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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
OF THE
ST. ALBANS
Rural District Council
FOR THE YEAR 1921,

BY
HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, Etc., Etc.

ALSO

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, HIGH STREET.

—
1922.

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Officers of the Council engaged in Health Work.

Clerk (whole time) MR. E. F. W. HIEATT.

Surveyor (part time) MR. H. F. MENCE.

*Medical Officer of Health (part
time) DR. H. E. MAY,
M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.

*Sanitary Inspector (whole time) ... MR. R. S. DAVEY,
CERT. R.S., INST. AND M. AND F.

Veterinary Inspector (part time) .. MR. H. F. REYNOLDS,
M.R.C.V.S.

* Contribution made to Salary from Exchequer Grants.

***To the Chairman and Members of the St.
Albans Rural District Council.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1921, as Medical Officer of Health for the District over which you preside.

The District comprises 7 Parishes, consisting of villages and scattered cottages. The chief occupation is agriculture, but there are several small factories, and some of the inhabitants work in the neighbouring towns.

It has been suggested by the Minister of Health that in future the Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be either :—

I. A Survey Report which will be required about every five years, which Report will be of a full and detailed character ; or

II. Ordinary Reports, which should be of a more simple character and from which should be omitted all details which do not vary from year to year.

Annual Reports for 1919 and 1920 are considered as the first of the series of Survey Reports.

This Report therefore is, as you see, smaller in size than I have been accustomed to present to you, though I think you will find that it contains all the essential points in a condensed form.

General Statistics.

Area (acres) 37,073.

Population (at census of 1921) 14,535 (6,647 males and 7,888 females)

Number of inhabited houses 2,855.

Number of new houses erected 109 (37 private enterprise, 72 Council).

Number of families or separate occupiers 2,885 (approx.).

Rateable value £108,976.

Sum represented by a penny rate £454.

The following table gives the provisional Vital Statistics for England and Wales, etc., for the year 1921 :—

	Birth Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Deaths under One Year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	22·4	12·1	83
96 Great Towns, including London ... Populations exceeding 50,000 at Census of 1911.	23·3	12·3	87
148 Smaller Towns Populations from 20,000 to 50,000 at Census of 1911.	22·7	11·3	84
London	22·3	12·4	80
St. Albans Rural...	21·07	9·58	47

Mortality Table for Year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Enteric Fever	...	...	...
Small Pox	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	2	3
Influenza	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	6	13
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	6	9	15
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...
Diabetes... ..	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	6	4	10
Heart Disease	11	9	20
Arterio-sclerosis	1	3	4
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	1	...	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	1	2
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, Premature Birth	7	2	9
Suicide	1	...	1
Other Deaths from Violence...	4	1	5
Other Defined Diseases	7	10	17
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...
All Causes	63	53	116

Infant Mortality during the Year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	4
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	...	4
Other Causes	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	5	...	2	...	7	2	2	1	...	12

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.			Harpenden Rural.	Redbourn.	St. Michael's Rural.	St. Peter's Rural.	St. Stephen's Rural.	Sandridge.	Wheat-hampstead.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases. Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.						
Diphtheria...	...	...	3	19	...	3	...	...	28	53	47	3						
Scarlet Fever	...	...	5	18	3	4	...	2	24	56	48	...						
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...						
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...						
Malaria	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...						
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...						
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...						
Totals	...	...	10	39	3	8	...	2	55	117	95	3						
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.	M. F.		0	2	4	5	0	3	3	4	2	0	0	1	1	12	16	
			}		}		}		}		}		}		}			
			2		9		3		6		6		2		28		10	
,, other forms					1		0						1		0			
					}		}						}		}			
Totals	...	...	12	48	7	14	6	2	57	146	105	16						

Of the 13 Deaths due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 9 had been notified and 4 had not been notified in this District.

Infectious Diseases during 1921, showing Disease, also place and month of incidence.

