

Annual report of the Medical Officer of Health 1913 / Wanstead U.D.C.

Contributors

Wanstead (London, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

[1914]

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Wanstead Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER.

1913.



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To the Chairman and Members of

The Wanstead Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1913. The Report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Henry C. Howard, giving the work done in the Sanitary Department, is also incorporated.

For the convenience of the Local Government Board and those not acquainted with the district I repeat the following description of the physical features and general characteristics.

The Urban District of Wanstead is situated within the N.E. section of the London area, and is bounded on the N. by Woodford, on the E. by Ilford, on the S. by East Ham, and on the W. by Leyton. Snaresbrook is but a subdivision of Wanstead Parish, and is situated on the W. side of the Railway Arch, towards the Infant Orphan Asylum.

The District can be best described as a parallelogram of 1,679 acres, extending $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles North and South along the West side of the River Roding, and having an average width of little over a mile. It has a general slope from N.W. to S.E., the highest point (170 feet above Ordnance datum) being the extreme N.W. corner of the district, and the lowest point (20 feet above Ordnance datum) at the extreme S.E. corner of the district, on the flood lands attached to the Council's Sewage Farm.

The subsoil is mainly gravel, intersected with layers of clay, whilst the higher levels of the district are of clay formation.

Tracts of forest land and water, including what are commonly known as Wanstead Park and Wanstead Flats, and comprising in all about 509 acres, abound in the southern portion of the district.

These permanent open spaces, being secured against the future inroads of the builder, will doubtless preserve to a large extent the present residential character of the district.

The population is fairly distributed north and south, and the central part contains practically the whole of the cottage, shop, and business premises. Here the population is more compact.

When the Census was taken in April, 1911, the population, excluding 895 in the Orphanages and about 250 at the Aldersbrook Cottage Homes, worked out at 4·52 per house, whereas prior to that it was 5.

The number of inhabited houses at Midsummer was 3,169

The number of uninhabited houses at Midsummer was . . 175

The number of inhabited houses at Christmas was 3,324

The number of uninhabited houses at Christmas was 133

The number of new houses passed in the year was 113

The estimated population at the middle of the year was 15,469.

NOTE.—By the discovery of an error in the figures obtained from the Overseers' Department respecting the number of inhabited and uninhabited houses, the population was probably nearer 15,000 at Midsummer, 1912.

DEATH RATE.—The number registered here was 119 minus 4 aliens, plus 24 residents who died elsewhere. For the latter information I am indebted to the County Medical Officer. The corrected death rate, therefore, was 8·9 per 1,000.

BIRTH RATE.—The total number of births registered was 238, to this must be added 5 born outside the Parish. The corrected number, therefore, was 243, viz., 129 boys and 114 girls; 8 were illegitimate. The birth rate was 16·9.

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 15 deaths under 1 year. Five of these were premature. The rate per 1,000 net births was 61·7 as compared with 46·3 in 1912.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The drainage and sewerage of the district is effected by gravitation, the sewage outfall being at the lowest corner, and adjacent to the Roding, into which the effluent flows. The roads have separate storm water sewers, which terminate at various points of discharge into the Roding.

The sewage farm covers an area of over 42 acres, and originated about 30 years ago.

With the growth of the locality the system has been recognized as inadequate to meet future demands, and it has been necessary to decide on a more elaborate scheme.

Rapid progress has been made with the new work at the Sewage Farm, payments aggregating £6,000 having already been made to the Contractors.

An order has been issued by the Board of Trade authorizing the supply of electric current from the Ilford mains to provide power for the travelling distributors, sludge pumps, etc., and it may be confidently expected that the new percolating filters, sludge lagoons, etc., will be in actual working order during May or June next.

In spite of the inevitable disorganization of the Sewage Farm whilst alterations of such magnitude are in hand, no serious complaints have been received as to any nuisance caused; this speaks well for the vigilance of the Farm Manager.

