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Contributors

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THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT
for the Year 1925.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS of the Waltham Holy Cross
Urban District Council.

Sirs,

I have the honour to submit a report for this year which is a "Survey Report" arranged on the lines indicated in Circular 648, dated December 1925, issued by the Ministry of Health.

1. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary District of Waltham Holy Cross, which is also the limit of the Parish of Waltham Abbey, is situated in the south west of the County of Essex, on the borders of Hertfordshire and Middlesex. It consists of the Township of Waltham Abbey with four outlying hamlets - Holyfield, Upshire, High Beech and Sewardstone, having a total area of 11,070 acres.

The population of Waltham Holy Cross at the Census of 1921 was 6870; the estimate for 1925 is 6976.

The Township district, densely populated, is low-lying with numerous water-courses, and the soil is alluvial and gravelly. Away from here the subsoil is clay. To the east is Lpping Forest, 380 feet above sea level - well wooded, covered with luxuriant and varied vegetation, with its open spaces, bracing air, its health-giving walks and drives free to the public. Here is situated High Beech.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| The number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | 1,652 |
| Rateable value | ... | ... | 263,998 |
| The sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | 2171 |

The chief occupations are the manufacture of explosives, and the glass-house industry for the production of tomatoes and cucumbers, the latter rapidly increasing. The rural portion has some arable land and much pasture suitable, and used, for the production of milk.

There are no trades causing any deleterious effects. In one workshop a volatile solvent is used, but any evaporation is carried away by suction tubes worked by a revolving fan, and very free ventilation is obtained by large open windows well placed. The workers here are under Medical inspection and their health does not appear to be adversely affected.

Outdoor sports are increasingly enjoyed by the active members of the community.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

Ninety seven births were registered - 47 Males and 50 Females; of these one was illegitimate - producing a birth-rate of 13.9 per thousand. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 18.3 per thousand.

Fifty five deaths were registered - 28 Males and 27 Females, producing a death-rate of 7.8 per thousand. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12.2 per thousand.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were four, giving an infantile mortality of 41.3 per thousand. The same for England and Wales was 75 per thousand births.

3. POOR LAW RELIEF.

During the year persons receiving outdoor relief numbered 111 Cases-Ordinary, and 90 Unemployed received assistance, making a total of 201 Cases.

Necessitous persons requiring operative treatment or specialist's advice receive gratuitous attention at the various hospitals and Poor Law Institutions.

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital Provision.

1. Tuberculosis. In the various Sanatoria by the County Authorities.
2. Maternity. None.
3. Children receive treatment and admission in the Waltham Abbey War Memorial Hospital and at various hospitals in London.
4. Fever. The Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.
5. Smallpox. Arrangements have been made for hospital isolation by the Waltham Joint Hospital Board.
6. Medical and Surgical. A hospital with seven beds has been opened in a central position and has proved very useful. Also various London hospitals within easy reach are available.
7. No institutions in the District for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children.
8. Ambulance facilities. One for infectious cases is supplied and stationed at the Waltham Joint Hospital. The provision of a motor ambulance is being arranged for general use.
9. Bacteriological Examinations are given by the County Authority free of charge, and full use of this is made by Medical Practitioners.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

1. Maternity & Child Welfare Centre:- Town Hall, Waltham Abbey - held on Tuesday afternoon (Market Day).
2. Day Nurseries - None.
3. School Clinics - Under County M.O.H.
4. Tuberculosis - Under County M.O.H.
5. Treatment for Venereal Diseases - London Hospitals.

Officers.

The Public Health Officers of the Council consist of:-

A Medical Officer.

A whole-time Inspector who holds the Meat Inspection Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

A Health Visitor for the Town District who is well experienced, and holds the R.S.I. Certificate.

A Health Visitor for the Rural District who holds the Certificate of the Central Midwives Board and is also District Nurse for the area.

A proportion of all Officers' salaries is paid by the Exchequer.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) There are two District Nursing Associations supported by voluntary contributions. These provide a nurse for the Town District and also a nurse for the Country District.

(b) Skilled nursing for Measles, Whooping Cough, etc. required is undertaken by the District and Child Welfare nurses.

(c) Two qualified and resident Midwives practice in the district.

5. ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THIS DISTRICT

Infectious Disease Notification Act 1899.

" " Prevention Act 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907.

Private Street Works Act 1891.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919.

BYELAWS with regard to:-

Removal of House Refuse and with respect to Nuisances.

