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COUNTY OF ORKNEY

AND

BURGH OF KIRKWALL

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# ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

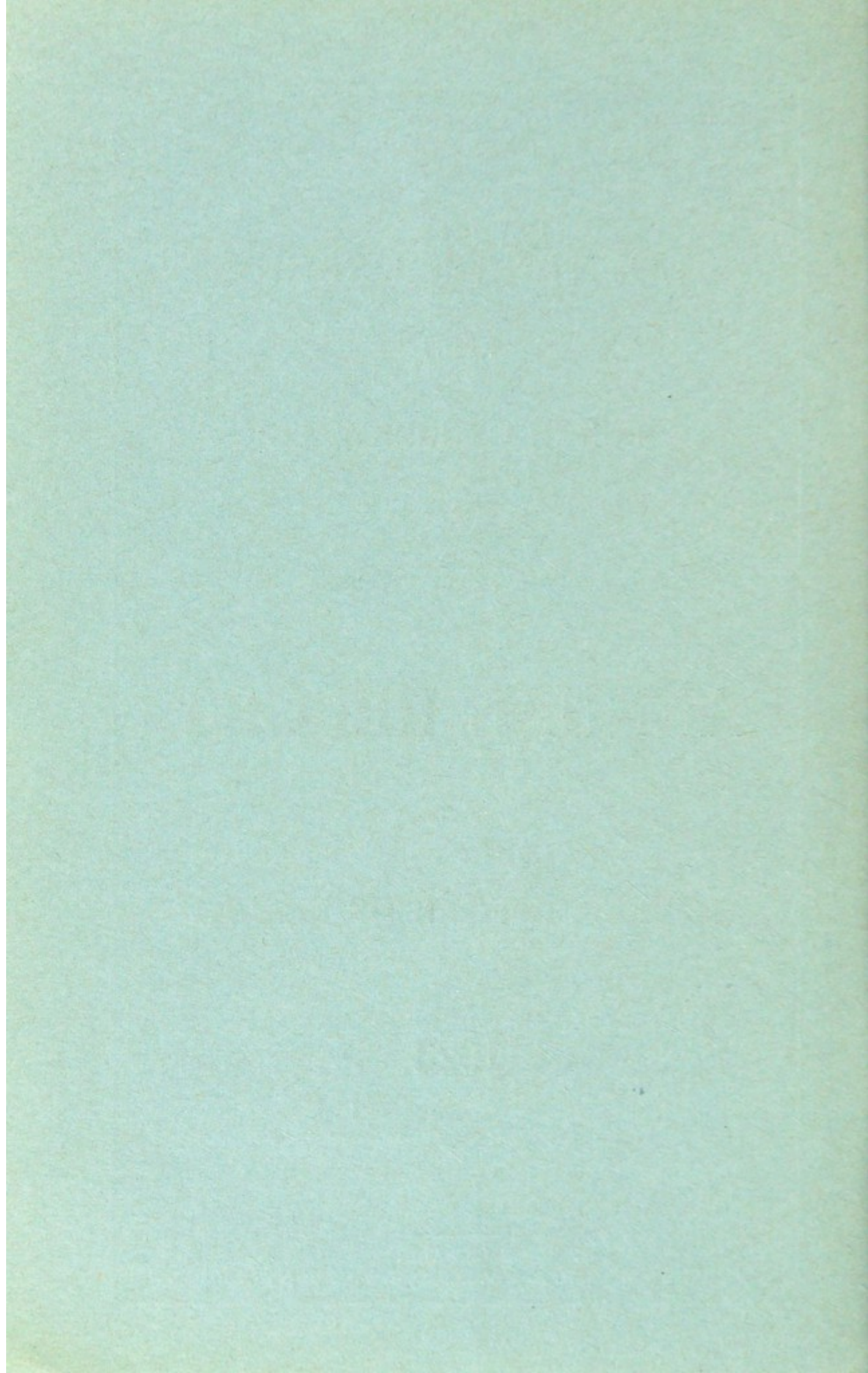
1923

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**COUNTY OF ORKNEY**

AND

**BURGH OF KIRKWALL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

BY THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**1923**



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To

THE SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH,  
THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORKNEY,  
THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE MAINLAND, NORTH  
ISLES AND WALLS, AND THE  
TOWN COUNCIL OF KIRKWALL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1923. The Scottish Board of Health, in their Circular dated 28th December, 1923, dealing with Annual Reports by Sanitary Officers, state that:—

“One of the main purposes of the compilation of the reports is that, by giving them the widest possible publicity, they may engender a popular interest in the subject, and an enlightened public opinion to support the Local Authority in realising its high responsibilities for the health of its area, and in remedying, at the earliest opportunity, the various defects which the survey may bring to light. Such an increase of public knowledge and interest in these matters may also become an effective means of educating the citizens in the more important conditions of public health, of warning them against particular dangers, and of securing that important co-operation and confidence between them and the Health Authority and its staff, which is essential to successful health administration.”

As effect can best be given to this by printing the Report, I trust that the procedure of the past three years will be continued.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES R. ADAM.

Public Health Office,  
Kirkwall, 1st July, 1924.



**COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.**

**JAMES R. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

**DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.**

SOUTH RONALDSHAY ... .. JAMES DEWAR, M.B., C.M.  
WALLS ... .. JAMES R. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
MAINLAND ... .. JAMES R. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
NORTH ISLES ... .. JAMES R. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**BURGH MEDICAL OFFICERS.**

STROMNESS ... .. F. L. DUNCAN, M.B., C.M.  
KIRKWALL ... .. JAMES R. ADAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**COUNTY SANITARY AND VETERINARY INSPECTOR.**

**GEORGE STEVENSON, M.R.C.V.S.**

**COUNTY ANALYST.**

**A. SCOTT DODD, B.Sc., F.I.C.**

**INSPECTOR—FOOD AND DRUGS.**

**ROBERT WOOD.**

**CLERKES.**

**MARY MOWAT.**

# COUNTY OF ORKNEY

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

The **Population of Orkney**, as estimated by the Registrar-General for Scotland, amounted to 23,500, a decrease of 1000 from the previous year.

Detailed information as to age and sex distribution was given in the Report for 1922 and need not be repeated.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of **births registered** during the year was 381, and after correction for births transferred to and received from other areas the **net births** amounted to 383, giving a **birth rate** for the County of 16·3 per 1000 of the population.

The **net illegitimate births** numbered 24 or 6·3% of the net births for the year.

TABLE A.—ANNUAL BIRTH RATE FOR EACH AREA.