SEWER VENTILATION.—The erection of “Webb” sewer ventilating lamps in various parts of the district has considerably minimised the number of complaints concerning sewer gas.

DEVELOPMENTS.—During the past twelve months 113 new houses have been passed for occupation, the majority of the buildings being semi-detached villas of £35 to £45 rental value, with a sprinkling of larger detached houses.

It is pleasant to record the more enlightened and spacious ideas that are becoming prevalent in the development of Estates; new roads of a greater width (than the bye-laws of a minimum of forty feet as previously) are becoming common, and on the “Firs Estate” (Woodford Road), the owner is laying out one road of 60 feet width, with an avenue of trees, and has voluntarily undertaken to provide an open space in the middle of the Estate.

ROADS.—I am glad to record that the Council has authorized a large expenditure for the tar dressing of roads, so as to mitigate the dust nuisance.

In view of the recent motor bus traffic, of which at the moment there are four services, with an average of 1,125 passing through per day, it must be inevitably obvious that such roads must be very considerably cut up.

SCAVENGING.—The removal of house refuse is carried out by contract, and a weekly collection is made throughout the District.

Complaints as to the spilling of debris in the streets during the process of collection and transit, due, in most instances to occasional overloading of the carts employed, were less frequent during the past year.

At the expiration of the present contract in March, 1915, the question of possible improvement in the type of cart and covers in use will be worth the consideration of the Council.

The collected matter is disposed of outside the district, and all complaints concerning this Department in reference to non-collection of house refuse, and to the non-provision of proper receptacles, are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1908-1912.

—Since 1908 four complete series of Regulations were issued by the Local Government Board in order to cope effectively with this most serious and important question, that of consumption in man.

The first set, dated 1908, were framed in order to reach the most uncared-for section, and notification was confined to those cases which came within the scope of the Poor Law only.

In 1911 a second series was issued, requiring also the notification of tuberculosis in hospitals, and later in the same year a further set of Regulations were made requiring the notification of all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The fourth and last series issued came into operation on the 1st Feb., 1913, were framed to consolidate and amend the previous Regulations, and to complete the universal notification of every form of tuberculosis.

During the past year the Council had in consideration the question of housing accommodation for the working classes, upon which there appears to be much conflict of opinion.

The Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, Section 17, received the fullest possible attention of the Sanitary Inspector during the past year, and a total of 70 cottages were to some extent dealt with; an excellent record of work was accomplished, including considerable alteration and repairs, and in adapting generally all modern improvements.

The following statement is also required in accordance with these Regulations :—

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected during 1913	
(under Section 17)	36
Number of houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health (Section 17)	22
Number of Closing Orders served by the Council (under Section 17)	6
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for habitation (Section 17), including those inspected during 1912	31
Number of dwelling-houses closed voluntarily	10
Number of dwelling-houses in consideration or undergoing repair at the close of 1913	12

ZYMOTIC DISEASE.—*Vide* Table II.

The following Zymotic Diseases were notified.	Small Pox	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Varicella	Anterior Poliomyelitis	Totals
Wanstead	1	4	18	5	29	—	57
Infant Orphan Asylum	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
Aldersbrook Cottage Homes	—	—	6	—	—	—	6
	1	5	25	5	29	1	66

DIPHTHERIA antitoxin is always kept available for medical men in special cases, and swabs are submitted to the C.M.O. for a bacteriological report by arrangement with the M.O.H.

Sputum is also submitted to the County Medical Officer for tuberculosis.

SMALL POX.—A modified case of small-pox occurred within the District during the year, and the patient was a Government employé at Woolwich Arsenal. All due precautions were taken, and, happily, there was no further development.

CHICKEN POX still remains notifiable.

THE WANSTEAD ISOLATION HOSPITAL contains 20 beds, viz., Scarlet Fever, 12; Diphtheria, 8. 20 cases were admitted during the year, viz., Scarlet Fever, 17; Diphtheria, 3. There were three deaths, viz., Scarlet Fever, 2; Diphtheria, 1, all from the outer area, the latter case lived but four hours after admission.