DIPHTHERIA.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Harpenden Rural	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	3
Redbourn	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	9	5	...	19
St. Michaels Rural	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
St. Peters Rural	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
St. Stephens Rural	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Sandridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Wheat-hampstead	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	9	16	28
Totals	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	4	12	14	18	53

SCARLET FEVER.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Totals.
Harpenden Rural	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	4
Redbourn ...	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	..	..	9	1	..	18
St. Michaels Rural	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	3
St. Peters Rural.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	4
St. Stephens Rural	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
Sandridge ...	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Wheathampstead	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	4	14	..	25
Totals ...	5	1	1	..	..	5	3	7	3	14	16	1	56

Diphtheria.

With the exception of Redbourn and Wheathampstead the District has been particularly free from Diphtheria.

In both these Districts there was a small epidemic towards the end of the year.

In Redbourn 4 cases were notified in September, 9 in October, and 5 in November.

I visited Redbourn and took swabs on several occasions but with the exception of 3 or 4 cases where there was a second case in the house I was not able to detect the source of infection.

In Wheathampstead 2 cases occurred in October, 9 in November, and 16 in December. Here again I was not able in many cases to trace the source of infection. 14 of the cases occurred in 4 houses, the remainder were scattered about the District.

On one occasion, 2 cases coming from the same property were notified to me on the same day. One, that of a young girl working at Luton daily, the other that of a man working on the farm. These two never met. In searching for a common cause of infection I took swabs of the whole of the family and found that the father of the girl, who was the Farm Bailiff, produced a positive swab. This man had never felt

in any way ill and had not lost an hour's work. Two other members of the family were also found to be infectious, but which was the primary cause of infection I could not ascertain.

There have been a good many cases of nasal catarrh, and I strongly suspect that some of these were diphtheretic by nature.

The Wheathampstead Schools were closed from the 8th November until the Christmas Holidays.

Scarlet Fever.

Again, with the exception of Redbourn and Wheathampstead, the District has been particularly free from Scarlet Fever.

In Redbourn, 5 cases were notified in June, but 4 of these were in one house. In July 3 more cases were notified. All these were on North Common within a stones throw of each other. All these were no doubt due to one of the first cases, which was unfortunately not seen until the peeling stage. No other part of the Village was effected.

In October 9 cases, and in November 1 case were notified. Six of these occurred in one house and 2 in another.

In Wheathampstead 4 cases were notified in January, 3 of which were in one house, the remaining one being due to direct contact.

No more cases occurred until the autumn.

One case was notified in August. This was an imported case.

There were 2 cases in September and 4 in October. Two of these were in one house. The others were scattered over the District and seemed to have no connection with each other, except through the medium of the school.

14 cases occurred in November. 4 were in one house, 3 in another and 2 in another, so in all 8 houses only were effected.

The Wheathampstead Schools were closed from 8th November until the Christmas Holidays.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There was only one case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified during the year. This case occurred at Redbourn in November. It is reported to me by the Medical Practitioner in charge of the case that the damage in the left eye is such as to cause almost total blindness, but the vision in the right eye is believed to be unimpaired.

Tuberculosis.

29 new cases were notified during the year (28 of which were pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary).

Preventive Measures.

During the year, 102 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted to the Sisters' Hospital, 40 of which belonged to the City, 48 to the Rural District, 12 to Harpenden and 2 to Hatfield.

Eighty-four cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Sisters' Hospital, 25 of which belonged to the City, 47 to the Rural District, and 12 to Harpenden.

There were no cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever admitted to the Hospital during the year.

There were no cases of Smallpox.

At the Sisters' Hospital there is a Thresh's Steam Disinfecter where bedding and clothes may be disinfected. This is practically always done in cases of Scarlet Fever, Small-

pox, etc., and frequently done after such illnesses as Consumption and Cancer. This work is done by the porter at the Hospital.

Formaldehyde is the disinfectant almost universally used in this District, but, in addition, every room is thoroughly cleansed with soap, water and fresh air, and, where necessary, whitewashed and papered. This work is done under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Arrangements are made by this Council with the Clinical Research Association and the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination to be made at the expense of this Council.

I have received during the year 56 reports from them, as follows :—

Fifty-five on Swabs examined for Klebs Loeffler Bacilli for Diphtheria, 22 of which were positive and 33 negative.