Slaughterhouses.

Management of Sanitary Conveniences.

New Streets and Buildings.

Drainage of Existing Buildings.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

6. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

- (1) The water supply has recently been much improved by the introduction of large filter tanks whereby the iron deposit has been excluded, freeing the water pipes and rendering the water, which was otherwise pure from deep wells, now wholesome and palatable.
- (2) Rivers and streams are clear and unpolluted.
- (3) The drainage of surface water and sewerage is satisfactory. A sewerage scheme at Upshire is in process of completion. Flushing sanitary closets are in general use but in High Beech cesspools are still existent. The disposal of sewerage in this part is still a difficult engineering problem.

The method of purification at the Sewerage Works is comprehensive and the effluent has been satisfactory before percolating into Cobbins Brook.

- (4) Scavenging. Refuse collection is undertaken in the Urban portion of the district by direct labour, and in the Rural area by contract. During the year this area has been extended to include Crooked Mile, Paternoster Hill and Pick Hill.

Movable ashbins with coverings are compulsory at all dwellings. These are emptied regularly on specified days.

The refuse collected from the Urban area is dealt with at the Sewage Farm by screening and burning the bulk of the refuse, the screenings being sold to farmers. In the Rural area the refuse is burnt at various tips.

- (5) Cleansing of cesspools is undertaken in the outlying parts of the District, (High Beech, Sewardstone and Uphire) by contract. The contents of each cesspool are emptied by a special plant and spread broadcast upon grass land. No trouble of any kind has been experienced.

- (6) The streets are constantly cleaned and kept in good order.

- (7) Schools. Sanitary conditions and water supply are satisfactory. Teachers give every assistance in matters relating to the health of the children. The post of School Medical Officer is held by a whole-time Officer who is also Tuberculosis Officer and issues a separate report.

7. HOUSING.

Overcrowding in houses, with its ill effects, still exists and has been made more acute by the extensive development of the glass-house industry. Private enterprise has failed to build houses suitable for the working community with the result that houses, originally intended for one family, now shelter two separate families. This is increasing, causing rather more than discomfort due to the inconvenience of the washing and cooking accommodation, provided for one family only.

Many of the houses are now occupied by families whose financial position would enable them to pay the higher rents of modern houses if available, and render vacant houses of a rent within the reach of persons at present obliged to seek accommodation in rooms.

8. FOOD.

Inspections have been made of the dairy farms in the district, and the general condition of the cowsheds is satisfactory.

Much improvement is still needed in the cleanliness of the cows and the milkers in production of a pure and clean supply of milk. The cows should be groomed, udders and teats washed and wiped with clean cloths before each milking. The hair of tails and udders clipped when necessary.

The milkers should be clean in habits, wear clean linen overall and cap, and wash their hands before milking each cow.

9. SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Sanitary Inspector holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspectors of Meat and other foods, and has been appointed the Inspecting Officer under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924.

Butchers have complied with the Regulations as to notices of slaughter, and provided clean coverings to the baskets used on carriers for delivery of meat to customers.

All the butchers' shops have sash windows which are closed when necessary.

Waltham Abbey has a Cattle Market where the majority of the butchers' supplies are drawn, and a watchful eye is kept upon the quality of the beasts purchased.

Two bullocks' livers and one sheep pluck affected with fluke, also one bullock's pluck (tubercular), and a bag of whelks unfit for food have been surrendered and destroyed.

10. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications received totalled 46, of which 3 were Measles, 7 Scarlet Fever, 24 Chicken Pox, 9 Diphtheria, 2 Pneumonia, and 1 Erysipelas. All known cases of Scarlet Fever are isolated in hospital. Premises and clothing are disinfected by proper apparatus.

In Diphtheria the same routine is adopted as in Scarlet Fever.

The Isolation Hospital is centrally situated for the district and cases are removed expeditiously so that it has not been found necessary to supply Medical Practitioners with anti-toxin.

No cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, Polio-encephalitis, Trench Fever, Puerperal Fever, Malaria, or Dysentery have been discovered.

The County Council give every facility for bacteriological aid to diagnosis, which is fully made use of by the local practitioners.

The provision for isolation of infectious diseases, as has already been noted, is adequate and readily accepted.

11. DISINFECTION.

Premises and clothing are disinfected according to approved methods as previously stated under "Infectious Diseases".

