

[Report 1933] / Medical Officer of Health, Welwyn Garden City U.D.C.

Contributors

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AC 4421(3) WELWYN GARDEN

WELWYN GARDEN CITY
URBAN DISTRICT.

Seventh Report

FROM

January 1st to December 31st, 1933

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

(a) *Medical Officer of Health—Part time.*

H. W. GRATTAN, M.R.C.S.England, L.R.C.P.London,
D.P.H., R.C.P.S.London.

(b) *Sanitary Inspector and Housing Manager—Whole time.*

F. ALLISON.

1. Diploma of the Liverpool University School of Hygiene, 1906
2. Certificate of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, 1918.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Welwyn Garden City
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1933.

The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular No. 1346 dated 2nd October, 1933.

I am indebted to Captain W. E. James, your Surveyor, for particulars regarding the water supply and main drainage system.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. B. H. Deamer, Clerk to the Council, for the help he has given me, also to Mr. F. Allison, your Sanitary Inspector, whose loyal co-operation has been of the greatest assistance.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

H. W. GRATTAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE ROAD,
WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

May, 1934.

SECTION A—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE
AREA

Area (acres)	2,460
Population (mid-year, 1933) R.G.	9,286
Population (mid-year, 1933), as estimated by Welwyn Garden City Ltd.	9,186
Number of inhabited houses, end of December, 1933	2,502
Rateable value, 31st December, 1933	£77,650
Net estimated product of a penny rate	£293

Social Conditions.

A modern industrial and residential centre. . . . There are factories, each employing over a hundred hands, engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, light iron castings, grinding wheels, radio sets, and films. There are also firms engaged in heavy engineering, building and constructional work.

The principle small factories carry on the following industries : manufacture of dresses, underclothing, silk stockings, silk strings, fine chemicals, foodstuffs, electrical appliances, matches, confectionery, moulding powders, furnishing ironmongery, vitreous enamelling, paints, waterproofing compounds, metal signs, and printing.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Males.	Females
Live Births } Legitimate	169	93	76
} Illegitimate	1	0	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 18.3			
Stillbirths	8	3	5
Rate per 1,000 (live and still births) 44.9.			
Deaths	55	26	29
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 5.9			
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—			
From Sepsis		0	
From other causes		0	

Four deaths of legitimate infants under one year of age occurred and the Death Rate of Infants under one year of age was as follows :

All infants per 1,000 live births	23
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

1933.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England & Wales	14.4	12.3	64.
Welwyn Garden City	18.3	5.9	23.

The following table gives the causes of death :—

	Males	Females
Measles	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0
Influenza	3	6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	3
Other Tuberculous disease	0	1
Syphilis	1	0
Cancer, Malignant disease	2	4
General paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	0	1
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	1	1
Heart Disease.....	7	4
Aneurysm	0	0
Other circulatory diseases	0	0
Bronchitis	0	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0
Other respiratory diseases	1	0
Peptic Ulcer	0	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	0	0
Appendicitis	0	0
Cirrhosis of liver	1	0
Other diseases of liver etc.	0	0
Other digestive diseases	0	1
Acute and chronic nephritis	0	1
Puerperal sepsis	—	0
Other puerperal causes	—	0
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	1	2
Senility	0	0
Suicide	0	0
Other deaths from violence	2	0
Other defined diseases	3	2
	26	29
All causes	26	29

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The Health Council and the Welwyn Garden City Health Association.

The work of the Health Association is administered by two committees :—(1) The Welwyn Garden City Cottage Hospital and (2) The Maternity, Child Welfare and District Nursing services.

Two hundred and one patients were admitted to the Cottage Hospital during the year ending March, 1934, and 179 outpatients treated.

The responsibilities of the second Committee include the organisation of the Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and the scheme for providing "Home Helps," which is meeting a need in many homes. It is only possible at present to employ one permanent Home Help, but six or seven temporary helpers have been working simultaneously under the direction of this Committee.