One on Sputum examined for Tubercle Bacilli, which was positive.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is in all suitable cases supplied at the expense of this Council.

Vaccination.

It is for obvious reasons impossible at this date to give any accurate Vaccination returns for the year ending December, 1921.

The following figures therefore are given for the 12 months ending June 30th, 1921, and have been supplied to me by Mr. Rogers, the Vaccination Officer :—

During this period there were 241 children born in this District, distributed among the Parishes as shown in the following table :—

10 of these died in infancy without being vaccinated.

12 have gone away from the District before being vaccinated.

7, though having no Exemption Certificate, are reported as unvaccinated, and

152 Conscientious Objection Certificates were granted.
60 were vaccinated.

Parishes.		Births	Deaths	Gone	Unvaccinated (without Exemption Certificate).	Vaccinated.	Conscientious Objection Certificates.
Harpenden Rural	...	8	1	...	...	4	3
Redbourn	...	37	4	...	1	3	29
St. Michaels Rural	...	17	3	2	...	5	7
St. Peters Rural	...	58	1	4	1	17	35
St. Stephens Rural	...	49	1	...	...	13	35
Sandridge	...	12	...	2	1	1	8
Wheathampstead...	...	60	...	4	4	17	35
Totals	...	241	10	12	7	60	152

As Assistant School Medical Officer I find that 43 per cent. of the children inspected during 1921 were vaccinated, and that of the children under 6 years of age 39 per cent. were vaccinated.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me under the (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Hospitals, Nursing arrangements, and other Institutions available for the District.

Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

Matron : Miss Banner, The Sisters' Hospital, St. Albans.

Medical Superintendent : Dr. H. E. May (non-resident).

(a) **The Sisters' Hospital**, Union Lane, St. Albans, which consists of :—

1. Administration Block.
2. Scarlet Fever Block (accommodation 30 beds), over which are 2 Wards of 3 beds each reserved for Cerebro-spinal Fever.
3. Diphtheria Block (accommodation 12 beds).

There is a Thresh Steam Disinfector.

A Motor Ambulance is kept at the hospital.

Porter : Mr. J. W. Bates.

(b) **Cherry Tree Hospital**, near Redbourn, for Smallpox.

Accommodation 12 beds.

At this Hospital there is also an emergency tent.

A Horse Ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

Caretakers : Mr. and Mrs. Rush.

These Hospitals are the property of the St. Albans Town Council and are managed by a Joint Committee of St. Albans Town Council, St. Albans Rural District Council, and Harpenden Urban District Council, and receive patients from these 3 districts.

The following Institutions supply the other needs of the District :

- St. Albans and Mid Herts Hospital and Dispensary.
- Watford General Hospital.
- Hemel Hempstead Hospital.
- Welwyn Cottage Hospital.
- St. Albans Union Infirmary.
- St. Albans District Nursing Association.
- Harpenden Nursing Centre.
- St. Albans County Tuberculosis Dispensary.
- Watford County Tuberculosis Disdensary.

There is also a District Nurse in each of the following villages :—Bricket Wood, London Colney, Park Street, Redbourn, Sandridge, and Wheathampstead.

Ambulance.

There is a Red Cross Motor Ambulance in the City, the property of the St. Albans Town Council.

The Ambulance is kept at the Police Station, St. Albans, and is in charge of the Chief Constable (Mr. J. Harrison) ; Tel. 18.

It is available for the use of St. Albans and District at a fixed charge of 1/6 per mile. Minimum 6/-

Public Elementary Schools.

There are 11 Public Elementary Schools in the District, 8 of which are Church of England Schools and 3 of which are County Council Schools.

School Closure :—The only School closed during the year was Wheathampstead, and this was closed from 8th November to 22nd December for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

The following are extracts from my Annual Report to the School Medical Officer for the County :—

The Heating is in nearly all the Schools insufficient.

