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DAIRYING

WOKING URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

R. W. C. PIERCE, B.Sc., M.D. (Lond.), (State Medicine),

AND

The Sanitary Inspector

(W. BARNES, M.S.I.A.)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1926**



WOKING URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Medical Officer of Health for 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my 26th Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the District.

This Report is to be a Ordinary Report, drawn up on the lines set out in the Ministry of Health's circular (dated December 20th, 1926), as to the contents and arrangement of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

The general health of the district continued to be very satisfactory during last year. The death rate continued to

be very low, and well below the England and Wales Rate. The infant mortality was, however, unusually high, viz., 90 per 1,000 births, as compared with an average of 35 for the previous five years.

There was only slight prevalence of Scarlet Fever and many fewer cases of Diphtheria than in the previous year.

The housing needs of the working classes in the district are, unfortunately, still very far from being satisfied, although 64 new houses—bringing the total up to 186—were completed last year. Sixty more are now in course of erection. The names of about five hundred applicants still remain on the books, and many of these are couples with one or two children. In view of this fact and the recent attitude of the Ministry in favour of building smaller houses, it would appear worth while again to consider the question of the erection of two-storied flats, say, in blocks of four. They have been a great success in the neighbouring town of Guildford, where the Council have just decided to build sixty more. Some are also to be built at Godalming. They can be let at a lower rent than an ordinary cottage, and they cater especially for those couples now in rooms with its resulting overcrowding and inconvenience.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. C. PIERCE.

LONGDOWN ROAD,
GUILDFORD,
March 10th, 1927.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) 11,826.

Population (Census 1921) 26,423.

Registrar-General's estimate for 1926, for Birth Rate purposes 27,820, for Death Rate purposes 27,170.

Number of inhabited houses (1921) : 5,078.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) : 5,564.

At the time of 1921 Census there were 158 families (2.8 per cent. of total families), comprising 293 persons, living in single rooms; 352 families (6.3 per cent.), comprising 882 persons, living in two rooms; and 434 families (7.8 per cent.), comprising 1,589 people, living in three rooms.

The corresponding figures for the county were 3.0, 6.6 and 9.3 per cent. respectively.

Rateable value : £236,231.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £936.

The District is almost entirely residential. A considerable number of people go to and fro to London daily. Parts of the outlying Wards are still agricultural. The only industries of any size beyond the building trade are the Accumulator Works, Unwin's Printing Works and large Nurseries.

The growth of the District has been very rapid, having increased from 9,786 in 1891 to 16,244 in 1901, to 24,808 in 1911, and to 26,423 in 1921.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births {	Legitimate	368	189	179	} Birth Rate 13.8
	Illegitimate	17	10	7	

Deaths, Civilians only	241	135	106	Death Rate 8.8
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Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth	... }	From Sepsis ...	None
	... }	From other Causes	One

Deaths of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 births) : Legitimate 92, illegitimate 58; total 90.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) : Two.

„ Whooping Cough (all ages) : Two.

„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) : Two.

The other causes of death were as follow :—

Influenza	...	...	...	5	Encephalitis Lethargica	2
Tuberculosis of Lungs	13	Ulcer of Stomach or				
O t h e r Tuberculous		Duodenum	...	...	5	
Diseases	...	...	...	2	Appendicitis	...
Cancer	...	...	...	39	Bright's Disease	...
Diabetes	...	...	...	3	Cirrhosis of Liver	...
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	16	Congenital Debility and				
Heart Disease	...	Malformation, Prema-				
Arterio-sclerosis	...	ture Birth	...	...	13	
Bronchitis	...	Suicide	...	...	4	
Pneumonia (all forms)	12	Other Deaths from vio-				
O t h e r Respiratory		lence	...	...	...	6
Diseases	...	Other Defined Diseases			48	

There were more deaths than in the previous year from Congenital Debility (13 against 3), but fewer deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs (13 against 23) and Heart Disease (30 against 45).