The interest in health matters shewn by the residents in Welwyn Garden City is illustrated by the fact that there are 2,500 subscribers to the Health Association. This includes 1,750 persons who subscribe to the Association and Hospital through the Central Civic Fund Industrial Scheme. Full particulars of the minimum subscription and benefits obtainable will be supplied by the Honorary Secretaries, 185 Handside Lane and 17 Guessens Road, and the Honorary Secretary, Cottage Hospital, Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The time when these Institutions are open is given below :—

Clinic.	Place.	Time.	Date.
* Child Welfare	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Thursday
" "	Peartree Club-House	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Tuesday
Ante-Natal	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	First Friday in every month
" "	Peartree Club-House	2 to 4 p.m.	Third Friday in every month
Dental	Lawrence Hall	9.30 to 11.30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.	Every Tuesday

Tuberculosis.

The nearest available clinics are (1) at Hatfield at Northcotts, North Road, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends on the second and fourth Mondays at 11.30 a.m. ; and (2) at the County Medical Office, Hertford, on Mondays at 2 p.m.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment is provided free of cost at a London Hospital under arrangements made by the County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the local Authority or by the County Council.

Hospital.	Situation.	Authority.
(1) Tuberculosis	..... County Sanatorium, Ware Park.	County Council.
(2) Maternity	..... Well House Hospital, Barnet	Public Assistance Com- mittee County Council.
(3) Children	..... Well House Hospital, Barnet	Public Assistance Com- mittee County Council.
(4) Isolation	..... (a) Hitchin Road, Letchworth. (b) Gallows Hill, Hertford.	Hitchin & Letchworth Joint Hospital Board. Hertford & Ware Joint Hospital Board.
(5) Smallpox	..... Hitchin Road, Langley, nr. Hitchin	Hitchin & Letchworth Joint Hospital Board.
(6) Mental	..... Hill End, near St. Albans	County Council.
(7) Infirmary	..... Public Assistance In- stitution, " Welfield," Hatfield.	Public Assistance Com- mittee County Council.

Institutional Provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

None except that provided by the Public Assistance Committee at the Institution, Hatfield.

Ambulance facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases. Motor Ambulances stationed at the (1) Letchworth and (2) Hertford and Ware Isolation Hospitals.
- (b) For non-infectious cases and accidents. St. John Motor Ambulance stationed at Messrs. Jenner Parsons Garage, Bridge Road, Welwyn Garden City.
- (c) For maternity cases as in (b)

An Ambulance Division and a Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade have been formed; the former Division is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Ambulance and for supplying the personnel required in connection therewith, whilst the latter Division is responsible for supplying any female Nursing personnel which may be required for the Ambulance. The address of the Hon. Secretary is 70 Knella Road.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements have been made whereby members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain bacteriological reports (free of charge) in cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, meningitis and ringworm. In the case of tuberculosis, outfits for collecting specimens for examination can be obtained on application from the County Medical Office, Hertford, or from the Tuberculosis Officers at one of the dispensaries. These examinations are carried out at the Hill End Mental Hospital, near St. Albans.

Provision of Anti-toxin.

Members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin free of charge. The anti-toxin is kept at the Cottage Hospital, Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City. 'Phone 269.

A supply of sterile throat swabs and outfits for Widal's Tests are also available at this Institution.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.

The Water Undertaking is now owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram where the Pumping Station is situated. Four sets of pumping plant raise the water to reservoirs on the Sherrards Wood ridge, which provide a storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons for the town supply.

From the same pumping station, the Council deliver water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council and part of the Rural District of Hertford.

In addition the Council provide a supplementary supply to the Knebworth Water Company.

A proposal to provide a bulk supply to the village of Stanborough in the Rural District of Hatfield is under consideration.

During 1933 new distributing mains of a total length of 664 yards were laid in Mandeville Rise, Stonehills, Lytton Gardens and The Old Drive, Welwyn Garden City.

The supply of water has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

A sample was examined chemically and bacteriologically on the 27th July, 1933, and the following is an extract of the report received :—

Number of organisms per cubic centimetre of water growing upon agar at 37 deg. C. in one day	0
Number of organisms per cubic centimetre of water growing upon nutrient gelatine at 22 deg. C. in three days	198
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 c.c.

Opinion :

This water is clear, bright and free from colour and odour. It is neutral in reaction, free from excess of saline matter in solution, but is hard in character. The water is of a very good organic quality and also of a high standard of bacterial purity.