	Net Births.	Per 1,000 Population		Illeg. Births.	Per 100 Births	
Mainland ... ..	136	15·9	(All Scotland)	9	6·6	(All Scotland)
North Isles ... ..	109	17·8		4	3·7	
So. Ronaldshay	35	17·4		6	17·1	
Walls ... ..	15	10·4		—	0·0	
Kirkwall ... ..	67	18·5		5	7·5	
Stromness ... ..	21	12·9		—	0·0	
Total ... ..	383	16·3	(22·8)	24	6·3	(5·2)
1922	403	16·4	(23·5)	28	6·9	(6·8)
1921	413	17·1	(25·2)	38	9·1	(7·1)

The number of **deaths registered** was 360. After making the necessary corrections for deaths transferred to and received from other areas the **net deaths** amounted to 379, giving a **crude death rate** for the County of 16·1 per 1000 of the population.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age, equal to an **infant mortality rate** of 50·1 per 1000 births occurring during the year.



TABLE B.—ANNUAL DEATH RATES FOR EACH AREA.

	Net Deaths.	Per 1,000 Population		Under 1 year.	Per 1,000 Births.	
Mainland ... ..	155	18.1	(All Scotland)	8	59	(All Scotland)
North Isles ...	92	15.0		2	18	
So. Ronaldshay	34	16.9		2	57	
Walls ... ..	20	13.9		0	0	
Kirkwall ... ..	55	15.2		5	75	
Stromness ...	23	14.1		2	95	
Total ... ..	379	16.1	(12.9)	19	50.1	(79.0)
1922	410	16.7	(14.9)	22	53.9	(101.0)
1921	383	15.9	(13.5)	32	91.0	(91.0)

**Deaths in Institutions** numbered 35—Balfour Hospital 13, Orkney Poorhouse 10, Royal Mental Hospital (Aberdeen) 1, Royal Asylum (Edinburgh) 5, Morayshire District Asylum (Elgin) 1, Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh) 4, Royal Infirmary (Dundee) 1.

A detailed survey of the causes of death will be found in the report for each Public Health District.

135 **marriages** took place, equal to a **marriage rate** of 5.7 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 7.2 for Scotland as a whole.

Number of marriages and marriage rate per 1000 for each Area:—

	Main- land.	North Isles.	South Ronald.	Walls.	Kirkwall Burgh.	Stromness Burgh.	Total.
Marriages ... ..	58	24	4	5	36	8	135
Rate per 1000 ...	6.8	3.9	2.0	3.5	10.0	4.9	5.7

TABLE C.—ENTIRE COUNTY.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO  
CAUSES AND AGE PERIODS.

CAUSES OF DEATH—CORRECTED FOR TRANSFERS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	Age												85 and over
		M.	F.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-
1. Enteric Fever ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
2. Typhus Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Whooping Cough ...	4	2	2	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Influenza ...	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
9. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Other Epidemic Diseases ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	21	9	12	—	—	—	—	7	6	2	4	2	—	—
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ...	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malignant Tumours ...	34	12	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Rheumatic Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous)	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Apoplexy ...	39	21	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Heart Disease ...	59	28	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21. Disease of Arteries ...	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Bronchitis ...	22	9	13	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	8	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant)	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic	15	10	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations	8	4	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Suicide ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Other Violent Deaths ...	10*	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. Other Defined Disease ...	116	54	62	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	6	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Causes ...	379	182	197	19	8	1	1	14	16	10	31	49	78	103
														48

\* 1 male age unknown.



## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

193 notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year.

TABLE D.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES ALLOCATED TO THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY OCCURRED.

	Mainland	North Isles	South Ronald.	Walls	Kirkwall Burgh	Stromness Burgh	Totals.	
							1923	1922
Diphtheria ... ..	1	—	—	2	—	—	3	5
Scarlet Fever ... ..	7	10	—	—	12	—	29	29
Typhoid Fever ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
Chickenpox* ... ..	8	—	—	—	—	22	30	—
Erysipelas ... ..	4	2	—	1	1	4	12	6
Malaria ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Acute Lobar Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	—	—	3	—	5	2
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	9	13	5	3	7	1	38	32
Other forms of Tuberculosis†... ..	28	7	—	10	25	2	72	29
Total—1923 ... ..	61	33	5	16	48	29	193	—
1922 ... ..	40	31	5	5	24	5	—	110

\* Notifiable from 1/10/20 to 30/9/21 and also 23/7/23 to 31/12/23.

† Diagnosis Revised in one case.

### List of Diseases which are Compulsorily Notifiable.

Smallpox	Cerebro-spinal Fever
Cholera	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis
Diphtheria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Membranous Croup	Malaria
Erysipelas	Dysentery
Scarlet Fever	Trench Fever
Typhus Fever	Acute Primary Pneumonia
Typhoid (or Enteric) Fever	Acute Influenzal Pneumonia
Relapsing Fever	Puerperal Fever
Continued Fever	Tuberculosis (all forms)

**Hospital Accommodation** (Balfour Hospital).—24 cases were admitted, as against 18 in 1922 and 59 in 1921.

Disease.	In Hospital			In Hospital	
	31/12/22.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharged.	31/12/23.
Diphtheria .....	—	1	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever .....	5	18	—	23	—
Typhoid Fever ....	—	2	2	—	—
Whooping Cough...	2	—	—	2	—
Anthrax .....	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis .....	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia .....	—	1	—	1	—
Totals .....	7	24	2	27	2



The average duration of completed treatment for Scarlet Fever was  $44\frac{1}{2}$  days.

The admissions from each district were:—KIRKWALL BURGH—Scarlet Fever 11, Pneumonia 1. MAINLAND—Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 7, Typhoid 2, Anthrax 1. NORTH ISLES—Tuberculosis 1.

**Non-notifiable Diseases.**—644 intimations were sent to the Medical Officer by school teachers and others.

TABLE E.

District.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Chickenpox	Influenza.	Mumps.	Impetigo.	Ringworm.	Scabies.
Birsay .....	—	29	2	—	1	—	2	—
Deerness .....	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evie & Rendall ..	—	5	—	—	3	—	—	—
Firth .....	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Holm .....	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	—
Orphir .....	—	10	—	—	1	—	—	—
St. Andrews .....	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
St. Ola .....	—	12	—	—	58	—	—	—
Sandwick .....	—	2	2	—	2	1	—	1
Stenness .....	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Stromness .....	—	31	2	—	—	—	—	—
Eday .....	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Rousay .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Sanday .....	1	—	—	—	—	5	4	—
Shapansey .....	1	26	—	—	1	—	—	1
Stronsay .....	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Westray .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
So. Ronaldshay...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Burray .....	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stromness Burgh	—	11	11	—	1	—	—	—
Kirkwall Burgh..	1	6	5	—	354	—	—	—
Totals .....	4	164	26	1	427	7	12	3 =644

**School Closure.**—The following school was closed on account of infectious disease, and a certificate signed by two members of the Local Authority, in accordance with Article 30 of the Scottish Code:—

School.	District.	Disease.	Period of Closure.
Cross P.S., Sanday. ...	North Isles. ...	Scarlet Fever. ...	May 16-May 21.

## HOUSING.

Housing conditions in the County generally were given in the Report for the previous year and there is nothing to add. The action taken by the various Local Authorities under the Housing, &c., Act, 1923, is dealt with in their respective Reports.