The following figures are given in tabular form for convenience of comparison :—

	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Wok'g Birth Rate	19·3	17·7	17·1	16·1	21·7	19·0	16·8	14·5	14·6	15·5	13·8
Eng. & Wales ditto	21·6	17·8	17·7	18·5	25·4	22·4	20·6	19·7	18·8	18·3	17·8
Wok'g Death Rate	12·6	12·0	12·2	9·7	7·9	8·6	9·7	7·1	9·1	8·3	8·8
Eng. & Wales ditto	14·0	14·4	17·6	13·8	12·4	12·1	12·9	11·6	12·2	12·2	11·6
Wok'g Infant Mor-											
tality	93	84	61	58	40	58	31	28	35	21	90
Eng. & Wales ditto	91	97	97	89	80	83	77	69	75	75	70

It will be noticed that the Woking Death Rate continues to be very favourable, but the Infant Mortality was

unusually high. It is somewhat remarkable that the latter has not been higher than the England and Wales rate since 1916. The great increase in the rate over that of last year, when it was only 21 (the average for the years 1921-5 was about 35), was partly due to the increased number of deaths (13 against 3) from congenital debility, etc., showing the need of increased attention to ante-natal conditions of the mothers.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

A. (1) *FEVER*.—The District Council is one of the Constituent Authorities of the Guildford, Godalming and Woking Joint Hospital Board, who maintain a Hospital of 72 beds at Woodbridge, near Guildford, viz., 44 for Scarlet Fever, 22 for Diphtheria and 6 for Typhoid.

Below is a list of the cases admitted to the Board's Hospital from the various districts last year :—

Admissions to Hospital during 1926.

	Sc. Fever.	Diph.	Typhoid.	Total.	Proportion per 1,000 pop.	Deaths.
Guildford Rural Dist.	21	9	0	30	1·37	—
Guildford Borough	15	7	0	22	·88	1 S.F. 1 D.
Godalming Borough	8	2	0	10	1·08	—
Woking Urban Dist.	25	18	0	43	1·76	—
Hambledon Rural Dist.	19	8	1	28	1·21	—
Totals	88	44	1	133	1·28	1 S.F. 1 D.

Five cases were found after admission not to be suffering from the disease for which they were sent in, viz. :—1 Diphtheria and 1 Scarlet Fever from Woking, 1 Scarlet Fever each from Guildford Rural, Godalming and Guildford.

Tracheotomy had only to be performed on one case of Diphtheria. The patient, though temporarily relieved, died two days later from heart failure.

The rates of admission for the 10 years work out as follows per 1,000 population :—

Whole District (excluding Hambledon)	...	...	17.5
Guildford Rural District	...	...	14.3
Guildford Borough	...	...	16.2
Godalming Borough	...	...	16.3
Woking	...	...	21.3

Two hundred and fourteen swabs from patients in the Hospital were examined by me during the year—the great majority being from the noses and throats of Diphtheria convalescents before discharge.

The Fever Hospital at Woodbridge, Guildford, consists of four permanent blocks and two temporary blocks. One permanent block of 22 beds with two single-bedded side wards is of up-to-date construction, and is used as an acute Scarlet Fever ward—the convalescent cases being accommodated in a large block of wood framing and asbestos, being purchased after the war from the War Department.

Two of the other permanent blocks and a Humphreys' Iron Building are used for Diphtheria cases. The block for acute cases is small, and although designed for eight cases has to accommodate twelve. The cases soon overflow into the second block of seven beds (designed for five), which renders the nursing more difficult and expensive. There are no small wards provided for complicated cases or those requiring isolation for other reasons, which, of course, is a great drawback.

(2) *SMALLPOX*.—The same Board have a Hospital of 10 beds at Whitmoor Common, Worplesdon, for cases of Smallpox.

B. (1) *TUBERCULOSIS*.—None.

(2) *MATERNITY*. — An excellent Maternity Home, with 19 beds, is maintained by the Woking Health Society in Oriental Road—a large house in a quiet locality having been bought by them and fully equipped in the most up-to-date manner. One hundred and eighty-two patients were admitted during 1926, as compared with 141 in 1925, of whom 166 were maternity cases, 5 miscarriage, and 6 ante-natal cases. 97 of the cases were delivered by midwives and 69 by doctors. Two ailing babies were also admitted. The average duration of stay was 17 days (post-natal 14, ante-natal 3). One hundred and nineteen cases were from the Woking District. No necessitous cases are refused admission, and the County Council contributed to the maintenance of 70 patients during the year. Grants are also obtained from the Ministry of Health. An ante-natal clinic is held at the Home each month, with an increasing attendance, the total attendances last year being 193.

The following operations were carried out at the Home .
Cæsarian Section 5, Induction 6, Curettage 5.

(3) *CHILDREN*.—There is no special children's hospital in the district apart from a ward in the Cottage Hospital.