We regard it as a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purpose of a Public Supply.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east and discharges into sewage disposal works in the north-east corner of the District. The whole drainage system is new and in a satisfactory condition.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. Both sludge and effluent are discharged temporarily on the surface of adjoining farmlands without nuisance, but plans have been prepared for the construction of a concrete culvert to carry the purified effluent to the River Mimram, and provisional sanction for this outfall has been received from the Lea Conservancy and the Lea Catchment Board.

The sewage disposal works previously owned and operated by Welwyn Garden City Ltd., were purchased by the Council in September, 1932, and have been operated by them since that date.

The Council have also acquired about 22 acres of gravel land, adjoining the sewage works, for the permanent disposal of sludge.

During 1933, 598 yards of new tributary sewers and 562 yards of surface water drains have been laid.

3. (i) SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

See page 15 Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(ii) *Public Cleansing.*

House refuse is collected under contract with the Council once a week and is disposed of by tipping in an old gravel pit near the southern boundary of the district under a very stringent specification with satisfactory results at present. The collection is regular, bins are disinfected each week and there is no nuisance from the refuse tip. The weekly collection of house refuse has been extended in outlying areas so that the whole Urban District is now included.

There are a few cesspools connected with the old cottages near the boundaries of the district. These are periodically pumped out by Welwyn Garden City Ltd. (the owners of the properties), and the contents disposed of by spreading on farm lands.

There are in the cottages referred to above, a number of pail closets which are emptied by the tenants. As the drainage system of the town extends, these are being converted to the water-carriage system.

(III) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(iv) SMOKE ABATEMENT. *See page 19 Sanitary Inspectors Report.*

4. SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of all schools in the district is satisfactory. All are provided with the public water supply and main drainage.

A system of notification of absentees from elementary schools on account of suspected infectious illness is in force. All four elementary schools were closed for one week in January, 1933, on account of Influenza.

Section D. HOUSING

The following table shows the number of houses built by the Council.

Scheme No.	Situation	Acres	No. of houses	Type	No.	In-clusive Rent	Act built under	Year completed	Rate-able value 1931 £
1	Youngs Rise Elm Gardens Applecroft Road	} 4.6	} 50	A3	20	13/3	1919	1922	} 16 to 20
				B3	20	15/6			
				B4	10	17/4			
2	Guessens Road Lanefield Walk	} 7.5	} 93	A2	28	10/9	1923	1924	} 10 to 14
				A3	41	11/9			
				B3	24	12/9			
3	Longcroft Lane Birdcroft Road	} 8.9	} 100	A2	2	11/3	1923	1925	} 12 to 14
				A3	54	12/3			
				B3	44	13/3			
4	Ludwick Way Knella Road District	} 20.4	} *200	A2	31	13/6	1923	1927	} 10 to 19
				A3	43	15/-			
				B3	103	17/8			
				B4	23	19/3			
5	Knella Road Barnard Green Longmore Gardens	} 8.7	} *100	A3	76	11/8 11/11	1924	1930	12 13
				B3	24	14/11			16
6	Salisbury Road Heronswood Road District	} 18.15	} *200	A2	24	11/6	1924	1931	} 11 to 16
				A3	130	11/9			
				B3	46	15/-			
7	Holwell Road	2.16	} *65	A3	25	11/8	1924	} 1932	12
	Knella Road	3.91		32	†8	7/3	1930		7
Total		73.23	808		808				

†8 flats for aged people

Type A2.	Non-parlour and two bedrooms	85
Type A3.	Non-parlour and three bedrooms	411
Type B3.	Parlour and three bedrooms	271
Type B4.	Parlour and four bedrooms	33
Flats.	Non-Parlour and 1 bedroom	8

808

The inclusive rent includes rates and water charges. *515 of these houses and flats are provided with sheds. Rates for 1933—11/10 in the £.

1. <i>Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.</i>	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1521
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2014
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	84
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	253
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
of these 7 cottages 2 have been demolished, and the owners have given undertakings not to relet in the other 5 cases.	
(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	66
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	38
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year : —</i>	
(a).—Proceedings under sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act 1930 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0
(b).—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	26
(b) By local authority in default of owners	0

- (c).—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Order were made 0
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0
- (d).—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There is one wholesale trader, 12 retail purveyors and 3 cow-keepers and milk producers on the register.