To those who are interested in this matter I would draw attention to a heating arrangement by the Romesse Stove. This stove, which burns anthracite coal, has a water boiler behind to which are attached radiators placed about the premises. Such a stove is fixed at Park Street School and I understand is easy to work, not unduly expensive in the upkeep and very efficient as regards its heating powers, the rooms being uniformly warm from the first thing in the morning and throughout the day.

A somewhat similar system with an open grate fire is in existence at Redbourn Schools and is reported on well by the Head Teachers.

At Redbourn the sanitary arrangements are particularly unsatisfactory and inadequate, and I should like to mention that it would be a great improvement if the galleries in the Infants' School were removed. The Head Mistress properly describes them as old, most inconvenient and dangerous.

A new window has been fitted in Standard I. room at Wheathampstead, which is a very great improvement, both as regards lighting and ventilation.

At Colney Heath a new wooden ceiling has been fitted to the main room. It is a pity this was not painted white for as it is it very much darkens the room.

With regard to the playgrounds. At 3 of the Schools, namely, Colney Heath, Kinsbourne Green and Redbourn (Girls and Infants) the playgrounds are bad, and require attention. In 4 others, that is, Colney Street, Park Street, Gustard Wood and Wheathampstead, the ground is rough, uneven and dirty.

It is satisfactory to report that most of the Schools are alive to the importance of keeping their pens, pencils, paint brushes, crayons and plasticine separate for each child. The use in common of these articles is always a possible source of spread of infection. I hope next year to be able to report that there are no Schools in the District where any of these articles are used in common.

Passing on to a detailed statement as to each locality, I have to report as follows :—

HARPENDEN RURAL.

Area in acres, 3,479. Population, 536. Inhabited houses, 111.

Five new houses were erected during the year, in addition to the 10 new Council cottages which were nearly completed last year, and which are now occupied.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 1.

The Harpenden Urban District Council have been asked if they would extend their scavenging area to include Kinsbourne Green. They were unable to undertake the work, so this Council is now doing it by private contract.

REDBOURN.

Area in acres, 4,563. Population, 1,994. Inhabited houses, 516.

Four new Council cottages have been erected during the year and are occupied, but no new houses have been built by private enterprise.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 7.

ST. MICHAEL'S RURAL.

Area in acres, 6,131. Population, 801. Inhabited houses, 192.

Two new houses were erected during the year.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 3.

38 houses, situated on one side of the Common, at Leverstock Green, drain their slop-water into an open ditch bordering the allotments.

A drainage scheme is required for this village, which is situated in the districts, viz.:—St. Albans Rural, Watford Rural and Hemel Hempstead.

As I reported last year, a system of collection of house refuse is required for Leverstock Green.

ST. PETER'S RURAL.

Area in acres, 5,256. Population, 5,510. Inhabited houses, 591.

The new houses were erected during the year, in addition to the 8 new Council cottages which are now completed and occupied.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

The village of London Colney is situated partly in this District and partly in Barnet Rural District.

A sewerage scheme for this village should receive the attention of this Council.

Owing to the excessively dry Summer about 6 of the shallow wells in Colney Heath dried up. The properties where these wells are situated are not far from the Public Elementary School, which receives its water supply from the main. I suggest that the properties effected should be connected to the main.

ST. STEPHENS RURAL.

Area in acres, 6,991. Population, 1,966. Inhabited houses, 514.

Seventeen new houses were erected during the year, in addition to the 12 new Council cottages which have been completed and are occupied.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 6.

SANDRIDGE.

Area in acres, 5,466. Population, 887. Inhabited houses, 219.

One new house was erected during the year, in addition to 18 new Council cottages which have been completed and are occupied.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

A drainage scheme for this village is necessary.

A scheme for the collection of house refuse is also necessary.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

Area in acres, 5,187. Population, 2,886. Inhabited houses, 712.

Two new houses were erected during the year, in addition to 20 new Council cottages which have been completed and are occupied.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 8.

There is no scheme for scavenging in any part of the District. Complaints are numerous, and the matter should receive the attention of this Council.

Wheathampstead village has a main sewer which takes the surface water, slops and soil from most of the houses. The sewerage at Gustard Wood is by means of dumb-wells. In both these cases the system is satisfactory.

