[Report 1923] / Medical Officer of Health, Nairn Burgh.

Contributors

Nairn (Scotland). Burgh Council.

Publication/Creation

1923.

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/tg82hj4h

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
https://wellcomecollection.org

AC.4678 (1) NAIRN

BURGH OF NAIRN.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

1923

PRINTED AT THE "NAIRNSHIRE TELEGRAPH" OFFICE.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28655060

ELGIN, 31st March, 1924.

To the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Nairn.

GENTLEMEN,

In conformity with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health, I beg to submit my Report on the Public Health and Vital Statistics of the Burgh of Nairn for 1923.

I am,
GENTLEMEN,
Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT DOUGLAS,
Medical Officer of Health.

1923.

BURGH OF NAIRN.

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

BURGH MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Population at Census of 1921	4474
Population estimated to middle of 1923 . .	4366
Acreage of Burgh	470 Acres.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1923.

BIRTHS.—During the year 1923 the number of births belonging to the Burgh was 79, of which 5 were illegitimate. This gives a birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated population of 18.1, as compared with 21.2 in 1922.

DEATHS.—During the year 52 deaths were registered in the Burgh, while 3 occurring outwith the district have been transferred to the district, and 2 have been transferred away from the district. Of the 3 transferred in, 2 were from Inverness and 1 from the County of Banff, while of the 2 transferred out, 1 was transferred to the County of Nairn and 1 to Edinburgh. This makes a net total of 53 deaths belonging to the district, equivalent to a death-rate of 12.1 per 1000 of the estimated population. Last year the death-rate was 13.3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Of the 53 deaths, 5 were those of infants under 1 year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 63 per 1000 births. This is considerably lower than last year.

DEATHS OF AGED PERSONS.—Of the total deaths registered, 25 had attained the age of 65 and upwards. Of the remaining 23 deaths, the ages at death were as follows :—

1 to 5 years . .	0	25 to 45 years . .	7
5 to 15 years .	1	45 to 65 years . .	12
15 to 25 years .	3		

A & B.—A statement of the general and special enquiries made during the year as to sanitary matters, and a general account of the influences and conditions injurious or dangerous to the health of the Burgh, and of the measures that should be adopted for its improvement.

The only matter under this heading is the sanitary condition of the low-lying parts of the Burgh. This matter has been the subject of comment in several of the previous annual reports. No further complaints have been received by me during the past year with reference to nuisances existing around the street gullies, and I have frequently paid visits of inspection and failed to find any nuisance existing. The Local Authority have been pressing for the introduction of water-closets in certain of the properties where no closet accommodation exists at present. As the result I understand that some new water-closets have been provided. Some of the houses in this area are getting into a considerable state of disrepair, and may require to be closed as soon as other houses are available for the tenants. I think that the aim of the Local Authority should be that every house to be occupied beyond the immediate future should be provided with sufficient water-closet accommodation.

The refuse depot at the Merryton is still being used, where the large accumulation of empty tins is proving rather an inconvenience.

I understand that the Local Authority have provided some dustbins to receive refuse at a few places near street gullies in the low-lying parts of the Burgh.

C.—A general statement of any matters as to which he has given advice or granted certificates, including any action as to offensive trades.

No matters arose during the year requiring special advice or certificates.

There are no Offensive Trades carried on within the Burgh.

D.—A specific account of the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in Workshops and Workplaces, in terms of Section 132 of that Act.

The number of Workshops on the Register at 31st December, 1923, was 44. There were also 17 Factories. These

were inspected chiefly by the Sanitary Inspector. Everything was found fairly satisfactory.

E & F.—An account of any proceedings under the Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1890-1920, etc.

With reference to the Council's Housing Scheme, the erection of 3 blocks of houses has now pretty well advanced.

G.—An account of the presence or absence of pollution of rivers or streams in the district, the sources and nature of any such pollution, and any action taken to check it.

No complaint was received regarding this during the year and no nuisance observed.

H.—An account of any proceedings under the Burgh Police Act, including the substance of his Half-Yearly Reports on Slaughter-Houses (Section 280.)

The Slaughterhouse has been visited and inspected, and was found to be in a satisfactory condition.

I.—An account of the Hospital Accommodation available for persons suffering from Infectious Disease (including the means provided for the conveyance of such persons), etc.