A considerable amount of milk is produced outside the district on registered premises under the supervision of seven different Local Authorities.

About three-fifths of the milk supply to the Garden City is distributed by Welwyn Stores Ltd., through their Central Milk Depot at Lower Handside Farm. The various buildings have been fitted with modern equipment for sterilising dairy utensils, etc., and for bottling milk on an extensive scale.

Plant for the Pasteurization of milk has been installed and the necessary licence to bottle and sell milk as " Pasteurized " issued.

On page 21 of the Sanitary Inspector's Report will be found particulars of the 8 samples of milk examined for bacterial count and the 9 samples of milk and cream examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli which were all proved to be negative.

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

Infectious Diseases notified during the year :—

Disease	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	5	5	0
Scarlet Fever	7	7	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0

The incidence of notifiable diseases has been low.

Of the five cases of diphtheria notified during the year, two were reported in January. The first patient attended Class 6 Peartree School and was the only case of diphtheria occurring among pupils in Elementary Schools in the District in 1933.

In August a party of twelve school children arrived on a camping holiday and were accommodated in the Girl Guides Headquarters.

One of the visitors was an undetected nasal "carrier" who is believed to have conveyed the infection to two other members of the party.

Of the seven cases of Scarlet Fever, four occurred in children of school age who attended three different schools.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	3	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
35	4	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	5	1	3	3	3	0	1

The total number of notifications of cases of tuberculosis was 46 of which 27 had been previously notified.

No deaths occurred from tuberculosis in cases which had not been previously notified.

List of Adoptive Acts and Bye laws in force in the Urban District and dates from which they become operative.

- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907
(Sections 23 and 33) 13th May, 1915.
- do. (Section 19) 30th April, 1925.
- Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 1st April, 1927.
- Public Health Amendment Act, 1907
(Section 50) 11th March, 1929.

5. Bath and Washhouses Acts, 1846-1899 17th June, 1930.
6. Public Health Act, 1925 (except Sections 21 and 22 of part II., Section 44 of part III. and part V) 1st August, 1930.
7. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 1st March, 1931.
8. Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, Byelaws made under Section 2 6th May, 1931.
9. Public Health Acts Amendment Acts, 1907—Sections 18, 20, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30 (subject to conditions), 32 (subject to provisions of Section 33)
Part III. other than Section 50. Sections 35 and 38 are subject to conditions Part IV. other than Section 68. Section 92 comprised in Part X. (subject to conditions)
The conditions referred to are those contained in the Welwyn Garden City Urban (Public Health) Order, 1932. } 29th February, 1932.
10. Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932 16th June, 1932.
11. Byelaws for the prevention of waste etc., of water made under provisions of Section 38 Welwyn Garden City U.D.C. Act, 1932 } 14th November, 1932
12. Byelaws New Streets and Buildings made under provisions of Section 157 P.H.A. 1875 } 21st December, 1933

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES. Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	26	6	Nil.
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	13	2	Nil.
WORKPLACES (other than Out-workers' premises)	6	—	Nil.
Total	45	8	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness	2	2		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors	1	1		
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation :				
Choked Drains	8	8		
Total	11	11	Nil.	Nil.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR
1933.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Seventh Annual Report of the Sanitary work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1933.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER. Welwyn Garden City has an abundant supply of excellent water of high bacterial purity, derived from deep wells in the chalk, now distributed by the Local Authority. A few of the smaller houses on the outskirts of the district obtain their water from shallow wells. Samples of well water are submitted for examination from time to time.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. A small portion of the River Mimram, about three-quarters of a mile in length, runs through the northern portion of the district. No complaint has been received, nor has any evidence been forthcoming that it is being polluted.
3. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. The drainage of the district is mainly separate in character, the whole of the soil water sewage being dealt with by filtration at the Council's Black Fan Sewage Disposal Works.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, with the exception of a few cottages (rural in character), on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is generally in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(a) No. of pail closets abolished ; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years 11

(b) No. of pail closets remaining at the end of 1933 43

(c) *General. Part II Housing Act, 1930.*

I have not reported on the pail closets, or the dilapidated wooden structures in which the majority of them are situated as might have been done, because it is considered an improvement will come along when the Council can ask the owner to build water closets and connect the drains thereof to a public sewer.