**Building Bye-Laws.**—None have been adopted so far and are not likely to be until it is realised that they would prove beneficial rather than burdensome.

### TUBERCULOSIS—GENERAL.

The County Tuberculosis Scheme has worked well so far as it has been applied. The scope of the Scheme will be considerably widened during 1924 by the completion of the Tuberculosis Pavilion at Scapa.

110 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, as against 61 in 1922, 38 in 1921, and 28 in 1920. Of these 38 were Pulmonary, being 6 more than in the previous year. Of the remaining 72, 48 were cases of tuberculous cervical glands, not all very serious in themselves possibly but showing clearly the extent to which the population is attacked by tuberculosis. Probably not less than one half of the cases, other than pulmonary were caused by the bacillus of Bovine Type, the usual vehicle of infection being cows milk.

Table T.1. shows the number of cases notified from each Public Health District, and their classification according to site of the disease.

TABLE T.1.

	Mainland.	North Isles.	South Ronald.	Walls.	Kirkwall Burgh.	Stromness Burgh.
Pulmonary .....	9	13	5	3	7	1
Laryngeal .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningeal .....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestines and Peritoneum .....	5	1	—	1	3	—
Spine .....	2	1	—	1	—	—
Joints .....	3	—	—	2	—	—
Bones (exc't spine)	2	—	—	—	—	—
Skin .....	1	1	—	—	—	1
Lymphatic system (except abdom. glands) .....	15	4	—	6	22	1
	37	20	5	13	32	3

The ages of those notified were:—

TABLE T.2.

		Years											
Total		-1	-5	-10	-15	-25	-35	-45	-55	-65	-75	75-	
Pulmonary .....	38	—	—	—	2	11	10	7	6	2	—	—	
Other forms .....	72	1	4	30	6	18	4	6	1	2	—	—	
Totals .....	110	1	4	30	8	29	14	13	7	4	—	—	



TABLE T.3.

	Died before Notification received	Period that elapsed between date of receipt of Notification and date of Death							
		Weeks				Months			
		-1 1	-2 2	-3 —	-4 —	-3 5	-6 1	-9 2	-12 1
Pulmonary .....	—	1	2	—	—	5	1	2	1
Other forms .....	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Totals .....	—	1	2	—	—	7	2	2	1

Table T.4. shows the subsequent history of all cases notified since 1912.

TABLE T.4.

PULMONARY—		Died.	Left District.	Disease		
				Diagnosis Revised.	Apparently Arrested.	On list 31/12/22.
Cases notified prior to 31/12/22 .....	220	165	7	1	10	37
Cases notified during 1923 .....	38	12	2	—	—	24
Totals .....	258	177	9	1	10	61

				Disease		
		Died.	Left District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Apparently Arrested.	On list 31/12/22.
NON-PULMONARY—						
Cases notified prior to 31/12/22 .....	68	18	7	—	10	33
Cases notified during 1923 .....	72	3	2	1	1	65
Totals .....	140	21	9	1	11	98

It will be seen from the above that there were 159 cases remaining under observation at the close of the year. It was not possible to obtain detailed information regarding each, but as far as this could be ascertained it is given in Table T.5.

TABLE T.5.

	Pulmonary.	Other forms.	Totals.
Much improved .....	15	12	27
Slightly improved .....	16	42	58
No improvement .....	8	29	37
Slightly worse .....	7	6	13
Much worse .....	7	—	7
No information .....	8	9	17
	61	98	159



**Hospital Treatment.**—18 patients in all were admitted to various hospitals.

TABLE T.6.

Name of Hospital.	Lungs.	Cerv. Glands.	Joints.	Bone.	Kidney.	Total.
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh...	—	3	—	—	—	3
Royal Infirmary, Dundee .....	—	1	—	—	—	1
Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen ...	—	1	1	—	—	2
Sick Children's Hospital, Edinburgh .....	—	—	—	1	—	1
Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall ...	1	5	1	—	—	7
Invergordon Sanatorium, Invergordon .....	2	—	—	—	—	2
Liberton Sanatorium, Edin- burgh .....	—	1	—	—	—	1
Penrith Sanatorium .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals .....	4	11	2	1	—	18*

\* Four Patients notified prior to 1923.

**Scapa Hospital.**—Fair progress has been made and the opening has been provisionally fixed for July, 1924.

**Domiciliary Treatment.**—The procedure laid down in the Scheme has been carefully carried out and every effort has been made to ensure that the money is spent to the best advantage. In necessitous cases no distinction has been made between insured and non-insured persons.

45 patients received treatment in some form during the year—Mainland 15, North Isles 10, South Ronaldshay 2, Walls 2, Kirkwall Burgh 14, and Stromness Burgh 2.

33 received drugs only, 3 dressings and drugs, 5 food and drugs, 3 food only, and 1 dressings only.

249 prescriptions for drugs and dressings were received and priced by the Central Checking Bureau. The total cost amounted to £38 6s. 11d., and the average price per prescription was 37·74d.

**Venereal Diseases Scheme.**—3 new cases were dealt with. 22 attendances were made at the Royal Infirmary Centre, Aberdeen, and 23 doses of Salvarsan or its substitutes were supplied free to practitioners. Laboratory examinations numbered 14. One patient was admitted to the special ward in Aberdeen.

**County Laboratory.**—The bacteriological examinations made by the County Medical Officer show a decrease from the preceding year owing to the few cases of diphtheria. In all 57 specimens were received.

Diphtheria		Tubercle		Gonorrhœa		Anthrax		
Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	Pos.	Neg.	
5	18	11	16	1	1	5	0	
Totals ...	23		27		2		5	=57



## MEAT INSPECTION.

The Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Scotland), 1923, were issued during the year by the Scottish Board of Health. Their purpose is to ensure a uniform standard of examination throughout the County, and they provide for the appointment of qualified officials and the keeping of adequate records. Other matters dealt with are the licensing of private slaughterhouses, emergency slaughtering, bye-laws, marking of meat, and street trading. These Regulations should be of great value to Local Authorities, but their application in a County such as Orkney is one of considerable difficulty, and consideration is being given as to how they can best be carried out with the limited staff available. A report will be submitted to the various Local Authorities in due course.

Article 10 of the Regulations dealing with street trading should, however, be adopted by the Burghs of Kirkwall and Stromness without further delay.



## MAINLAND DISTRICT

---

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

The **estimated population** for the year was 8554.

The **area** of the district is 121,057 acres, and the **average density of the population** 7 persons to each 100 acres.

**Births registered** amounted to 139. Of these 6 were transferred from and 3 transferred to other districts, making the **net births** 136—males 65, females 71—and equal to a **birth rate** of 15·9 per 1000 of the population. The births in each Parish were as follows:—Birsay 10, Deerness 9, Evie and Rendall 14, Firth 10, Harray 8, Holm 24, Orphir 11, St. Andrews 9, St. Ola 11, Sandwick 16, Stenness 9, Stromness 5. Total 136.