There is nothing new to report with reference to the Hospital Accommodation. The Hospital is old and out of date, and it is impossible to say when a new Hospital may be built. Very considerable repairs have been carried out in order to make the interior of the Hospital as sanitary and hygienic as possible.

The administration of the Hospital has been satisfactory.

There is no accommodation at present for cases of Small-pox.

The Hospital is provided with the use of a horse ambulance.

J.—An account of the Premises, with necessary apparatus and attendance, available for the Destruction or Disinfection of Infected Articles (including means for the conveyance and return of such articles), &c.

There is no steam disinfector in connection with the Hospital. The provision of a new Hospital will, no doubt, provide for this.

K.—An account of the action taken to prevent the Outbreak and Spread of Infectious Disease.

The usual enquiries were made into cases of Infectious Disease occurring in the Burgh during the year, and the usual precautions against the spread of the infection were taken. Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria have occurred in the Burgh throughout the year, but not in epidemic form as we had a few years ago.

L.—A statement of any action taken with regard to (a) Pneumonia, Malaria, Dysentry, Trench Fever, etc., and (b) with regard to "Carriers."

During 1923, 4 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia were notified, 2 in March, 1 in June, and 1 in December.

Two of the cases were treated in Hospital.

There were no notified cases of the other diseases mentioned in this Section and no "carriers."

M.—A statement of the facilities available for the treatment of persons suffering from Venereal Diseases, with recommendations as to any further measures that might usefully be taken for dealing with these diseases in the Local Authority's area.

The Burgh of Nairn is one of the combining Authorities in the Venereal Diseases Scheme with the North-Eastern Counties and the Town Council of the city of Aberdeen.

The Scheme has been in operation for some time. The statistics for the County of Nairn (Burgh included) were made up for the year ending 15th May, 1923, and show that no new cases were treated from the Burgh during the year under the Scheme. Two Laboratory Examinations were made during the year for private practitioners in the County.

N.—A statement as to the Causes, Origin, and Distribution of Diseases within the Burgh, and the extent to which the same have depended on or have been influenced by conditions capable of removal or mitigation.

The number of deaths occurring in or belonging to the Burgh during the year 1923 was 53. This is 7 deaths fewer than in the year 1922.

DIPHTHERIA.—For the past year in the Burgh of Nairn I am glad to report that the number of Diphtheria cases has shown a still further tendency to decline. During the year

9 cases were notified, as compared with 19 in 1922. All the cases were treated in hospital. The following are the number of notifications for the eight previous years:—

1915	36 cases
1916	44 ,,
1917	24 ,,
1918	7 ,,
1919	4 ,,
1920	23 ,,
1921	31 ,,
1922	19 ,,
1923	9 ,,

In the first five months of the year, 6 of the total of 9 cases of Diphtheria were notified, 2 of them being in January, 1 in March, 2 in April, and 1 in May. Of the other 3 cases, there was 1 each in July, August, and September, the last case notified being on the 17th September, 1923.

Of the 9 cases, 5 were in children of school age, 1 was in a child under school age, and 3 were in adults. The most of the cases occurred in the low-lying parts of the Burgh.

Scarlet Fever.—During 1923, 6 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, showing a very considerable decrease from the 14 cases in 1922 and the 42 cases in 1921. Three of the cases were removed and treated in hospital and 3 were treated at home. The first cases notified during the year were in August, when three persons in the same household were all affected. Of the remaining three cases, 2 were notified in October and 1 in December. Five cases were in children of school age. The cases were scattered throughout the Burgh, and no association between them was evident.

Erysipelas.—One case of Erysipelas was notified during 1923, in the month of January.

Smallpox.—There were no cases of Smallpox notified within the Burgh for the year 1923.

I find that during the year eight declarations of Conscientious Objection to Vaccination were lodged with the Registrar.

Cancer or Malignant Disease. — Eight deaths from Cancer or Malignant Disease occurred during the year, as compared with 7 in 1922 and 7 in 1921.

Organic Heart Disease.—Six deaths from Organic Heart Disease were recorded during the year.

NEPHRITIS AND BRIGHT'S DISEASE.—Two deaths from this cause were registered during 1923, as compared with one in 1922.

OTHER DEFINED DISEASES.—Of the other deaths, the following are some of the causes of death ;—Eight were due to Senility, 6 to Apoplexy, 1 to Bronchitis, 1 to Epilepsy, 1 to Cerebral Tumour, 1 to Acute Obstruction of the Bowel, 1 to Rheumatoid Arthritis, 1 to Appendicitis, and 1 to Pernicious Anæmia.