All cases of chicken pox and the first case of measles in any family have been compulsorily notifiable for many years, chicken pox by reason of its similarity to Smallpox and the possibility of this disease being missed - Measles for educational purposes to bring home the fact that it is a dangerous infectious disorder and to avoid Scarlet Fever being mistaken for it. The infectious nature of this disease before the rash appears, added to the disinclination of parents to isolate those affected, results in almost all children being attacked.

It is impractical at present to offer hospital accommodation

The intimation from schools as to the absence of scholars by reason of infectious diseases is regularly received.

Sewardstone School was closed for Whooping Cough and again for a short time in October for Measles. Although this is not now the usual procedure as formerly, the circumstances in these cases were exceptional.

High Beech School was closed towards the end of December owing to a case of early Scarlet Fever being found attending that School. No further case occurred and the result justified the action taken.

12. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

DURING THE YEAR 1925.

| Disease. | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Smallpox | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | 7 | - |
| Diphtheria | 9 | 9 | 1 |
| Enteric Fever (& Paratyphoid) | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Fever | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 2 | - | - |
| Erysipelas | 1 | - | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | - | - | - |
| Typhus Fever | - | - | - |
| Relapsing Fever | - | - | - |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | - | - | - |
| Trench Fever | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - |
| Measles * | 3 | - | - |
| Chicken Pox * | 24 | - | - |

* Only the first in a family notified.

Small-pox.

No cases of Small-pox have been discovered and the M.O.H. has had no occasion to perform personally vaccination or re-vaccination. Anthrax has not been discovered.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tubercular cases receive Sanatoria treatment by the County. Should a patient die, or be removed from home, disinfection at home is carried out.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1925.

| Age Periods | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|----------------|---|------------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| 10 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 25 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| 35 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| 45 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | - | 4 | - | 1 | 4 | 4 | - | - |

13. MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The general arrangements existing for the care and attention to the health of expectant and nursing mothers, and children under the age of five years, consists of a Welfare Committee of the Council strengthened by several ladies of the district with knowledge and aptitude for this work and who, as a Sub-Committee, organise and administer the work of the Centre. This is held in the Town Hall on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and is well attended and appreciated. Voluntary workers give active and willing help.

The Staff comprises the M.O.H. as Superintendent, the Health Visitor for the Town District, and the Health Visitor for the Rural District.

Continuity of records is kept by means of cards. In necessitous cases medicines, malt etc. and foods such as milk, etc. are supplied by the Council. Dried whole milk, e.g. "Cow & Gate", is sold at cost price.

At the War Memorial Hospital mothers receive dental treatment and children obtain necessary operation treatment. These services are given free by the Hon. Staff when desirable to do so.

The School Medical Service is undertaken by a whole-time Medical Officer, who also acts as Tuberculosis Officer.

A few cases of Measles (notifiable) and Whooping Cough arose and were followed through by the District Nurses and Health Visitor.

STATISTICS.

Health Centre.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Total Attendances | ... | ... | ... | 1640 |
| Average Weekly attendance | ... | ... | ... | 32.8 |
| New Babies | ... | ... | ... | 66 |
| Consultations by Medical Officer | ... | ... | ... | 414 |
| Number of recorded weighings | ... | ... | ... | 669 |
| Free Milk Orders (Dried - sufficient for one week) | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| " " " (Fresh) | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| " Malt & Oil Orders | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| " Virol Orders | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

Urban District.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Infants first visits | ... | ... | ... | 74 |
| Total Visits | ... | ... | ... | 979 |
| Children 1 - 5 years - Visits | ... | ... | ... | 3879 |
| Ante-natal first visits | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| Subsequent ante-natal visits | ... | ... | ... | 206 |
| Whooping Cough cases visited | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Measles " " ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 |
| Chicken Pox " " ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |

Rural District.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Infants first visits | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Total visits | ... | ... | ... | 284 |
| Children 1 - 5 years - visits | ... | ... | ... | 435 |
| Ante-natal first visits | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Subsequent ante-natal visits | ... | ... | ... | 205 |
| Whooping Cough cases visited | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Measles " " ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

I append the Report of Mr. J.W. Medley, the Sanitary Inspector, who with thoroughness and tact has rendered services of more than ordinary value.