**Illegitimate births** numbered 9, or 6·6% of the net births, as against 15, or 9·7% in the previous year.

Under the Births Notification Act, 1915, 132 births were notified, including 7 still-births.

**Deaths registered** amounted to 138, and after making the necessary corrections the **net deaths** numbered 155, giving a **crude death rate** of 18·1 per 1000 of the population. This death rate when further adjusted for age and sex distribution is reduced to 12·3.

There were 8 deaths under one year, giving an **infant mortality rate** of 59 per 1000 births. The causes of deaths were—Inanition 1, Marasmus 1, Gastritis 2, Bronchitis 2, Whooping Cough 1, Erysipelas 1.

**Deaths registered** were allocated as follows:—Birsay 22, Deerness 10, Evie and Rendall 19, Firth 11, Harray 9, Holm 19, Orphir 13, St. Andrews 14, St. Ola 8, Sandwick 17, Stenness 9, Stromnes 4. Total 155. Three deaths were uncertified, and 15 occurred in institutions:—Orkney Combination Poorhouse (Kirkwall) 1, Royal Asylum (Edinburgh) 2, Elgin Asylum 1, Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh) 4, Royal Infirmary (Dundee) 1, Balfour Hospital (Kirkwall) 6.

There were 58 **marriages** during the year, giving a **marriage rate** of 6·8 per 1000 of the population.

63 **conscientious objections** to vaccination were recorded.







**Notifiable Infectious Disease.**—Sixty-one notifications were received.

TABLE M. I.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Chickenpox.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Malaria.	Ac. Anterior Poliomyelitis	Tuberculosis.		
									Acute Lobar Pneumonia.	Pulmonary	Other forms
1898	6	28	20	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
1899	7	16	11	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1900	6	11	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
1901	14	4	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
1902	4	11	1	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—
1903	4	4	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
1904	3	4	3	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
1905	6	1	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1906	3	6	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1907	—	13	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1908	—	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1909	—	12	2	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
1910	—	22	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
1911	—	24	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1912	1	11	11	—	3	—	—	—	—	5	—
1913	—	29	6	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	—
1914	1	11	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	13	4
1915	—	9	—	12	3	—	—	—	—	8	—
1916	1	30	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	1
1917	2	25	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	—
1918	2	15	9	—	2	1	—	—	—	5	1
1919	1	13	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	11	—
1920	—	26	—	17*	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
1921	1	7	6	2*	1	1	1	—	—	4	4
1922	—	5	2	—	3	1	—	—	1	14	14
1923	2	7	1	8	4	—	—	1	1	9	28

\* Notifiable for one year from 1st October, 1920.

**Scarlet Fever.**—St. Ola 6, Holm 1. No deaths. School children 3, adolescents 2, adults 2. All treated in hospital. Five of the patients came from one house, and the source of infection was traced to a patient residing in the Burgh of Kirkwall. Of the remaining two cases one developed Scarlet Fever while in the Balfour Hospital and the other could not be accounted for.

**Diphtheria.**—Holm 1. An adult treated in hospital.

**Erysipelas.**—St. Andrews 3, Stromness 1. One infant and three adults. One death. All treated at home.

**Acute Lobar Pneumonia.**—Orphir 1. Adult. Died at home.

**Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.**—Sandwick 1. Infant treated at home and recovered.

**Chickenpox.**—Firth 6, Evie 1, St. Andrews 1. Infants 4, school children 4. All treated at home.



**Typhoid Fever.**—Evie 2. Both adults, and both died in hospital.

**A.B.**—Male. Aged 45. Admitted to hospital 21/3/23 with acute abdominal symptoms. Final diagnosis was not clear until a few days before death. Duration of illness approximately six weeks. Enquiry failed to find the source of infection or the existence of any cases of similar illness in the district.

**C.D.**—Female. Aged 57. Onset about 20/10/23. Admitted to hospital 6/11/23. Diagnosis confirmed by Widal Reaction. Died suddenly, 30/12/23, from heart failure when apparently convalescent. This patient lived on the farm adjoining the one from which the previous case was removed and was possibly infected from some article which had escaped thorough disinfection.

**Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.**—Birsay 2, Deerness 1, Holm 2, Sandwick 1, Tankerness 1, St. Ola 1, Stromness 1. Males 4, females 5. Deaths 2. Treated in hospital nil.

**Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.**—Birsay 1, Deerness 2, Evie 1, Firth 1, Harray 2, Holm 1, Orphir 4, Sandwick 3, St. Andrews 3, St. Ola 7, Stenness 2, Stromness 1. Total 28. Males 11, females 17. Deaths 2. Treated in hospital 3.

TABLE M. II.—SHOWING SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1912.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						Other forms of Tuberculosis.					
	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/23.	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/23.
1912	5	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1913	9	5	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1914	13	11	—	—	2	—	4	1	—	—	2	1
1915	8	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1916	12	11	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
1917	9	7	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	5	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
1919	11	9	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	5	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921	4	2	1	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	4
1922	14	7	1	—	—	6	14	3	—	—	1	10
1923	9	2	2	—	—	5	28	2	—	1	1	24
	104	72	4	—	5	23	52	6	—	1	5	40

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health, the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year:—



Disease.	No. of Families Cases. Affected.		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms.							over 6
			1	2	3	4	5	6		
Scarlet Fever .....	7	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	
Chickenpox .....	8	4	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas .....	4	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	
Typhoid Fever .....	2	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	
Diphtheria .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
Pneumonia .....	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Ac. Ant. Polio. ....	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis—										
Pulmon. ....	9	8	—	—	7	—	—	—	1*	
Others .....	28	27	—	6	12	4	2	1	2(1)*	

\* \* Domestic servant in house.

**Water Supplies.**—FINSTOWN VILLAGE.—The District Committee, after considering a requisition by 10 ratepayers and a report as to the probable cost, decided to take a plebiscite of the area. The result was a small majority against the scheme, and the matter was dropped meantime. It is not likely that another such opportunity will occur to have the work done so cheaply, as the total cost for water and sewage was estimated at about £650, and for water alone about £350. There were two main objections offered to the scheme, firstly that it would have to be paid for by the people themselves; and, secondly, that the existing conditions were quite good enough for the inhabitants. The latter argument will probably hold until an epidemic of Typhoid Fever or other water borne disease occurs.

**ST. MARY'S VILLAGE.**—Nothing further was done during the year to improve the water supply.

**Housing.**—Nine houses were inspected and six of these found to be unfit for human habitation. No action was taken as regards them.

On the instructions of the District Committee, a scheme was prepared under the Housing &c. (Scotland) Act, 1923, providing for a subsidy of £78 for each approved house. Final approval from the Scottish Board of Health had not been received at the close of the year. From the number of enquiries it would appear that a considerable number of persons propose to build with the aid of the subsidy.

**Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.**—Dairy regulations were prepared by the District Committee and approved by the Scottish Board of Health. These are now in force, and it is hoped that by their gradual application an improvement will result. Most of the dairies in the district contain only a few cows, and some form of co-operation would seem to be indicated.

There were 21 Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milkshops on the Register at the close of the year. Sixty-five visits were made by the Inspector.



There are five private slaughter houses in the district. Six inspections were made, and one whole carcase condemned on account of Hydatid Cysts.

**Inspections** made by the Medical Officer of Health were as follows:—Infectious Diseases 40, Nuisances 15, Byres 7, Water Supplies 4.

**Anthrax.**—A somewhat unusual case occurred towards the end of the year, the details of which are as follows. An apparently healthy cow died suddenly in its stall without any obvious indication as to the cause of death. A neighbouring farmer cut open the body and examined the heart and lungs. In doing so he scratched his hand and forearm. The carcase lay overnight in the yard, and in the morning was dragged out and buried in a field close at hand. A considerable quantity of blood was spilt on the ground and ducks, hens, cats and dogs had access to it. The stall in the byre was roughly cleaned out and another cow put in. Five days later the man referred to developed a small pustule on the dorsum of his left hand and on his forearm, both places being the site of scratches got while examining the carcase. After treating him for two days his Medical Attendant became suspicious and referred him to the Medical Officer of Health. The pustules had by this time developed into eschars roughly one and a-half inches in diameter. There were no constitutional symptoms. Serum from the eschar on the hand showed numerous chains of large bacilli resembling *B. Anthracis*. On the following day the Medical Officer and Veterinary Inspector visited the farm and removed part of one of the lungs, the heart and lungs having been buried on the top of the carcase. The lungs appeared remarkably fresh and only slightly congested. It was not thought advisable to disturb the earth sufficiently to get at the spleen. A smear from the specimen taken showed chains of *B. Anthracis*, and this was confirmed by the Board of Agriculture and an independent bacteriologist. Disinfection of byre, manure, yard, etc., was done as thoroughly as possible with chloride of lime and un-slaked lime, and a large amount of the latter was placed over and round the place of burial. No further cases occurred.

The patient was removed to hospital and his arm dressed with carbolic soaks and then Eusol. Considerable oedema developed and a third spot appeared on the forearm but the temperature remained normal and he felt quite well. Slavo Anti-Anthrax Serum was got after some delay and difficulty, but by this time the patient had so improved that its use was not thought necessary. He



was discharged after a stay of three weeks with his arm completely healed.

The case is of interest in that no other animals were infected in spite of the lack of all precautions for over a week, and in the evident mildness of the human infection although the pustules were of considerable size and shown to be swarming with the *B. Anthracis*. An attempt was made to trace the original source of infection but without any success. Raw crushed bone had been used on the farm as manure, and, as this probably came from abroad, the disease may have been introduced in this way.

## MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

### Mainland District—County of Orkney.

#### REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1924, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—

Emily Craigie, C.M.B., No. 5088, 15 East Road, Kirkwall.  
Hannah Bews Ritch Muir, C.M.B., No. 3784, School Pl., Kirkwall.  
Annie Shearer, C.M.B., No. 5477, North End, Stromness.  
Janet Tulloch, C.M.B., No. 151, Queen Street, Orphir.

- (2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1923	133
(b) Births (including Still-births) notified 1923	132
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	1
(d) Births attended by Midwives only	6
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	Nil
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	

Births, nil. Deaths, nil.

No information is available as regards the one birth which was not notified.

- (3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1923	Nil
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

- (4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1923	Nil
(b) Total number of deaths	Nil
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

## (5) STILL-BIRTHS—

- (a) Total number of cases during 1923 ... .. 7  
 (b) Number notified ... .. 7  
 (c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives ... .. Nil

(6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act:—  
1 case of abortion.

## (7) REMARKS.—Notification of Birth was sent in 119 instances by the Medical Attendant, in 16 by the Parents, and in 6 by Certified Midwives.

*Births notified were attended as follows:—*

Doctors only ... ..	73
Doctor and Certified Midwife ... ..	10
Doctor and Uncertified Midwife ... ..	18
Doctor and other assistance ... ..	25
Certified Midwife only ... ..	6

One notification of having laid out a dead body was received.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,  
 KIRK WALL, 1st February, 1924.



## NORTH ISLES DISTRICT

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REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

The **estimated population** for the year was 6125.

**Area** of the District is 64,329 acres, and the average density of the population 10 persons per 100 acres.

The **births registered** amounted to 108, of which one was received from another district, making the **net births** 108—males 56, females 52—and equal to a **birth rate** of 17·8 per 1000 of the population.

The births in each Registration District were as follows:—Eday 12, North Ronaldshay 5, Papa Westray 4, Rousay 9, Sanday 10, Shapansey 14, Stronsay 24, and Westray 30.

**Illegitimate births** numbered 4, or 3·7% of the total births, as against 6 or 5·4 per cent. in the previous year.

Under the Births Notification Act, 1915, 104 births were notified, including 3 still-births.

**Deaths registered** amounted to 88, and after correction for transfers the **net deaths** were 92, giving a crude death rate of 15·0 per 1000 of the population. This death rate when further adjusted for age and sex distribution, is reduced to 10·0.

Deaths registered in each Registration District were as follows:—Eday 12, North Ronaldshay 8, Papa Westray 2, Rousay 8, Sanday 27, Shapansey 10, Stronsay 10, Westray 15. Total 92.

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an **infant mortality rate** of 18 per 1000 births.

The Certified causes of deaths were:—Pseudo Leukaemia Infantum 1, Premature Birth 1.

Five deaths were uncertified, and 5 deaths occurred in institutions—Orkney Combination Poorhouse (Kirkwall) 2, Royal Asylum (Edinburgh) 1, Royal Asylum (Aberdeen) 1, Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh) 1.

There were 24 **marriages** during the year, giving a **marriage rate** of 3·9 per 1000 of the population.

Fifty-three **conscientious objections** to vaccinations were recorded.



TABLE N.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES AND AGE PERIODS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	Age													85 and over
		M. F.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-		
1. Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Scarlet Fever ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Whooping Cough ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Influenza ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
9. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Other Epidemic Diseases...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	5	3	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Malignant Tumours ...	10	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	4	...	...
17. Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous) ...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Apoplexy ...	10	4	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	3	...	2
20. Heart Disease...	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	...	...
21. Disease of Arteries ...	2	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
22. Bronchitis ...	5	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1
23. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic ...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations ...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Other Violent Deaths ...	4*	4*	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1*
34. Other Defined Disease ...	33	15	18	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	4	9	7	...	9
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes ...	92	46	46	2	3	...	1	3	2	2	7	15	24	19	13 1*

\* 1 male age unknown.

\* 1 male age unknown.