In the whole of the Hatfield Hyde district to which will be added shortly another twenty-five undrained premises (including one public house), the most needed Public Health improvement, which should be soon undertaken, is the provision by the Council of sewers and pumps thereto. I inspected the houses in this area during the brilliant sunny weather of 1933 and was constantly being reminded verbally and otherwise that the tenants bury the contents of pail closets in the gardens ; some state they have been doing so for the past forty years. The Council have the matter under consideration.

5. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, &c. *Vide* Sec. 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932, all premises have galvanised iron dustbins for the deposit of refuse. Refuse is collected weekly in Contractor's motor vehicles (which are covered), and tipped at the dump near the 20th Mile Bridge. The dump is well kept and free from nuisance, controlled tipping on the Bradford system being in operation.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 2,014. In connection with 1,521 premises visited, sanitary defects to the number of 811 were discovered, and the necessary action taken to have these remedied.

For this purpose 592 informal notices were served, and although authority was obtained to serve 12 statutory notices, this was found unnecessary.

Of the formal notices sent 566 were references to the Housing Department, for nuisances or defects found in Council Houses.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT. The Council receive a report from time to time on the condition of all houses on which they have advanced money. 60 such inspections were made during the year.

MOSQUITO &C. CONTROL. A number of inspections were made of stagnant water-courses, pools, and water storage tanks with a view to checking the breeding of mosquitos by spraying with a larvaecide.

Mosquitos breed in stagnant water during the spring and early summer months, and the spraying of the surface of the water with crude paraffin oil at these times will kill the mosquito larvæ. A more efficient method is to thoroughly empty all rainwater tanks, and clean out ditches and water-courses so that the flow of water therein is unobstructed.

The public should bear in mind that the accumulation of decaying food and manure forms ideal breeding grounds for rats, flies and other insects, and all such collections should either be removed, buried, or suitably covered up frequently from April until October.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES. The lack of public lavatories in the district has been reported on, and the Council have now built a convenience in Bridge Road. A small temporary convenience has been erected on the east side, but this is hardly adequate for the size of the Town. There should be further provision of this nature for a population such as we have and for visitors to the Garden City.

MORTUARY. The mortuary provided by the Council has been used five times during the year. Larger and more convenient accommodation has now been provided.

DUST BINS. References to the Surveyor's Department numbered 10. These principally consisted of complaints of nuisances from full dust bins. This work proceeds smoothly, and almost without complaint. 78 references were made to the Council's Water Engineer's Department regarding waste of water.

The Council's Surveyor, who has charge of the refuse collection and disposal work, refers complaints of defective dust bins which are brought to his notice to the Public Health Department, and 33 such complaints have been received and suitable action taken where necessary, new dust bins being provided in each case, *vide* Sec. 64 Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932.

RATS, ETC. Inspections are regularly made by your Sanitary Inspector and Mr. J. Dubbin the Herts County Council Rats Officer, of the Refuse Dump and all Factories and Workshops with rat infestations. Advice is always given as to the best means of eradication. 7 References were made to the County Officer.

The following is a summary of the inspections made, also a list of the various repairs executed or improvements carried out during the period under review.

NOTICES SERVED.

Number of intimation notices served, dealing with 1521 premises	592
Number of Statutory notices served	—
All notices were complied with and nuisances abated.	—
No prosecutions were necessary	—

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER

Nuisances dealt with

DWELLING HOUSES.

Defective house roof	79
„ kitchen chimney	55
Galvanised dust-bins provided or renewed	43
Gas fumes from defective washing coppers	2
Smoke nuisance from washing coppers	34

DRAINS.

Defective drains relaid	1
Choked W.C. basins	13
New drain inspection cover	1

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, &c.

