

[Report 1906] / Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth R.D.C.

Contributors

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To the Rural District Council Weymouth.

February 20 1907.

Gentlemen.

I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1906
The area of the District is 29,005 acres and when the
inland water is subtracted 28,969 acres.

The population at the last census was 7,884 and
is not much increased at the present time.

The number of births for the year is 227 giving
a rate of 28.7 per thousand of population.

The death rate is 14.5 per thousand. This is
higher than the average.

The average age at death is 35 years.

The ~~z~~ymotic rate calculated upon the seven princi-
pal ~~z~~ymotic diseases is 1.2 per thousand inhabitants.

Infant Mortality.

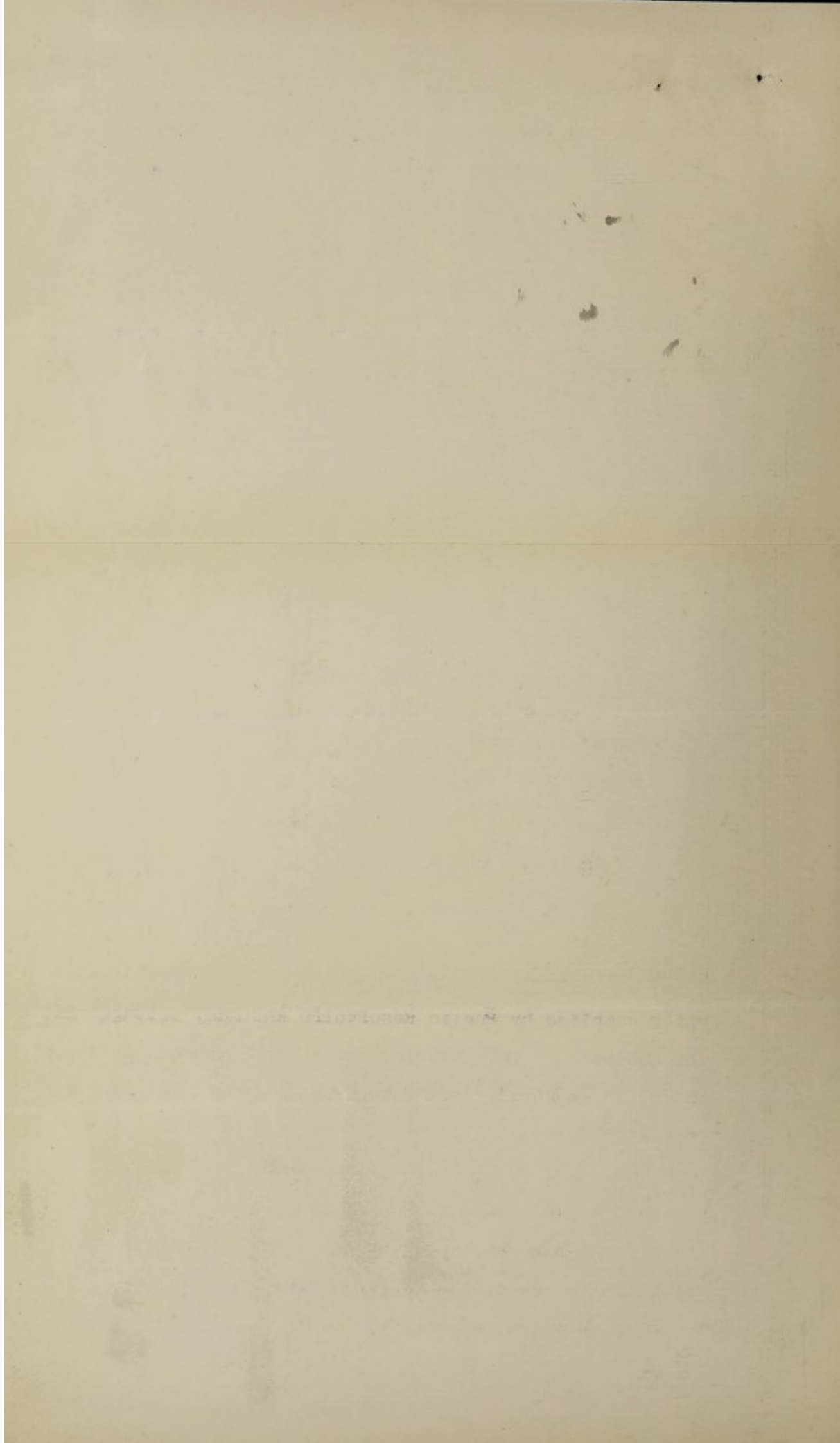
Twenty three children died under one year of age
giving a rate of 101.3 for every thousand births registered.