**Notifiable Infectious Disease.**—Thirty-three notifications were received.

TABLE N. I.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Chickenpox.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Malaria.	Dysentery.	Acute Lobar Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Tuber.	
											Pulmonary	Other forms
1898	7	14	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1899	2	12	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1900	3	4	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1901	5	12	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1902	1	1	18	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1903	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1904	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1905	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1906	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1907	—	5	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1908	2	2	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1909	11	20	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1910	—	40	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1911	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1912	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	9	—
1913	—	12	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
1914	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
1915	—	5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
1916	—	52	2	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
1917	—	15	18	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
1918	—	34	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
1919	—	6	—	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
1920	2	12	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	6	3
1921	1	3	1	18*	3	—	—	1	—	—	6	6
1922	1	16	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	6	3
1923	—	10	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	13	7

\* Notifiable for one year from 1st October, 1920.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Sanday 6, Papa Westray 2, Stronsay 2. Infants 5, school children 5. One death. All treated at home. Only one family was involved in each island.

**Erysipelas.**—Shapansey 1, Stronsay 1. No deaths. Both adults treated at home.

**Acute Pneumonia.**—Stronsay 1. Adult died at home.

**Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.**—Eday 1, Rousay 1, Sanday 5, Shapansey 2, Stronsay 1, Westray 3. Males 8, females 5. Deaths 4. Treated in hospital 2.

**Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.**—Sanday 2, Shapansey 1, Stronsay 4. Males 2, females 5. Deaths nil. Treated in hospital nil.



TABLE N. II.—SHOWING SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1912.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						Other forms of Tuberculosis.					
	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/23.	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/23.
1912	9	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1913	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1914	4	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
1915	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
1916	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1917	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	9	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1919	4	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
1920	6	4	1	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	—	—
1921	6	2	—	—	2	2	6	—	1	—	2	3
1922	6	2	—	1	—	3	3	1	—	—	1	1
1923	13	4	—	—	—	9	7	—	—	—	—	7
	77	52	1	1	4	19	23	5	1	—	5	12

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year.

Disease.	No of Families Cases. Affected.		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	over 6
Scarlet Fever .....	10	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon. ....	13	13	—	5	7	—	1	—	—
Others .....	7	7	—	2	4	—	1	—	—

**Housing.**—Eight houses were inspected and six of these were found to be unfit for human habitation. In one case the defects were remedied. The District Committee approved of a draft scheme under the Housing, &c., Act, 1923, similar to that prepared by the Mainland District Committee.

**Inspections** made by the Medical Officer of Health were as follows:—Infectious Disease 10, Nuisances 3, Housing 13, Slaughterhouses 2, Curing Stations 9.

There were three Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milkshops on the Register at the close of the year. Six Inspections were made.

There are six Private Slaughterhouses. Seven visits were made and no carcasses were condemned. In one case sufficient attention was not being paid to cleanliness and disposal of offal and the matter was brought to the notice of the proprietor with satisfactory results.



**Eday.**—Both Schools and Schoolhouses are now in a satisfactory state. Good progress has been made with the Doctor's house and it is expected to be ready for occupancy about June, 1924.

**North Ronaldshay.**—No further complaint has been received regarding the water supply to the Schoolhouse.

**Rousay.**—With assistance from the Highlands and Islands Board the Doctor's house is being provided with an adequate water supply, sanitary conveniences and drainage.

**Viera.**—The Education Authority has agreed to make a much-needed addition to the Schoolhouse, consisting of a kitchen and scullery, with wash boiler and sink.

**Sanday.**—An additional class-room is to be added to Cross School which is at present over-crowded. Also a properly covered ashpit and repairs to latrines.

A house at Ortie, Burness, was reported to the North Isles District Committee as being totally unfit for human habitation and the matter was brought to the notice of the proprietor. Nothing had been done to remedy matters by the close of the year, and the Local Authority will probably find it necessary to proceed under Section 25 of the Housing Town Planning, &c. (Scotland), Act, 1919.

**Shapansey.**—No effort has been made to provide sanitary conveniences or improve the water supply to the Doctor's house.

No earth closets have yet been provided for Balfour Mains Cottages, and the Local Authority have now called upon the proprietor to do the necessary work under Section 41 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. (Scotland), Act, 1919.

**Stronsay.**—The water supply to Whitehall Village was the subject of a report by the Medical Officer of Health and District Surveyor. After consideration the matter was remitted to a small Committee for further report. During the fishing season considerable nuisance was caused by fish offal, but arrangements have been made to have this collected and removed in future.

**Westray.**—The Sanitary conditions at Westside School are now satisfactory, but both Eastside and Pierowall Schools require further attention.



**MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.****North Isles District—County of Orkney.****REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923**

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1924, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—  
Edith Plumbly, C.M.B., No. 2771, Papa Westray.

## (2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1923	107
(b) Births (including Still-births) notified 1923	104
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	1
(d) Births attended by Midwives only	3
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	Nil
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	
Births, 1. Deaths, nil.	

No information is available as regards the three births not notified.

## (3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1923	Nil
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

## (4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1923	Nil
(b) Total number of deaths	Nil
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

## (5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1923	3
(b) Number notified	3
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil

## (6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act

Nil

## (7) REMARKS.—Notification of birth was sent in 88 instances by the Medical Attendance, in 14 by the Parents, in 1 by a Certified Midwife, and 1 by another person.

*Births notified were attended as follows:—*

Doctor only	53
Doctor and Certified Midwife	2
Doctor and Uncertified Midwife	4
Doctor and other assistance	41
Certified Midwife	3
Uncertified Midwife only	1
(Unavoidable.)	

One notification of artificial feeding was received.



## WALLS DISTRICT

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REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

The **estimated population** for the year was 1444.

The **area** of the district is 41,658 acres, and the **average density of population** 3·5 persons per 100 acres.

**Births registered** amounted to 15—males 7, females 8—and as there were no transfers the **net births** for the District remain the same and equal to a **birth rate** of 10·4 per 1000 of the population.

The births in each District were as follows:—Flotta 3, Hoy and Graemsay nil, Walls 12.

There were no **illegitimate births** during the year.

**Deaths registered** amounted to 21, and after correction for transfers, the **net deaths** were 20—males 9, females 11—giving a **crude death rate** of 13·9 per 1000 of the population. When further adjusted for ages and sex distribution this is reduced to 9·3.

Deaths are allocated to each District as follows:—Flotta 5, Hoy and Graemsay 6, Walls 9.

There were no deaths of infants under one year of age.

Two deaths were uncertified. None occurred in institutions.

Five **marriages** took place during the year, equal to a **marriage rate** of 3·5 per 1000 of the population.

Conscientious objection to vaccination numbered 7.



TABLE M.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES  
AND AGES.