Insufficient or no W.C. water	30
New W.C. basins fixed	12
Defective W.C. seats renewed	4
„ sink traps and waste pipes	45
New W.C. cisterns	1
Choked sink and bath waste pipes	24
Defective W.C.s repaired	51

MISCELLANEOUS.

Nuisance from undrained paths	8
Rat infested premises	1
New drain boards fixed	102
Choked Rain Water Pipes	64
Dry Rot—House Floor	1
Gas escapes	1

588

PART II. HOUSING ACT, 1930.

Summary of Result of Inspections.

Total No. of Houses Inspected	84
„ „ having no nuisances and appear correct	11

Details on next page

	<i>Totals</i>
No. of Defective Drains. Soil Water	4
" " " " Surface Water	1
" " Drains requiring reconstructing. Soil W.	2
" " " " connecting to Sewer	8
" " Defective Ventilation Shafts	2
" " " Manholes or Covers	1
" " Pail Closets to be converted to Water Carriage System	11
" " Defective W.C. Cisterns or Flush Pipes	2
" " " Waste Pipes (Bath, Lavatory or Sinks)	2
" " Waste Pipes requiring Trapping (Bath, Lav. or Sinks)	8
" " Houses having no Sinks	3
" " " " Defective Sinks	1
" " " " " Pointing around Sinks	2
" " " " " Eavesgutters or R.W.P.s	11
" " " " " Cesspools	12
" " " " " Infestation by Rats	5
" " " " Insufficient or Defective Well Water Supply	2
" " " " Absence of Dust Bins	5
" " " " Defective Yard Paving	6
" " Premises requiring Cleansing. Dirty Walls and ceilings	9
" " W.C.s Defective Walls, Floors, or Doors	2
" " Smoky (House) Chimneys	2
" " Defective Fireplaces or Stoves	4
" " " Coppers.....	3
" " " Ventilation Ladders	3
" " Windows. Insufficient Light	19
" " " Roofs	11
" " " Pointing or Damp Walls	8
" " " Floors	11
" " " Plastering	4
" " " Doors	1
Absence of Efficient D.P.C.	1
Absence of, or Insufficient Accommodation for Food Storage	2
Absence of Name and Address of Owner from Rent Book	22
" " Defective Windows. Cannot open	11
" " Sinks requiring Main Water to be fixed over	8
" " Foul Pail Closet Apartments	3
Total No. of Houses recommended for demolition	7
Total Defects or Nuisances	212

Infected Premises.

DISINFECTION.

No. of infected Houses disinfected	26
" " times Guides Hut disinfected	1
<i>Disinfection</i> was carried out in a building from which three infectious cases had been moved to an Isolation Hospital. The necessary authority, was given and the following articles were burnt at the dump :	
12 straw mattresses	
1 " pillow	
1 coir "	
4 flock pillows	
Other articles loaned by numerous citizens were taken to be steam disinfected at the Hertford Isolation Hospital :—	
50 blankets	
1 mattress	
2 pillow cases	
after which these articles (except the mattress) were washed at a local laundry prior to being distributed to their respective owners.	

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS, &C.

RETAIL PURVEYORS.

Application for Registration during the year	4
Previously registered	11
Registration cancelled on giving up business	3
	12

COWKEEPERS AND PRODUCERS.

Previously registered	2
Applications for registration during the year	1
	3

CERTIFIED MILK

Application to renew Supplementary Licence to sell Certified Milk.....	1
Licence renewed	1

GRADE A (TUBERCULIN TESTED) MILK.

Application to renew licence to bottle and sell	1
Licence renewed	1

GRADE A (TUBERCULIN TESTED) MILK.

Application to renew Supplementary Licence to sell	1
Licence renewed	1

Total	2
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GRADE A MILK.

Previously registered	1
Application to Renew Supplementary Licence to sell Grade A Milk.....	1
Total	1

PASTEURISED MILK.

Application to bottle and sell milk as Pasteurised	1
Licence granted	1
Total	1

Arrangements are made for milk and other samples to be submitted from time to time to the Council's Bacteriologist, and the result of each test is reported to the Members of the Council for their information.