The number of patients in hospital at the end of the year was Scarlet Fever, 6; Diphtheria, 2.

THE PUBLIC MORTUARY, etc.—During the year nine bodies were deposited in the Mortuary, and seven inquests were held.

WORKSHOPS, FACTORIES, etc., will be dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

THE WATER was supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board, which in large measure is pumped from the Lea Bridge pumping station; it was good and constant.

SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS.—It will be seen from the particulars given in your Sanitary Inspector's Report that an excellent record of good sanitary work was accomplished during the past year; and many of the insanitary evils common to the older premises were removed.

I am pleased to record a marked improvement in the sanitary condition of Snaresbrook Railway Station, to which my attention was called early in the summer. On my request Mr. Howard thoroughly examined the drainage system, and his energies were instrumental in effecting entirely remodelled drainage to the Stationmaster's house and down platform.

I understand that similar improvements will take place shortly on the up platform, in line with a proposed general alteration scheme.

The Church Schools also received the attention of the Sanitary Inspector during the year. The whole drainage system was tested and overhauled, the floor ventilation of the Infants' class-rooms was considerably improved, and a section of surface water drain, connected with the Drummond Room, was entirely renewed.

The conversion of the old Fire Station into office accommodation for the Sanitary Inspector is nearing completion, and will, doubtless, prove most advantageous to the work of that Department, whilst affording additional convenience for the Collectors' Staff.

So much importance has been attached to the Housing question that I would here make some brief allusion to the work carried out in conjunction with the Housing Regulations, 1910.

The additional duty as Housing Officer, included in his appointment in June, 1912, has taken up a very considerable portion of the Inspector's time; with the inspection of cottage premises, and, with this and the various other duties appertaining to his office, a large volume of clerical work has to be performed, which must of necessity curtail greater progress in this important direction.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK ARGLES.

April, 1914.

TABLE I.

DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	NET		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Net Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	12,530	147	..	19.7	89	7.1	1	11	15	60.7	99	7.9
1909	13,445	210	..	15.6	89	6.61	1	10	9	46.9	98	7.2
1910	14,000	200	..	14.2	83	5.5	..	7	6	30.0	90	6.0
1911	14,369	217	..	16.2	110	7.5	..	52	17	77.6	162	11.2
1912	15,707*	255	259	17.7	85	5.4	5	26	12	46.3	106	6.7
1913	15,469	238	243	16.9	119	7.6	4	24	15	61.7	139	8.9

Area of District in acres
(land and inland
water).

1,679

Total population at all ages 13,831 }
Number of inhabited houses 2,856 } At Census
Average number of persons per house 4.52 } of 1911

* See note on population 1912, page 4.

TABLE II.

DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES notified during the year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years							INFANT ORPHAN ASYLUM	ALDERS-BROOK INFIRMARY	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards			
Small-pox	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) } 5	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3
Erysipelas	5	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	29	..	2	23	4	..	..	..	1	4	17
Poliomyelitis	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	25	..	..	3	3	14	4	1	..	..	9*
Other forms of Tuberculosis } 22	..	6	9	4	3	..	..	..	1	..	..
Varicella	25	..	4	19	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS ..	113	..	14	58	12	23	4	2	4	4	20

Isolation Hospital, Hospitals or Sanatoria—Empress Avenue, Manor Park. * Various.

TABLE III.
DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.									TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON- RESIDENTS" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT 11
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	..
All Causes—Certified (c)	143	15	7	4	3	4	16	31	63	..
Measles	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 Hospital
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1 Hospital
Whooping Cough	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1 Hospital
Diphtheria and Croup	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	11	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	4	..
Organic Heart Disease	23	..	..	..	..	..	5	6	12	..
Bronchitis	13	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	7	..
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Other diseases of respiratory organs	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Pregnancy and Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malforma- tion, including Premature Birth	10	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	1	..
Suicide	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	14	2	..	..	..	1	4	1	6	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	38	..	2	..	2	1	1	4	28	..
ALL CAUSES	143	15	7	4	3	4	16	31	63	3 Hospital

TABLE V.

DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories—Including Factory Laundries	10	1	..
Workshops—Including Workshop Laundries	65	6	..
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises, included in Part 3 of this Report)	15	2	..
Totals	90	9	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of Prosecutions (5)
Want of Cleanliness	8	..	..	..
Other Nuisances	5	..	..	..
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	5	..	..	..
Total	18	..	..	..

TABLE V—continued.

DISTRICT OF WANSTEAD.

3.—HOME WORK.

OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.											
NATURE OF WORK	Lists received from Employers.						Addresses of Outworkers		Prosecutions		Inspections of Outworkers' premises
	Twice in the year			Once in the year			Received from other Councils	For-warded to other Councils	Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists	Failing to send lists	
	Lists	Outworkers		Lists	Con-tractors	Work-men					
		Con-tractors	Work-men								
							(3)	(4)			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Wearing Apparel—	2	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(1) Making, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of year (1)	Number (2)
Total number of Workshops and Workplaces on Register, including two Underground Bakehouses	48

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	..
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector } Notified by H.M. Inspector	..
as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but } not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) } Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ..	..
Other .. .. .	..
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	..
Certificates granted during the year .. .. .	..
In use at the end of the year .. .. .	..
	2

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

To the Chairman and Members of

The Wanstead Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board I beg to submit my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1913, including a review of the work performed through my Department.

INSPECTIONS.

Number of inspections of premises from all causes ..	575
Number of re-inspections resulting from the supervision of works in progress, or in connection with infectious diseases, etc.	2,130
Total of inspections	2,705

COMPLAINTS.

The number of complaints received and investigated during the year amounted to 180, thirty of these, however, required no further intervention under Public Health legislature. The figures given in the summary appended indicate the more frequent causes of complaint:—

Number of complaints which referred to house drains, fittings, etc.	60
Number of complaints which referred to non-removal of house refuse	35
Number of complaints which referred to damp state of house	16
Number of complaints which referred to smells from sewer ventilators in roads which were handed over to the Surveyor to be dealt with	16
Miscellaneous description	53
	180

One complaint referred to the condition of a horse grazing in a field with other cattle, and on reporting a case of suspected mange, action was subsequently taken against the owner by the County Authority.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disinfection was carried out respecting 50 premises, including the fumigation of 68 rooms, of which eleven were either institutional wards or class-rooms of schools, by means of formalin gas, also the disinfection of 20 beds, etc., in the Council's steam disinfecting chamber

Disinfection was carried out after cases of phthisis, cancer, and other forms of disease on request of medical practitioners.

Investigation was also made as to probable sources of infection, concerning milk supply, schools attended, and the nature of employment of the inmates of infected premises.

Following the disinfection of premises the cleansing of dirty rooms and other necessary sanitary improvements were required to be carried out.

RECONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS.

Very considerable attention has been given to this important branch of work, and during the past year a total of 88 drains were either reconstructed or substantially repaired under my personal supervision.

It is not always easy to persuade the owner of a house that a modern system of drainage is either necessary or advisable, when a few small repairs would hide from view the more serious conditions existing underground ; however, force of argument has usually decided in favour of the better policy.

Varied experience has naturally induced me to recommend improved forms of sanitary ware, which, when consistent with economy, are more readily adapted for general use. Thus the advantages claimed by the use of the double-socketed pipe ware in more recent use, which, whilst ensuring perfectly level inverts and cleanly joints, also removes a common cause of chokage in modern drains, *i.e.*, the cement pushed through in ordinary joint making having been either overlooked or carelessly removed.

On three occasions the question of liability respecting the position of combined drains was dealt with after consultation with the Council's Clerk and Solicitor.