(4) *OTHER*. — A small General Hospital, supported entirely by voluntary contributions, exists in the district. It has hitherto proved quite inadequate for the growing needs of Woking and the surrounding districts. Additions were made during 1924, consisting of 2 new wards of 6

beds each, 3 private wards with one bed each, with additional staff accommodation, also a Casualty Department and new X-ray room, but the latter has had to be closed down. There are now 24 beds in the general wards, and 3 private wards of one bed each. A children's ward of 12 beds in a temporary building is also now open.

The total number of in-patients admitted during 1926 was 549, out-patients treated 1,082, of which 649 were casualty cases.

Any Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the District.

There is a small but well organised Maternity Home for unmarried mothers living in Woking, etc., in Ferndale Road, which is maintained by the Winchester Diocesan Union for Preventive and Rescue Work.

Ambulance Facilities.—(a) For infectious cases. The Joint Hospital Board's Motor Ambulance removes the cases to the Fever Hospital.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases. A motor ambulance is maintained at the Cottage Hospital by the Woking Branch of the St. John Ambulance Association.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Maternity and Child Welfare (Consultation) Centres, maintained by the County Council, are open twice weekly (Monday and Wednesday afternoons) at their headquarters in new premises in Clarence Avenue, and at Knaphill on Friday afternoons.

There is now no Day Nursery in the district.

A School Clinic is held every morning at Clarence Avenue and at Knaphill every Friday morning by one of the Assistant Medical Officers of the County Council.

The School Dentist attends at Clarence Avenue every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, and the first and third Fridays in each month.

There is also an Eye Clinic held at Clarence Avenue every Tuesday.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is maintained in Clarence Avenue by the County Council, and is open every Monday morning under the care of Dr. Renwick.

The Venereal Diseases Clinic was closed during 1922, most local patients being treated at the Guildford Clinic.

An Orthopædic Clinic has been established at the Cottage Hospital by the local branch of the Red Cross Society.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—R. W. C. Pierce, B.Sc. and M.D. Lond. (State Medicine), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector—Mr. W. Barnes, Cert. R.S.I. and Special Meat Certificate, who is also Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade.

Sanitary Inspector—Mr. A. F. Steele, Cert. R.S.I. and Special Meat Certificate.

Clerk—Mr. G. A. Hiller.

The Medical Officer of Health holds other Public Health appointments. The Sanitary Inspectors and the Clerk are whole-time officers.

Contributions to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and both Sanitary Inspectors are received through the County Council.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

One District Nurse is provided by the Woking Health Society, with supplementary help when necessary, and one by the Woking District Nursing Association (which is affiliated to the Surrey County Nursing Association) for the Village and Mayford districts.

The Council pay a grant of £50 per annum to the Woking Health Society for the services of the district nurses in cases of infectious illnesses among children, i.e., Measles, Whooping Cough, Epidemic Diarrhœa and Infantile Paralysis, as required by the Medical Officer of Health. The Nurses paid a total of 1,823 visits last year, of which 68 visits were paid to 6 cases of Pneumonia and 2 of Influenza. Of the total visits 467 were in connection with 38 maternity cases, 1,226 visits were to general cases, and 82 were ante-natal visits.

Midwives.—Ten midwives, as compared with twelve last year, gave notice to the County Council in January, 1926, of their intention to practise in the district during the year, of whom four are resident at the Maternity Home in Oriental Road. No midwives are employed or subsidised by the District Council—the responsibility resting with the County Council.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Three samples of water from the mains of the Woking Water Company were examined by me chemically and

bacteriologically, and two samples from shallow wells for water certificates, as well as seven samples from the open-air swimming bath.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The County Council administers the Acts in this district; but the County Medical Officer has been good enough to send me particulars of the samples taken during 1926 in Woking.

	No. of Samples
Milk (all formal)	73
Cream (3 informal)	4
Confectionery and Jam (informal)	2
Butter (informal)	4
Wine (informal)	1
Spirits	2
Lard (informal)	1
Other Articles (13 informal)	14
	<hr/>
Totals (24 informal)	101
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Sixteen samples were found to be adulterated, of which three were informal samples. The adulterated samples were twelve of milk (followed by seven prosecutions and four convictions), one cream, followed by a prosecution and no conviction, and two "other articles" and one wine (informal) (no prosecution). Total: Eight prosecutions, four convictions.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT OF WOKING.

These were given in last year's Survey Report.

A revised set of bye-laws dealing with new streets and buildings came into force in August, 1926.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The Woking Water Company's mains were extended 1,923 yards in the district during 1926, viz., 1,337 yards in Woking and 586 in Horsell, and 4 old houses were connected with the mains.