No. of Sample	Bacteria in 1 c.c.	Bacillus Coli.			Remarks
		1/100 c.c.	1/1,000	1/10,000 c.c.	
13,690	12,566	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	Grade A TT.
16,552	4,600	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	do.
1912	110,000	POS.	POS.	POS.	Pasteurised
AM23/8	3,000	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	do.
1,996	6,000	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	do.
PM23/8	2,500	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	do.
381	45,600	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	Ord. Milk
385	66,966	NEG.	NEG.	NEG.	do.

In all cases the producers or vendors are written to when B. Coli are reported to be present in milk samples.

During the year 3 samples of milk and 6 of ice cream were forwarded to the Analyst for Biological Examination for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus.

In each case the reports were **negative**.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The system of meat inspection in operation comprises irregular visits to the two stores. There are no slaughterhouses in the district. A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district daily, and these are inspected at irregular intervals. These inspections by reason of the growing numbers of occasional vendors visiting the town are becoming increasingly difficult.

No. of official inspections of Food Stores	.....	.....	.....	14
„ „ irregularities under Meat Regulations	.....	.....	.....	Nil

During the year 227 tins of cherries were destroyed as unsound.
Weight 1 cwt., 1 qr. 16 lbs.

ADULTERATION, &c.

The Food and Drugs and Allied Acts, the Rats and Mice Destruction Act and the Contagious Diseases Animals Acts are administered by the County Authorities under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

Factory and Workshop Acts.

The following is a list of Factories and Workshops on the Register at the end of the year (Sec. 131 Factory and Workshops Act, 1901) :—

FACTORIES.

Baker and Confectioner	.....	1	Lead Mills	.....	.....	.....	1
Boot Repairer	.....	2	Match Manufacturer	.....	.....	.....	2
Brickworks	.....	1	Mechanical Parts Makers	.....	.....	.....	1
Builders	.....	3	Metal Castor Makers	.....	.....	.....	1
Cement Water Proofer	.....	1	Printers	.....	.....	.....	1
Corset Maker	.....	1	Sausage Maker	.....	.....	.....	1
Cosmetic Manufacturer	.....	1	Silk Fashions	.....	.....	.....	1
Door Furniture Manufacturer	.....	1	Stocking and Hosiery	.....	.....	.....	1
Electric Appliance Maker	.....	1	Sweet Maker	.....	.....	.....	1
Electricity Supply	.....	1	Synthetic Paints makers	.....	.....	.....	1
Engineers : Constructional	.....	1	Tennis Racquet String Manu-	.....	.....	.....	1
Film Studio	.....	1	facturer	.....	.....	.....	1
Food Factories	.....	2	Tile Maker	.....	.....	.....	1
Foundry : Iron	.....	1	Vitreous Enamelling	.....	.....	.....	1
Furniture Maker	.....	1	Wireless Sets	.....	.....	.....	1
Grinding Wheel Maker	.....	1					—
Heating Engineer	.....	1					Total 38
Joinery Works	.....	1					—
Laundry	.....	1					

WORKSHOPS.

Blacksmith	2	Motor Repairer	1
Cycle Repairer	1	Picture Framer	1
Decorator	1	Sign Writer	2
Dressmaker	1	Upholsterers	2
Gas Company Repair Depot	1		—
Metal Worker	1	Total	15
Metal Signs	1		—
Model Plaster	1		

WORKPLACES.

Benzine Manufacturer	1	Stables	3
Egg Packing Station	1	Water Pumping Station	1
Food Stores	2		—
Liquid Soap and Oils	1	Total	13
Nurseryman	1		—
Poultry and Cattle Foods	1	Grand total	66
Restaurant & Cafe Kitchens	2		—

No. of Inspections made to Factories, Workshops and Work-places (including Bakery and Laundry)	45
No. of Nuisances : Choked drains	8
„ „ „ Defective incinerator	1
„ „ „ General Lack of cleanliness	2
	—
	11
	—

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, Music Halls, Cinemas, etc.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 120.

No. of Visits to Theatres, Cinema, etc.	32
„ „ Nuisances discovered	Nil

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to express my appreciation of the support given to me by the Council, in the carrying out of my duties.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. ALLISON,
Sanitary Inspector.

WORKSHOPS

No.	Name of Workshop	Address	City	State	Country
1
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3
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5
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