Prevalence of disease and notification.

Twenty seven cases of Infectious Disease were
notified.

Diphtheria	14
Erysipelas	4
Scarlet fever	8
Enteric	1

Scarlet fever has not been so troublesome as usual but
Diphtheria has appeared during the year at Wyke, Portesham,
Upwey, Broadwey and Chickerell.



The outbreak of Diptheria at Little Waddon ~~in~~ Portesham Parish during August was the most serious, four children in one family took the disease and one died. Here the sanitary arrangements were unsatisfactory, the Privy vault being in dangerous relation to a Well which may have been used for drinking by the children and another old Well contained a quantity of water too near the foundation of the house.

The premises were visited by your Inspector and myself and improvements ordered. The Privy vault to be replaced by an earth closet and the old Well to be emptied and filled in with dry material and sealed down.

The children had attended Coryattes School and this was visited and ordered to be cleansed and whitewashed and its closets to be emptied.

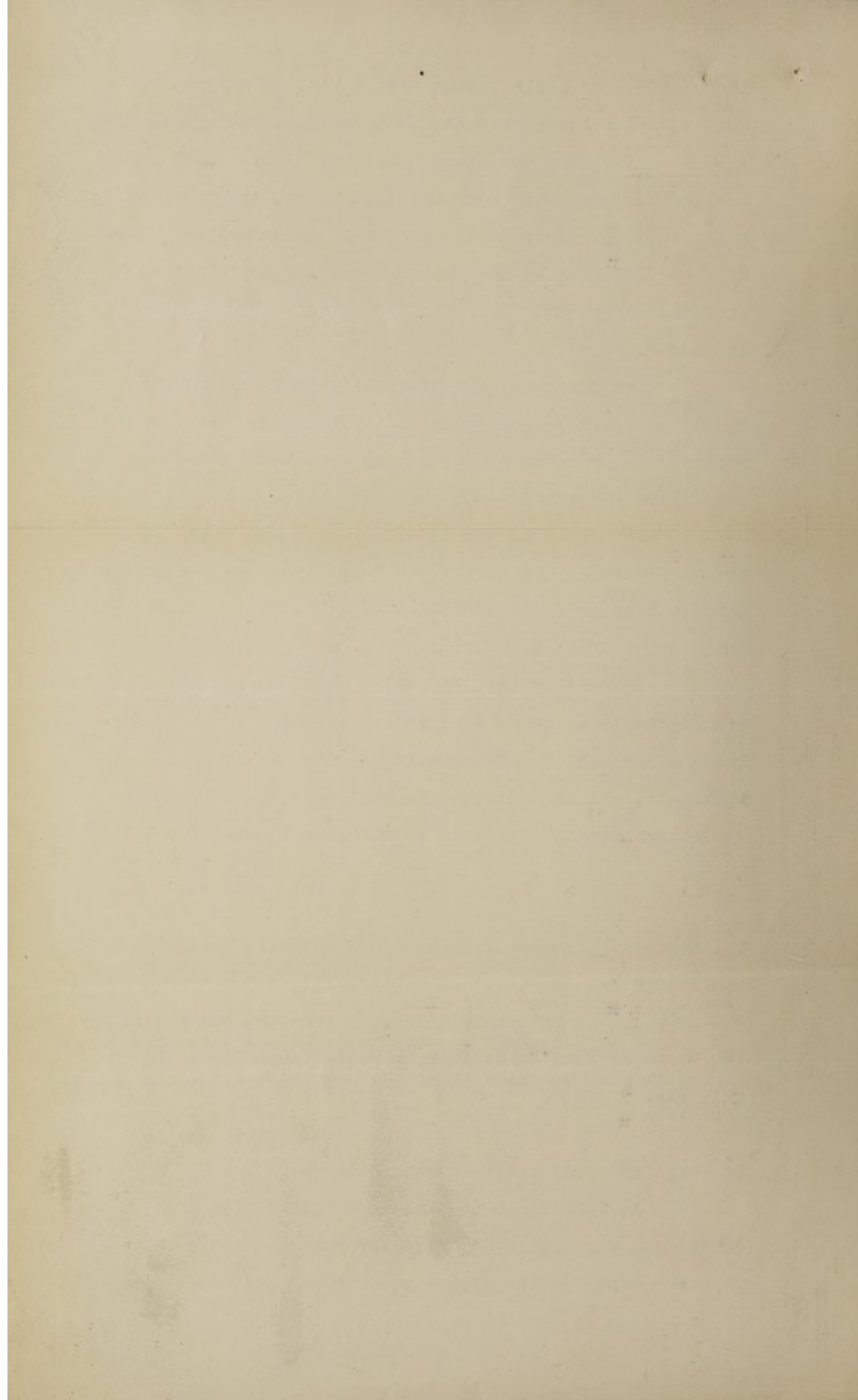
These orders have been carried out.