Closet Accommodation.—There are approximately 442 pail closets still in use in the rural parts of the district, 39 were converted into water closets and connected with new sewers last year. Four new pail closets were erected during the year in outlying districts.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1926.

The following table, prepared by the Sanitary Inspector, is here included in accordance with Art. 19 of "The Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922."

(a) Number and nature of Inspections for 1926.

Dwelling houses inspected under Section 17 of the
Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act 130

Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health Act	130
Premises inspected other than above, including inspections after complaint, infectious diseases, etc.	366
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	192
„ „ Cowsheds and Dairies	409
„ „ Bakehouses	94
„ „ Tent and Van Dwellers' En- campments	27
„ „ Workshops and Workplaces ...	261
„ „ Canal Boats	11
„ „ Meat and other Foods	894
„ „ Places of Public Entertainment ...	42
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Inspections	2,556
Re-inspections	2,563
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Total	5,119
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(b) Notices served.

Number of Preliminary Notices served during the year	276
Number of Statutory Notices served (in respect of 26 premises)	31
1. Under Housing Act, Section 3	20
2. Under Public Health Act, Section 36 ...	11

(c) Result of Notices.

Number of Preliminary Notices	276
1. Not completed in 1925	250
2. Complied with during the year	351
3. Work in hand	138

4. Work not yet in hand	37
Number of Statutory Notices	31
1. Not completed in 1925 (in respect of 28 pre- mises)	32
2. Complied with during the year (in respect of 33 premises)	38
3. Work not yet completed (in respect of 21 premises)	25

The following table shows the work done by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :—

Defective houses repaired	200
Dirty rooms cleansed	591
Proper means of drainage provided to premises...	—
Obstructed drains opened and cleansed	29
Defective drains repaired	24
Eavesguttering and downspouts repaired or pro- vided	92
Means of disposal for rainwater provided	4
Overcrowding abated	17
Efficient means of ventilation provided	2
Sufficient closet accommodation provided	42
Foul gullies, yards or privies cleansed	7
Water and pail closets repaired and cleansed ...	37
Back yards or parts thereof paved	10
Paving of yard areas repaired	28
Sanitary dustbins provided	32
Accumulation of manure or offensive matter removed	13
Premises cleansed where animals so kept as to be a nuisance	3

Wholesome supply of drinking water provided to premises	—
Premises cleaned or gipsies removed under Tents, Vans and Sheds Bye-laws	1
Defects remedied at Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	17
Premises cleansed under Factory and Workshops Act, slaughterhouses and bakehouses	4
Dampness to walls remedied	98
Defective floors repaired or relaid	57
Number of letters sent	252
„ „ complaints received	102
„ „ callers at office	522
„ „ samples of water taken for analysis ...	5
„ „ samples of milk taken for analysis ...	60
„ „ new houses certified as having a wholesome supply of water for the premises	255
„ „ rooms disinfected after cases of infectious diseases	69

Ninety-eight instances of dampness to walls of living rooms were remedied during the year, in the following manner :—

1. Damp proof course of slates or other suitable material	5
2. External walls rendered or weather-tiled ...	17
3. External walls treated with solution on outside	17

4. Dampness remedied by repairs to eaves-guttering, sills, removal of soil from above damp proof course and provision of cement and slate plinths, etc. ... 59

Premises and Occupations Controlled by Bye-laws. — There are no "houses let in lodgings" properly so called, nor any offensive trades in the district, except one rag and bone dealer, who has given no trouble.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. — Control of Smart's Heath, Prey Heath and Westfield Commons has been secured by the Council, and bye-laws under the Regulations issued by the Ministry of Agriculture have been made. An Inspector has been appointed.

Canal Boats. — Mr. Barnes reported that, as Canal Boats Inspector, he had inspected 11 canal boats during the year, and found them all clean and satisfactory without any infringements of the Regulations.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

During the past year 261 visits have been made to factories, workshops and workplaces. Of these 51 were to factories, 196 to workshops and 14 to workplaces.

Only 5 written notices to remedy defects were called for, 4 in the case of workshops and 1 in the case of a factory.

The defects found were 5 cases of want of cleanliness, 1 of want of ventilation, 4 of defective sanitary accommodation, and 13 of various other nuisances—a total of 23, of which 20 were remedied by the end of the year.

SCHOOLS.

All the Schools are of modern construction and hygienic. All have water closets drained to the sewers.