The sewerage system at New Marford is by dumb-wells, but owing to the close proximity of the cottages to one another and to the low-lying position in which this district is situated, the ground is becoming saturated with sewage.

The sewerage system at Batford is also by dumb-wells, and complaints are constantly received.

The conditions in both these areas is insanitary, and far from satisfactory.

Housing.

There are no unhealthy areas in the District.

There are no houses let as lodgings in the District.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	68
---------------------------------------	-----	----

I reported last year that the first part of the Council scheme, namely, 72 houses were in course of erection. 68 of these were completed and tenanted by the end of the year, and at the time of writing this report the remaining 4 have been also finished and tenanted. Their situation is indicated in the following Table :—

Parish.		Situation of Site.	No. of Cottages.	Method of Sewage Disposal.	Water Supply.
Harpenden Rural	...	Kinsbourne Green	... 10	... Cesspools...	Main Supply
Redbourn	...	Common, Nr. Boys School...	... 4	... Cesspools...	Wells
St. Peter's Rural	...	Nr. Smallford Station	8	... Cesspools...	Wells
St. Stephen's Rural	...	Nr. Park Street Station	12	... Cesspools...	Main Supply
Sandridge	...	Nr. Church	... 18	... Cesspools...	Wells
Wheathampstead	...	Brewhouse Hill	... 8	... Drains to Sewer...	Wells
Wheathampstead	...	The Folly	... 12	... Cesspools...	Wells

The rents have been fixed at from 10s. to 18s. per week, tenants paying rates.

46 have been let to applicants from the Rural District, 18 to applicants within the St. Albans Union area (that is including St. Albans and Harpenden) and 8 have been let to tenants from outside that area.

Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	292
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	54
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	26

Owing to the condition of labour and finance, action is still difficult under the Public Health Act or the Housing Acts with regard to unfit houses. 54 cottages have been inspected and received attention. 4 were re-roofed, 8 were repaired and cleansed, and the more important repairs carried out in the remaining.

There are 9 houses in the district which are considered unfit, but owing to the house shortage it is impossible to take any action.

The house which I reported last year as dangerous has been demolished.

The condition of one other house became dangerous during the year. A closing order was applied, and the tenant removed and the house has been vacated.

Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	26
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Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	nil
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :-

(a) by owners	nil
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	nil
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(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.	nil
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B.—Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	234
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners.	)69
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(b) by Local Authority in default of owners.	nil
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C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	... ..	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.	... ..	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.	... ..	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of Demolition Orders were made.	... ..	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	... ..	1

Cowsheds.

The number of cowsheds on the register in the year 1921 is 35 distributed as follows :-

Harpenden Rural	... ..	1
Redbourn	... ..	7
St. Michael's Rural	... ..	3
St. Peter's Rural	... ..	5
St. Stephen's Rural	... ..	5
Saudridge	... ..	5
Wheathampstead	... ..	8
	—	
		35

These are all regularly inspected both by the Veterinary Inspector and Sanitary Inspector.

Byelaws, Regulations and Adoptive Acts.

The following Byelaws and Regulations and Adoptive Acts are in force in the District.

They were all in force prior to 1914.

New Streets and Buildings.

Offensive Trades.

Nuisances.

Slaughter Houses.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Van-dwellers.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 sec. 23 & 36

Public Health Act 1875 secs. 42, 44, 47 (3), 112, 113, 114, 169 (paragraph 3), 170, 171, 229 & 230.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (part iv.)
secs 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 and 68.

Urban Powers in force in parts of the Rural District :-

Public Health Act 1875, sec 161 (para. 1); Redbourn.

Public Health Act 1875, sec. 160 (s.s.1); Redbourn, St. Peter Rural, Sandridge and St. Stephen's Rural.

Public Health Act s. 66; St. Michael Rural, St. Peter Rural and Sandridge.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 70 Factories and Workshops registered in the District. Of these 12 are Factories and 58 are Workshops, distributed in the different parishes as follows :—

		Factories.	Workshops.	Totals.
Harpenden Rural	...	0	0	0
Redbourn ...	...	3	18	21
St. Michael's Rural	...	0	1	1
St. Peter's Rural	...	2	4	6
St. Stephen's Rural	...	2	12	14
Sandridge	...	1	2	3
Wheathampstead	...	4	21	25
		—	—	—
		12	58	70

There is no overcrowding in any workshop in the District, nearly all provide 500 c.f. air space and many provide much more.