Causes of Death.	Net Deaths	Age												
		M. F.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and over
1. Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Influenza ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
9. Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Other Epidemic Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Malignant Tumours ... ..	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
17. Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberc.) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Apoplexy ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Heart Disease ... ..	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	1	...
21. Diseases of Arteries ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Bronchitis ... ..	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
23. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Appendicitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Suicide ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Other Violent Deaths ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
34. Other Defined Diseases ... ..	7	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	1
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All Causes ... ..	20	9	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	5	7	1



**Diphtheria.**—Longhope 2. Both adults successfully treated at home.

**Erysipelas.**—Longhope 1. Adult treated at home.

**Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.**—Flotta 1, Graemsay 1, Longhope 1. All males. Deaths nil. Treated in hospital 1.

**Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.**—Flotta 1, Hoy 2, Graemsay 1, Longhope 6. Males 6, females 4. Deaths nil. Treated in hospital 2.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						Other forms of Tuberculosis.					
	Number Notified	Died	Left the District	Diagnosis Revised	Disease Arrested	On List 31/12/23.	Number Notified	Died	Left the District	Diagnosis Revised	Disease Arrested	On List 31/12/23.
1918	1	1	—	—	—	—	..	—	—	—	—	—
1919	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	—	—	—	—	—
1920	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	—	—	—	—	—
1921	—	—	—	—	—	—	..	1	1	—	—	—
1922	2	2	—	—	—	—	..	—	—	—	—	—
1923	3	—	—	—	—	3	..	10	—	—	—	10
	6	3	—	—	—	3	..	11	—	1	—	10

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health the following table is given to show the number of room in houses in which notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year:—

Disease.	No. of Families Cases. Affected.		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	over 6
Diphtheria .....	2	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon. ....	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Others .....	10	10	—	7	2	1	—	—	—

**Housing.**—The District Committee adopted a Scheme under the Housing, &c., Act, 1923, similar to that prepared for the Mainland and North Isles Districts. The subsidy offered is £78 but no application had been received by the close of the year. As there is ample scope for improvement in housing in the District it is hoped that advantage will be taken of the Local Authority's offer.



# MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

## Walls District—County of Orkney.

### REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1924, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—  
*Nil.*

(2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1923	30
(b) Number (including Still-births) notified 1923	9
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	<i>Nil</i>
(d) Births attended by Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	
Births, <i>nil.</i> Deaths, <i>nil.</i>	

(3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1923	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	<i>Nil</i>

(4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1923	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Total number of deaths	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	<i>Nil</i>

(5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1923	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Number notified	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>

- (6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act ... .. *Nil*

- (7) REMARKS.—No information is available regarding the 21 births not notified. The attention of Medical Practitioners practising in the District has been drawn to the Notification of Births Act, 1915, and it is expected that in future all births will be notified.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,  
KIRKWALL, 1st February, 1924.



# CITY & ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKWALL

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REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

The **estimated population** for the year was 3,615.

The **area** of the Burgh is 430 acres, and the **average density of population** 8·4 persons per acre.

The Valuation Roll at the close of the year showed 1031 **occupied** and 6 **unoccupied** houses. Four of the latter have been re-occupied since. The figures for 1922 were 1004 and 6 respectively. There are also shown 133 shops, 54 stables, 6 hotels, 1 private hotel, and 1 lodging-house.

**Births registered** amounted to 69. Two were transferred to and one from other districts, making the **net births** 67—males 19 and females 48—and giving a **birth rate** of 18·5 per 1000 of the population.

Of these births 5 or 7·5% were illegitimate, as against 1 or 1·6% in the previous year.

Under the Births Notification Act, 1915, 68 births were notified, including 4 still-births.

**Deaths registered** amounted to 63. After making corrections for deaths transferred to and from other districts the **net deaths** amounted to 54, giving a **crude death rate** of 15·2 per 1000 of the population. This death rate when further adjusted for age and sex distribution is reduced to 10·9.

There were 5 deaths under one year, equal to an **infant mortality rate** of 75 per 1000 births.

The causes of death were:—Haemorrhage from cord 1, Congenital valvular defect of heart 1, Acute Bronchitis 1, Convulsions 1, Premature Birth 1.

All deaths were certified, and 9 occurred in Institutions—Balfour Hospital 3, Orkney Combination Poorhouse 6.

There were 36 **marriages** during the year, giving a **marriage rate** of 10·0 per 1000 of the population.

Thirty-five **conscientious objections** to vaccination were recorded.



TABLE K.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES AND AGE PERIODS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	Age												85 and over	
		M.	F.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-		75-
1. Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Other Epidemic Diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	...	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16. Malignant Tumours ...	5	1	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...
17. Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Apoplexy ...	7	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	...
20. Heart Disease...	12	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4	2	...	3
21. Disease of Arteries ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Bronchitis ...	4	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...
23. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26. Appendicitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant) ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations ...	3	1	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
32. Suicide ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Other Violent Deaths ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
34. Other Defined Disease ...	11	5	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	6	...
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All Causes ...	55	23	32	5	1	...	1	3	2	4	8	11	16	...	4



**Notifiable Infectious Diseases.**—Forty-eight notifications were received.

TABLE K.1.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	*Chicken- pox.	Erysipelas.	Continued Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Lobar Pneumonia	Tuber.	
											Pulmonary	Other forms
1898	3	1	3	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1899	3	15	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1900	3	36	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1901	43	11	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1902	2	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1903	3	1	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1904	4	19	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1905	2	4	1	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1906	1	—	8	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1907	—	8	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1908	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1909	—	8	7	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
1910	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1911	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1912	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1913	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1914	9	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
1915	—	15	2	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
1916	4	12	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5
1917	—	10	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1918	—	27	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	8	3
1919	—	33	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
1920	—	61	—	64*	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2
1921	—	—	43	5*	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	4
1922	2	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	8
1923	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	7	25

\* Notifiable from 1/10/20—30/9/21 and also from 23/7/23—31/12/23.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Twelve cases. Infants 2, school children 8, adults 2. No deaths. All patients were treated in hospital. The cases occurred throughout the year as follows:—January 2, February 1, May 1, July 2, August 1, September 4, December 1.

**Acute Pneumonia.**—Three cases. All adults. No deaths. Treated in hospital 2.

**Ophthalmia Neonatorum.**—One case. Recovery without apparent impairment of vision after treatment at home.

**Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.**—Seven cases. All females. Deaths 3. Treated in hospital nil.

**Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.**—Twenty-five cases. Males 10, females 15. Deaths 1. Treated in hospital 2.



TABLE K. 2.—SHOWING BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND DEATHS FROM CANCER SINCE 1901.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Deaths from Cancer.
1901	19.3	16.7	—	2
1902	18.9 (average)	18.0 (average)	—	4
1903	21.9 19.8	16.4 16.1	37.0 —	5
1904	16.2	13.2	58.5	5
1905	22.9	16.2	58.5	3
1906	20.2	17.8	40.0	6
1907	15.6 (average)	16.4 (average)	51.7 (average)	4
1908	25.3 20.3	15.6 16.3	117.0 65.9	3
1909	19.9	16.7	81.0	5
1910	20.7	14.8	40.0	8
1911	21.0	18.6	187.5	6
1912	17.8 (average)	15.7 (average)	88.2 (average)	6
1913	17.6 18.2	14.3 17.4	77.0 92.9	8
1914	16.7	15.3	66.0	6
1915	17.7	23.2	46.0	7
1916	26.8	21.3	122.0	3
1917	25.4 (average)	15.3 (average)	108.0 (average)	3
1918	26.1 23.4	18.5 17.9	73.0 103.8	4
1919	16.6	20.5	148.0	3
1920	22.3	14.1	68.0	9
1921	17.6	15.7	92.3	10
1922	16.6	13.4	88.0	4
1923	18.5	15.2	75.0	5

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year:—

TABLE K. 3.

