1914  | 20.38      | 11.1       | 74.87                   |
| 1915  | 15.79      | 14.13      | 95.97                   |
| 1916  | 17.23      | 13.02      | 76.23                   |
| 1917  | 16.01      | 13.16      | 74.07                   |
| 1918  | 12.48      | 13.14      | 61.59                   |
| 1919  | 15.33      | 13.13      | 82.8                    |
| 1920  | 20.35      | 10.69      | 83.3                    |
| 1921  | 21.1       | 11.5       | 98.6                    |
| 1922  | 18.01      | 11.2       | 69.3                    |
| 1923  | 17.23      | 10.52      | 50.3                    |
| 1924  | 16.0       | 12.3       | 60                      |
| 1925  | 16.9       | 11.3       | 54.4                    |
| 1926  | 16.1       | 11.7       | 54.7                    |
| 1927  | 14.2       | 12.0       | 61.85                   |
| 1928  | 15.7       | 13.09      | 43.3                    |
| 1929  | 14.0       | 11.8       | 57.4                    |
| 1930  | 14.3       | 12.0       | 60.4                    |
| 1931  | 11.6       | 10.7       | 39.8                    |
| 1932  | 12.5       | 11.3       | 47.9                    |
| 1933  | 11.4       | 10.9       | 44.4                    |
| 1934  | 11.0       | 11.9       | 65                      |
| *1935 | 12.8       | 12.3       | 64                      |
| *1936 | 12.8       | 10.69      | 38.8                    |
| *1937 | 11.8       | 9.9        | 22.6                    |
| *1938 | 11.4       | 10.8       | 46.6                    |

\*Wellingborough and Finedon