I am, Sirs,

Yours obediently,

P.W. STREATFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| (a) Total | ... | 15 |
| (b) As part of a municipal housing scheme | ... | Nil |

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 303 |
| Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 | 249 |
| Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| 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 | 169 |

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 | 195 |
|---|-----|

Action under Statutory Powers:-

| | |
|---|-----|
| Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act 1919 | Nil |
|---|-----|

Proceedings under Public Health Act:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 29 |
| Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied:- | |
| (a) By owners | 29 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners | Nil |

Proceedings under Sections 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act 1909:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders | Nil |
| Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit | 2 |
| Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

NUISANCE INSPECTION

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of inspections made in 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 554 |
| " " nuisances in hand at close of 1924 | ... | ... | ... | 110 |
| " " " " " " 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| " " " found during 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 573 |
| " " " abated during 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 645 |
| " " informal notices served | ... | ... | ... | 260 |
| " " statutory notices served | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| " " " " complied with | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| " " summonses or other legal proceedings | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

FOOD

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of Cowkeepers in the District | ... | ... | ... | 32 |
| " " Milk-sellers who are also Cowkeepers | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| " " who are Purveyors only | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Total number registered | ... | ... | ... | 48 |
| Number of inspections in 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 156 |
| General condition | ... | ... | ... | Good |
| Approximate number of Milch Cows in the District | ... | ... | ... | 570 |
| Licenses issued for the sale of certified milk | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

During the year it has not been necessary to institute proceedings under the Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops Order.

BAKEHOUSES

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number in the District | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Number of inspections in 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| General condition | ... | ... | ... | Good |

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of Privies | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| " " Pail Closets | ... | ... | ... | 175 |
| " " Water Closets | ... | ... | ... | 1396 |
| " " Water Closets without flushing cisterns | ... | ... | ... | 105 |
| " " Water Closets provided with flushing cisterns during 1925 | ... | ... | ... | 59 |
| " " Water Closets constructed in 1925 for new houses | ... | ... | ... | 15 |

OFFENSIVE TRADES

None in this area.
Two fried-fish shops in the district; no complaints received.

MANURE PITS ETC.

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------|----|
| Nuisances arising from manure pits and animals improperly kept | ... | ... | ... | abated | 23 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------|----|

SCHOOLS

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of visits to Schools for disinfection of Schools and visiting absentees from School | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number in the district | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Total number of inspections | ... | ... | ... | 206 |
| General condition on the slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | Good |

DISINFECTATION

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of premises disinfected after cases of infectious disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

Clothing and bedding removed to the Steam Disinfector.
Infected rooms fumigated and sprayed with Formaldehyde.

PETROLEUM ACTS

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number of licenses granted | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Number of inspections of premises | ... | ... | ... | 37 |

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACTS 1901 - 1920.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of factories on the register | ... | ... | 5 |
| " " workshops (including six Bakehouses) | ... | ... | 27 |
| " " inspections made by Sanitary Inspector | ... | ... | 118 |
| Nuisances under Public Health Acts - (found) | ... | ... | 7 |
| (abated) | ... | ... | 7 |

RATS & MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACTS 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector is the Officer appointed under the above Acts.

The Council's Sewage Farm has received continued attention during the year, and the number of rats is being kept down by the use of Calcium Cyanide gas blown into the runs by means of a "Feeny" pump.

During the year advice has been given to and acted upon by tenants of premises infested with rats.

MISCELLANEOUS

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Visits to works in progress | ... | ... | ... | 232 |
| Appointments, visits re non-abatement of nuisances, and other causes | ... | ... | ... | 210 |
| Visits re cleansing of cesspools | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| Smoke observations | ... | ... | ... | 7 |

J.W.MEDLEY, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL

Number of members of the Board of Health
Number of members of the Board of Health
Number of members of the Board of Health
Number of members of the Board of Health

FINANCIAL DATA

Number of licenses granted
Number of inspections of premises

FACTS & FIGURES FOR 1901 - 1902

Number of licenses on the register
Number of licenses (including air compressors)
Number of inspections made by sanitary inspector
Number of cases of Typhoid Fever
Number of cases of Cholera

DATA & FIGURES (CONTINUED) FOR 1901

The Sanitary Inspector is the officer appointed under
the above Act.
The Council's records have not received continued attention
during the year, and the number of rats is being kept down by
the use of Calicut Quinine has been into the form of means of
a "squeaky" trap.
During the year advice has been given to and acted upon
by tenants of premises infested with rats.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Visits to work in progress
Appointments, visits to non-attendance of witnesses,
and other cases
Visits to inspection of premises
Smoke observations

J. W. HENRY, M.B.E.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.