A representation was made to the County Education Committee urging them to exclude children from homes infected with measles when they were attending the mixed departments of school. At present only those attending the infants' department are excluded. In a recent epidemic a large proportion of the actual cases occurred in the Mixed Department.

HOUSING.

Up to the end of the year the Council had built 186 houses, viz., under the 1919 Act, 42 parlour type, which let at 11s. and 5s. rates; and 58 non-parlour type, which let at 8s. 6d. and 4s. rates; and under the 1923 Act, 86 non-parlour type, 22 letting at 8s. 3d. and 3s. 6d. rates, 40 letting at 7s. 6d. and 3s. rates, 12 letting at 9s. 3d. and 3s. 9d. rates, 12 letting at 8s. and 3s. 6d. rates.

The shortage, however, appears as acute as ever, and about 500 applicants have still their names on the books.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total 255

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :—

(1) By the Local Authority 64

(2) By other bodies or persons, Subsidy houses 110

I. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspections—(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 260

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	130
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(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	206

(Included 111 premises inspected under Housing Acts.)

II. *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	200
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III. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs...	20
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners	8
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	1

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 11 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :— | |
| (a) by owners | 9 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... | — |

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

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

One house demolished as result of Closing Order, but no Demolition Order made.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.* — There are now 39 cowkeepers on the register, of whom 23 are also dairymen, and there are, in addition, 13 dairymen who are not cowkeepers. There are also 12 dairymen on the register who supply milk in the district, but whose place of business is outside this district.

Five licences have been granted by the Council in respect of the supply of " Certified Milk " in the district, one licence in respect of the supply of " Pasteurised " Milk, and one cowkeeper has been licensed by the Minister of Health for the supply of " Certified " and also " Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) " Milk.

Sixty samples of milk (37 from local sources and 23 from outside sources) were taken for examination by the Clinical Research Association for the presence of dirt, pus and Tubercle Bacilli.

A similar number of samples had been sent for several years for the detection of Tubercle Bacilli by the delicate animal inoculation test, but in 1923 it was considered that a microscopical examination of the number of bacteria present, including the presence of bacilli coli (a manurial organism) in specified quantities of the milk, would tend to raise the standard of purity of the milk produced or sold in the district.

The general results of the examinations have been very satisfactory.

With regard to the presence of dirt, of which the number of bacteria is to a great extent a measure, no less than 27 out of 37 local samples and 6 out of 23 rail samples came within the limit for certified milk, viz., under 30,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre (about 20 drops). This is the same number as in the previous year, but the percentage is not quite as good.

Of the remainder, 10 local samples and 16 rail samples, all came within the limit allowed in " Grade A " milk, viz., under 200,000 bacteria per cubic centimetre. In only four instances did the number of bacteria exceed 100,000 per cubic

centimetre. The above results for samples of ordinary milk are extremely satisfactory.

With respect to the still more reliable test for the detection of dirt, viz., the presence of bacillus coli (present in large numbers in manure), 23 local and 4 rail samples came up to the standard of "Certified" milk, viz., no bacillus coli in 1 cubic centimetre, and a further 9 local and 11 rail samples came within the "Grade A" standard, viz., no bacillus coli in 10 cubic centimetres. Three local and 6 rail samples showed over 100 per cubic centimetre, and 2 local and 2 rail samples showed an excessive number, viz., over 1,000 per cubic centimetre.

Letters were sent to the dealers who were responsible for the samples with the excessive numbers of bacillus coli.

Taking both standards for Graded Milks together, 18 local and 2 rail samples came up to "Certified" milk standard; 11 local and 11 rail (42 altogether) up to "Grade A" standard, leaving 8 local and 10 rail samples below both standards.

Traces of pus as well as Tubercle Bacilli were found in the mixed milk from 2 farms in Hampshire in January, and Tubercle Bacilli only in a sample of milk obtained in October by a local dairyman from a large Combine.

Difficulties were at once apparent in the latter case, owing to the impossibility of notifying the County Medical Officer under the Milk and Dairies Act of the exact source of the incriminated milk, as the Combine obtained their supply from about 60 farms situated in three counties. Investigations were, however, set on foot, and three or four infected animals were found in some of the herds and dealt with.

With regard to the January sample, a certain amount of delay took place in tracing the affected animal until the milk was subsequently found to contain Tubercle Bacilli as well. Active search was then made by the local Council, and the diseased animal found and dealt with.

ACTION UNDER DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.

The Inspectors paid 409 visits to cowsheds and dairies, but only 1 written notice was required to remedy defects.