Disease.	No. of Families Cases Affected		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms						
			1	2	3	4	5	6	over 6
Scarlet Fever .....	12	8	—	5	2	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia .....	3	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
Ophth. Neon. ....	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon. ....	7	7	1	3	1	1	—	1	—
Others .....	25	25	1	16	2	3	—	1	2



TABLE K. IV.—SHOWING SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1912.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.						Other forms of Tuberculosis.					
	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/22.	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/22.
1912	2	2	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
1913	2	2	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
1914	5	5	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
1915	3	3	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
1916	6	5	1	—	—	—	...	5	3	2	—	—
1917	2	2	—	—	—	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
1918	8	7	1	—	—	—	...	3	1	1	—	1
1919	4	3	—	—	1	—	...	—	—	—	—	—
1920	8	5	—	—	—	3	...	2	1	—	1	—
1921	3	3	—	—	—	—	...	4	—	2	—	2
1922	5	2	1	—	—	2	...	8	3	—	—	5
1923	7	3	—	—	—	4	...	25	1	2	—	22
	55	42	3	—	1	9	...	47	9	7	—	30

## HOUSING.

Thirty-five houses were inspected, and of these 33 were found to be unfit for human habitation. Three representations were made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders and two Closing Orders were made. In 13 houses the defects were remedied without the necessity for Closing Orders. The Local Authority gave their consent to the erection of 16 two-apartment dwellings as part of their slum area clearance scheme.

**Carter's Park Scheme** (Housing and Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919).—Forty-four four-room houses have been built but the 18 three-room and 6 five-room houses required to complete the lay-out have been cancelled by the Scottish Board of Health.

**Housing (Financial Assistance to Builders) Scheme, 1920.**—One three-room house was completed and a subsidy of £230 paid in respect of it.

**Housing, &c., Act., 1923.**—A scheme to encourage private enterprise was prepared and a subsidy of £80 plus a substantial loan offered for each approved house. A number of applications were received, and it is expected that at least 6 houses will be begun in 1924.

**Slum Area Clearance Scheme.**—Twenty-three houses have been approved by the Board of Health, 7 in Laing Street, of three rooms each, and 16 in Willow Road, of two rooms each. The former are to be ready for occupancy by May, 1924, and the latter by May, 1925. This is less than



half the number required to re-house the tenants from the Shore Street area, which it is proposed to reconstruct, and it is hoped that further financial assistance will be forthcoming to enable the scheme to be completed.

There is probably no town of similar size in Scotland with a more difficult housing problem to solve than Kirkwall. Four years' effort has produced over 70 new houses, practically all intended for the working classes, yet there is no appreciable improvement. The shortage remains as acute as ever, and the condition of some 300 of the oldest houses is deplorable. Built on the old Norse plan, with gables to the street and separated by narrow wynds, they are undoubtedly picturesque and of historical interest, but from the practical viewpoint they are merely dark ill-ventilated hovels—a menace to the health of those condemned to live in them. A limited number might be satisfactorily re-constructed without interfering with their outward appearance, but these can only be given sufficient light and ventilation by demolition of others. In any event these old houses cannot be dealt with until other houses have been provided for the tenants. Instead of the spasmodic efforts of the past there should be formulated a continuous building policy, extending over the next ten or fifteen years, based on the maximum burden that can be borne by the town for this particular purpose. Little or no help can be expected from private enterprise in providing the type of houses required, and it is obvious that a small town with a low valuation cannot face the cost of such a programme without the promise of substantial assistance. It should be a condition of any such scheme that for every new house built an insanitary one be closed, and, if not made habitable within a reasonable time, demolished.

**Building Regulations.**—The draft regulations referred to in last year's report were approved by the Council and are now in force.

**Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.**—Considerable improvements were effected during the year. One new byre was built, and three others were provided by re-constructing buildings not previously so used. Two existing byres were remodelled. All these are now in a satisfactory condition.

There were 23 persons on the Register as purveyors of milk (retail). Of these 5 have shops and 9 have cow sheds within the Burgh, while 11 have farms outwith the Burgh.

One hundred inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Eight milk samples were taken and, on analysis, all proved to be satisfactory.



The Burgh Public Slaughter House was inspected at intervals during the year and found to be well conducted. Three and a-half carcasses of cattle and three sheep were condemned on account of Tuberculosis.

**Factories, Workshops, &c.**—Twelve inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

**Cleansing Regulations.**—These were finally approved by the Board of Health and are now in force.

**Maternity and Child Welfare.**—All births were notified. Forty-eight first visits and 478 re-visits were made by the Nurse Health Visitor. The records show that 21 babies were bottle-fed and 26 breast-fed, but 5 of the latter used artificial food in addition. Eight long-tube bottles were in use, but this unsatisfactory type is gradually disappearing as mothers realise its dangers.

Of the 47 houses visited, 8 consisted of one room only, 33 of two rooms, 5 of three rooms, and 1 of four rooms. In 6 the rooms were small, and in 41 of fair size.

Four houses were very clean, 29 fairly clean, 10 dirty, and 4 very dirty, but it should be noted that many were so bad structurally and so lacking in ordinary conveniences that real cleanliness was almost impossible to attain. Only 6 had water-closets and sinks. It is surprising that any healthy children at all are reared under these conditions.



# MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

## City and Royal Burgh of Kirkwall.

### REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1923

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1924, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—  
 Emily Craigie, C.M.B., No. 5008, 15 East Road, Kirkwall.  
 Hannah Bews Ritch Muir, C.M.B., No. 3784, School Pl., Kirkwall.

(2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1923	68
(b) Number (including Still-births) notified 1923	68
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	2
(d) Births attended by Midwives	3
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	Nil
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	
Births, nil. Deaths, nil.	

Two births were notified in December, 1923, but not registered until 1924.

(3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1923	1
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1923	Nil
(b) Total number of deaths	Nil
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1923	4
(b) Number notified	4
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil

(6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act ... Nil

- (1) REMARKS.—Notification of birth was sent in 64 instances by the Medical Attendant, in 1 by the Parents, and in 3 by Certified Midwives.

*Births notified were attended as follows:—*

Doctor only	42
Doctor and Certified Midwife	6
Doctor and Uncertified Midwife	7
Doctor and other assistance	10
Certified Midwife only	3

The case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was treated at home and no apparent loss of vision has resulted.