Under the Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 41, notices were served upon the owners of four houses jointly concerned on the question of a single private drain in defective condition. Unreasonable delay was caused by the attitude of one owner, and the necessary work was therefore completed by the Council at the cost of the respective owners.

The following premises were re-drained during 1913:—

- Cambridge Park—"The Chestnuts."
- Cambridge Road—Nos. 37, 39.
- Camden Road—No. 13.
- Chaucer Road—Nos. 42, 44.
- Cleveland Road—Nos. 25, 27.
- Grove Road—Nos. 8, 67, 69.
- Grove Park—"Mayfield" Garage.
- Gordon Road—Nos. 10, 32.
- Hermon Hill—"Hillcrest," "Oaklands," "Glenarlie,"
"Aldersbrook."
- Lake House Road—No. 6.
- Lansdowne Road—Nos. 53, 55, 57, 59; "Roding House."
- Mansfield Road—Nos. 35, 66.
- Mornington Road—Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13.
- New Wanstead—"Homesdale."
- Nightingale Lane—"Duke of Edinburgh," "Yew Tree
Cottage."
- Pelham Road—Nos. 2, 16.
- Snaresbrook Railway Station—Master's house and down
platform.
- Sidney Road—Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13.
- Voluntary Place—No. 1.
- Wanstead Place—"Wavretree."
- Wellesley Road—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 40, 42, 44, 46.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Forty premises within the District are concerned with the sale of food and are inspected with more or less frequency as circumstances demand. There are two slaughter-houses in use, and the premises are large, well constructed, and contain excellent lairage for cattle.

The occupiers of both premises are licensed, their licenses having been renewed during the year. The business has been well conducted, and it is my custom, whenever possible, to be present at the time of slaughter, in order to thoroughly examine the carcasses. A total of 360 carcasses were thus examined during the year, and a very small amount of disease was discovered. Local killed meat is usually of prime quality ; it must not be inferred, however, that the animals, whilst apparently in perfect condition alive, are free from disease ; this can only be determined on examination (*post mortem*). Much of the meat consumed in the district is obtained from the London markets and has been previously inspected.

The following articles of food were condemned by me and destroyed :—

- 2 ox lungs—Tuberculosis.
- 1 ox liver—Tuberculosis.
- 1 heifer liver—Pyæmia.
- 1 udder—Pyæmic quarter.

Also—

- 4 boxes of tomatoes.
- 1 trunk of haddocks.
- 1 trunk of codlings.

In connection with the two latter items the circumstances justified me in giving certificates to enable the traders to get refunds of the purchase moneys from Billingsgate Market.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

Four cowsheds remained in use at the close of the year, and the cattle were usually turned out to graze during day time. Periodical cleansing and limewashing, as well as various repairs, were effected generally.

There are eight dairies and milkshops as compared with nine in the previous year, one was recently discontinued owing to the death of the occupier.

One application for registration as a milk-seller was withdrawn after interviewing the applicant on the premises where it was proposed to store milk ; the circumstances proved unsuitable for the purpose.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909.

Altogether 70 houses, which had been inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, were, to a more or less extent, dealt with during the past year. Thirty-four of this number, however, were inspected during the latter part of 1912, and some of these were already undergoing repair at the commencement of the year. Closing Orders, under Sect. 17, were subsequently served respecting six of the latter premises, with the result that prompt attention was given to various dilapidations.

At the close of the year requirements had been completed at 58 premises, and works of alteration and repair were in progress at the remaining twelve.

As indicated by the extensive character of the works carried out, the Housing Act has undoubtedly impressed owners more seriously as to their responsibilities, and the old policy of neglect and indifference to sound reform has frequently proved bad, if not disastrous.

The increasing value of land in residential districts of outer London is not only responsible for the non-development of cottage property, but also tends to enhance the value of the existing cottages; hence the temptation to owners, when carrying out such repair, to consider the cost on the lines of investment, the interest being secured in the increased rents.