There are no wholesale bakehouses in the District.

Under the Factories and Workshops Act 1901, no underground bakehouse must be used after January 1st 1904 without written permission of the Sanitary Authorities.

There is only one such underground bakehouse in the District ; which is in Wheathampstead parish and has received the necessary permission of this Council.

There are 3 factories and 1 workshop in this District which employ more than 40 persons ; they are situate as follows :—

Sandridge, 1 Factory.

Redbourn, 1 Factory.

Redbourn, 1 Workshop.

Wheathampstead, 1 Factory.

These all have adequate means of escape from fire.

There are no outworkers of the specified classes in this District.

My thanks are due to the Clerk, Mr. Hieatt, for the kind help he has always so readily given me, to the Surveyor, Mr. Mence, and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Davey, for his very willing and able assistance, and to you gentlemen for the very courteous way in which you have always treated me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1921.

*To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans
Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

I beg to present my Thirteenth Annual Report dealing with the Sanitary work in the Rural District of St. Albans, for the year 1921.

In the routine of work 1187 visits have been paid, 52 premises were visited on complaint, and 43 for special inquiry. No legal proceedings were necessary although seven statutory notices were served.

Under the Factory and Workshops Act 51 inspections were made of trade premises. One notice was served with reference to insufficient closet accommodation. New water closets were provided with drainage and cesspools and provision made for proper separation of the sexes. One certificate was issued to the owners of a factory employing more than 40 persons, that their premises were provided with adequate means of escape in case of fire.

The Dairies Cowsheds and Milkshops were visited at the times fixed for limewashing (May and October). These premises were found to be generally in a good condition. One new Cowshed was added to the Register in the Redbourn District.

The Slaughter-houses and Horse-slaughtering premises in the district were visited from time to time. Several requests were made for limewashing of the premises and for the emptying of cesspools, and these were promptly complied with. Meat inspection was carried out whenever possi-

ble, but in large rural areas with the slaughter-houses scattered over the district, and without any fixed times for killing, systematic examination is not practicable. On two occasions information was received that animals had been slaughtered under suspicious circumstances. The cases were closely followed up, and the carcasses examined. On one occasion I was accompanied by the Council's Veterinary Surgeon, and in the second case, by the Inspector of an adjoining Local Authority. The meat shewed no sign of disease or decomposition and could not be condemned.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, all premises have been visited and bedding disinfected under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.

All requests for disinfection or disinfectants from the County Tuberculosis Officer, after Tubercular cases and applications in connection with non-notifiable diseases were immediately complied with.

The premises under the Petroleum Acts have been inspected. Two new applications were received to store petrol and one to store carbide, and the premises were registered. The necessary fees were paid.

The Scavenging of the Villages for which the Council contract, viz. :—Redbourn, Colney Heath, London Colney, and St. Stephens has been kept under supervision, and complaints were dealt with as they arose.

The Council entered into a new contract for the Scavenging of Kinsbourne Green, and the work includes the Scavenging of the Council's new houses at Kinsbourne Crescent.

The rents from the Council Cottages at Lybury Lane, Redbourn, have been collected each week. Up to the end of the year 68 of the Council houses under the Assisted Scheme had been completed and tenanted. These rents are also collected weekly.

Coal Control was again put in operation for some three months during the year. Stocks of coal in the district and replenishment areas became very low, but no case of real hardship came to my notice. The St. Albans Coal Merchants' Association held meetings twice weekly and allowed to each Merchant only sufficient coal to cover the amount immediately required under the Coal Overseers permits. This excellent arrangement and the work of the Association was largely responsible for the comparatively satisfactory condition of the district as regards coal supply.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ROY S. DAVEY,

M.I.MUN. AND C.E.,

Certified Housing and Sanitary Inspector.