Exceptional care is taken to safeguard the milk supply of the district from tuberculous infection, as not only is a careful quarterly inspection made of all the dairy cows in the district by the Council's Veterinary Inspector (Mr. A. Payne), but samples are taken both from the inside and outside supplies for the inoculation test for Tubercle Bacilli. Sixty samples were taken for this purpose last year (37 from local sources and 23 from outside sources). (See under Food.)

Mr. A. C. Wild, who has been Veterinary Inspector for this district for many years, resigned in May, and Mr. Payne was appointed Veterinary Inspector in July.

The duty of inspecting cattle devolved on the County Council from October 1st under the new Dairies Order.

Mr. Wild and Mr. Payne examined last year an average of 488 cows each quarter, and reported the results of their inspections quarterly to the Council. The Veterinary Inspector inspects for Tuberculosis generally, and also takes note of any unthrifty condition of the cows and their cleanliness.

Three cows, suspected of having Tubercle Bacilli, were destroyed, and, on post-mortem examination, the diagnosis was confirmed.

In the September quarter 10 cows were found suffering from various forms of Mastitis, and in the December quarter 2 such cows were found. All these cases were satisfactorily dealt with.

(b) *Meat.* — There is comparatively little slaughtering of cattle and sheep in the district, most of the meat being obtained from London. Due notice is given to the Inspector of the usual and occasional hours of slaughtering. Butchers in the district also frequently send word to the office when they suspect any of their meat is not satisfactory. There is no marking of meat under the Meat Regulations.

The Public Health Meat Regulations are being carefully administered. Four of the larger shops have had glass front fitted, and practically the whole of the meat is now kept in shops having glass fronts, which are kept closed. The watering of the streets in the main thoroughfares was greatly appreciated by the butchers.

OTHER FOODS.

Eight hundred and ninety-four inspections were made by the Inspectors last year.

Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ ton of unsound meat, fish, fruit, etc., was surrendered and destroyed. This included the carcasses of 1 sheep, 2 lambs and 1 sow.

There are 27 bakehouses, to which the Inspectors paid 94 visits.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 2 registered and 3 licensed slaughterhouses in this district, to which 192 visits were made.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**Notifiable Diseases during the year.**

		Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	... ..	18	18	—
Scarlet Fever	... ..	29	24	—
Puerperal Fever	... ..	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	... ..	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	... ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia	... ..	10	—	12
Typhoid Fever	... ..	—	—	—
Other diseases gener- ally notifiable—				
Erysipelas	... ..	4	—	—
Encephalitis	... ..	1	—	2
Total :		66		

Of the above, 6 cases of Pneumonia and 1 of Erysipelas were notified from the Brookwood Mental Hospital.

The total figures for previous years were as follows :—

1921 = 104.

1922 = 77.

1923 = 99.

1924 = 158.

1925 = 127.

Excellent features of the above list are the total absence of cases of Typhoid Fever and the occurrence of only one case of Puerperal Fever.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1—5	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	1
20—25	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	—
45—55	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	8	5	4	1	8	5	1	1

The previous totals of notified cases were :—

1921 = 20. 1922 = 21.

1923 = 21. 1924 = 18.

1925 = 23.

Cases Notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum—None.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied through a local chemist to Medical Practitioners at the expense of the Council. The amount is, however, comparatively small, as the cases are almost invariably promptly removed to Hospital.

Laboratory Work.

Eight-four swabs from suspected cases of Diphtheria were examined by me during the year, mostly sent by Medical Practitioners, as compared with 200 in 1925, 157 in 1924 and 64 in 1923. The Council bear the expense of the examination of the swabs from cases among the poorer classes.

Twenty-two specimens of sputum for Tubercle were sent to the Clinical Research Association. Only two of these showed the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Diphtheria.—Only 18 cases were notified during the year, against an average of 36 for the previous five years. All were removed to Hospital. There was a small outbreak of six cases in the early part of the year among the children attending Monument Hill School, otherwise the cases were scattered throughout the district and call for no special remarks.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases reported was 29, of whom 24 were removed to Hospital. The cases were well distributed over the district, and the disease did not acquire a foothold in any part. There was the usual number of instances of infection introduced from elsewhere into the district.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—One case of this disease (which, owing to its occasional tendency to spread, has recently attracted much attention) was reported. The case was a baby of 18 months old, who was removed to the County Hospital, Guildford, where it has improved considerably.

The case of Encephalitis reported was a young girl of 20, who was removed to the Cottage Hospital and died there. There was nothing to account for the attack.