Much time and thought has necessarily been given to this particular work, and the results attained were largely due to informal negotiations, backed by the preparation of comprehensive specifications, and a thorough consideration of practical detail.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Factories include all places in which motive power is used in aid of manufacturing processes, and in this connection the duties of sanitary authorities are limited, more general powers being exercised by His Majesty's Inspector of Factories.

Six factories were visited during 1913.

The number of workshops and workplaces on the Register at the close of the year, including two underground bakehouses, was 48, and the number of visits paid to such premises was 90.

Various works of cleansing, re-drainage, and structural repair were executed at these premises.

Four outworkers' lists were received from other districts.

PETROLEUM ACT.

Although a considerable number of premises are concerned with the sale, storage, or use of petroleum or various bi-products, these are mostly exempt from license. Licenses for the storage of petroleum are necessary only when kept for sale and with certain exemptions as to small specified quantities sold in bottles.

There are six premises within the district licensed for storing petrol, with the addition, in one instance, of benzoline. The premises were inspected prior to the granting of license.

Owing to the growing use of petroleum, carbide of calcium, etc., it is probable that the number of licensed premises will increase.

ACTION TAKEN.

Statutory Notices served :—

Public Health Act, 1875 (Sec. 36)	..	..	2
Public Health Act, 1875 (Sec. 41)	..	..	4
Public Health Act, 1875 (Sec. 49)	..	..	3
Public Health Act, 1875 (Sec. 94)	..	..	1
Informal Notices issued	..	..	112

Housing, etc., Act, 1909 :—

Informal negotiations were effected with the owners of 65 premises to whom specifications of requirements were also submitted.

Number of Closing Orders issued, Sec. 17 .. 6

CORRESPONDENCE.

A very considerable quantity of correspondence was involved during the year, and upwards of 300 communications, notices, etc., were issued from the Department.

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

DRAINAGE.

Drains re-constructed	60
Drains altered or repaired	27
Drains choked (obstructions removed)	36
Manholes provided	66
Soil and ventilating pipes provided or renewed	45
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired	11
New 6 in. trapped gullies provided	99
New W.C. pans (pedestal or straight-back variety)	93

WASTE PIPES, ETC.

New glazed sinks and wastes provided	61
Bath, sink, or lavatory wastes renewed or repaired	42
New flushing cisterns provided	65
Flush cisterns and pipes repaired	32

WATER SUPPLY.

Storage cisterns renewed, repaired, or cleansed and covered	11
Water supply re-instated after being cut off for repairs	9
Draw-off taps provided on mains for dietetic purposes	28

DIRTY PREMISES, ETC.

Dirty houses cleansed throughout	17
Dirty rooms (additional) cleansed	91
Portable iron dust bins provided	50
Offensive accumulations removed	19

REFERRING TO DAMPNESS, DILAPIDATIONS, ETC.

Damp-proof courses fixed in external walls of house (consisting of double courses of slate bedded in cement)	56
Site of house covered with bed of cement concrete	15
Site wholly or partially excavated to provide ventilation under floors	21
Additional bedrooms built (remodelled cottages)	6
Sculleries rebuilt in brickwork	8
W.C.'s rebuilt in brickwork	8
W.C. floors paved or repaired	93

Floors renewed	30
Floors repaired	34
Light and ventilation to rooms and W.C.'s improved ..	25
Windows enlarged, repaired, or replaced with new windows and sliding sashes	37
Yards paved and drained	55
Yard paving repaired	16
Roofs repaired	51
Rain water pipes and guttering reinstated or repaired ..	59

MISCELLANEOUS.

Nuisance from water in cellars abated	11
Smoke nuisance abated	1
Overcrowding abated	4
Nuisance from the keeping of fowls or animals abated ..	8
Stables drained or demolished	2
Manure pit provided	1
Cesspools cleared	3

I conclude my Report with an expression of appreciation for the confidence and support shown me by the Council in the execution of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY C. HOWARD,

M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN. INST.