O.—A statement of the measures adopted for the administrative control of Tuberculosis, with recommendations as to any further measures that might usefully be taken by the Local Authority.

TUBERCLOSIS.—The position with regard to Tuberclosis is as described in recent Annual Reports.

There is no provision for either early or advanced cases. During the year 6 cases of Tuberculosis were notified, all of them being Pulmonary cases. Of the 6 cases, 2 of them were temporary residents within the Burgh, one from Golspie and one from Glasgow. Four of the cases notified in 1923 died, while one notified in 1922 died in 1923. Of the 5 deaths, one died on the day of notification from Pneumonia, while three of them belonged to comfortable homes. The other case died a month after notification.

P. & Q.—A statement of the arrangements made under the Scheme of Maternity Service and Child Welfare, and a report on the working of the Notification of Births Act, 1907. (This applies to areas where a Scheme of Maternity Service and Child Welfare has not yet been carried into operation.)

There is no Scheme of Maternity Service and Child Welfare. The births are mostly notified by the Medical Practitioners in attendance. During 1923, the deaths of 5 infants under one year were registered in the Burgh, as compared with 8 in 1922. The causes of death were given as follows :

Prematurity, 2 Meningitis, 2. Enteritis, 1.

The Infantile Mortality rate per 1000 births is 63, as compared with 82 in 1922.

There is no certified Midwife within the Burgh who intimated her intention to practise during 1923.

R.—An account of any action taken under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1903, (Sections 83-92), the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, the Milk (Special Designations) Order (Scotland), 1923, and the Condensed Milk Regulations, 1923.

The milk supply for the Burgh is almost wholly obtained from Dairies in the County area.

There is nothing to report under this section.

S.—An account of the arrangements for the Inspection of Meat at Slaughter-Houses, Shops, and elsewhere in the Burgh, and observations on Unsound Food.

The meat in the Public Slaughter-house, the property of the Local Authority, and in Shops, has been inspected from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector.

There are no special premises in Nairn where foods are manufactured or prepared.

T.—A report of the work done under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The Chief Constable of the County is the Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

U.—An account of any proceedings under the Rag Flock Act, 1911.

Not applicable.

V.—A Tabular Statement, in such form as the Scottish Board of Health may from time to time direct of the Cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Burgh.

This has been already sent.

TABLE I.

Births and Deaths in the Nairnshire District during 1923

(from particulars kindly furnished in part by the Registrar-General.)

Population estimated to 30th June, 1921—4474
Population estimated to the middle of 1923 4366

Numbers.			Rate per 1000 of estimated Population.
Births (corrected for transcripts)	79	Birth Rate	18.1
Deaths (registered in Burgh)	52	Illegt. rate per 100 births	6.3
Deaths (corrected for transcripts)	53	Death Rate	12.1
		Deaths from Tuberculosis	1.15

Infantile Mortality per 1000 Births—63.

Causes of Death (Corrected for Transcripts.)

Causes of Death.	All Ages.		Age						
	M.	F.	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	3	.	.	.	2	3	.	.
Cancer, Malignant Disease	1	7	.	.	.	.	1	3	4
Meningitis (not Tubercular)	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Apoplexy	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	2	4
Heart Disease	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	1	5
Diseases of Arteries	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Bronchitis	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	1	.
Diarrhœa & Enteritis	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Appendicitis	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Nephritis	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
Diseases of Early Infancy and Malformations	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other Violent Deaths	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Other defined Diseases	6	9	.	.	1	.	1	3	10
Total	22	31	5	.	1	3	7	12	25

TABLE II.

Month	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas.	Malaria	Typhoid or Enteric.	Puerperal.	Pneumonia	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Per Month.	Removed to Hospital.	Died in Hospital	Total Fatal Cases
January	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	2	...	1
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
March	1	...	...	...	..	...	2	..	...	3	1	...	...
April	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	2	...	1
May	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	..	2	1	..	...
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...	...
July	1	...	...	..	.	...	...	1	...	2	1		1
August	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	4	1	...	...
September	1	..	..	...		...	...	...	...	1	1	..	...
October	.	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	2	2	.	...
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
December	..	1	...	...	...	...	1	..	..	2	1	...	...
Total Cases	9	6	1	...	.	...	4	6	...	26	13	...	4
Cases removed to Hospital	9	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	..