I consider that Infection may account for most of the Diptheria as there were generally cases in the neighbouring Borough at corresponding periods of time with these outbreaks, and the four deaths registered in the Borough Isolation Hospital which is in our District did not belong to us.

Water Supply__ generally good and abundant. Mostly upland water supplied by Public Reservoirs and many cottages are now supplied in this way instead of from the old wells. The house at Ford's corner Wyke Regis is now supplied in this way.

Sewerage and Drainage Excrement Disposal.

At Wyke Regis the system of filtration and land irrigation works well and gives every satisfaction. In other parts of the district earth closets and cess-pools



are in use and these are very suitable being mostly in Agricultural Districts in which the disposal of soil can be easily carried out.

Isolation Hospital.

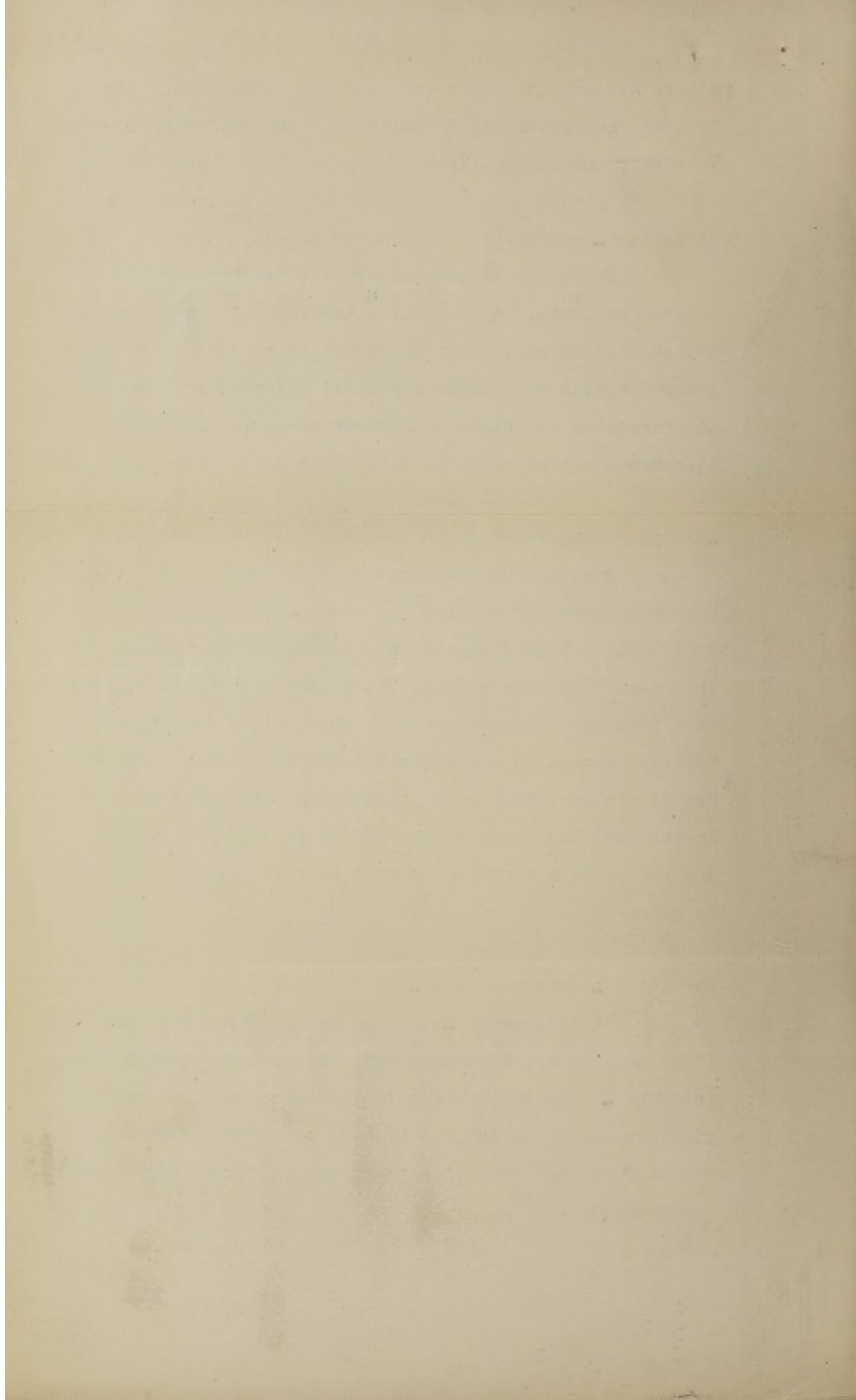
It is now in good order with two Wards ready to receive patients, the situation though cold is most healthy and the little patients usually return home in such improved general health as to astonish their friends, and for this the caretaker and his wife deserve praise. Disinfection is carried out by means of Carbolic Acid and Formaline Vapour

Housing of the Working Classes.

One case of overcrowding was reported at Sutton but your Inspector visited the house and found no cause for complaint. Your Inspector has exercised supervision over the erection of new houses, but better cottages at a reasonable rent are still required. Dairies and Cow Sheds have received attention and various improvements have been made. New floors etc. have been provided and whitewashing done. At the same time many of the buildings used as cow sheds are not satisfactory and further improvements will have to be made.

Slaughter Houses and Bake Houses.

The Slaughter Houses in the District are regularly inspected and are kept in a very satisfactory condition. The Bake Houses too are regularly visited and lime washing strictly enforced, the floors have been repaired and in the one at Portesham new ovens have been made and the premises reconstructed.



Factory Act.

The Factory Act does not affect the District very much, there being only 28 Workshops and seven Workplaces on our list. It has not been found necessary either to send any written notices or to prosecute anyone.

The Public Elementary Schools are in fairly good sanitary condition with good water supply. Some have been closed this year on account of diptheria and measles, and those at Wyke, Coryattes and Upwey have been cleansed after outbreaks of infectious disease.

Systematic Inspection of the District has been made by your Inspector and myself.

I have the honour to remain gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

William Hawkins.

*Medical Officer of
Health.*

