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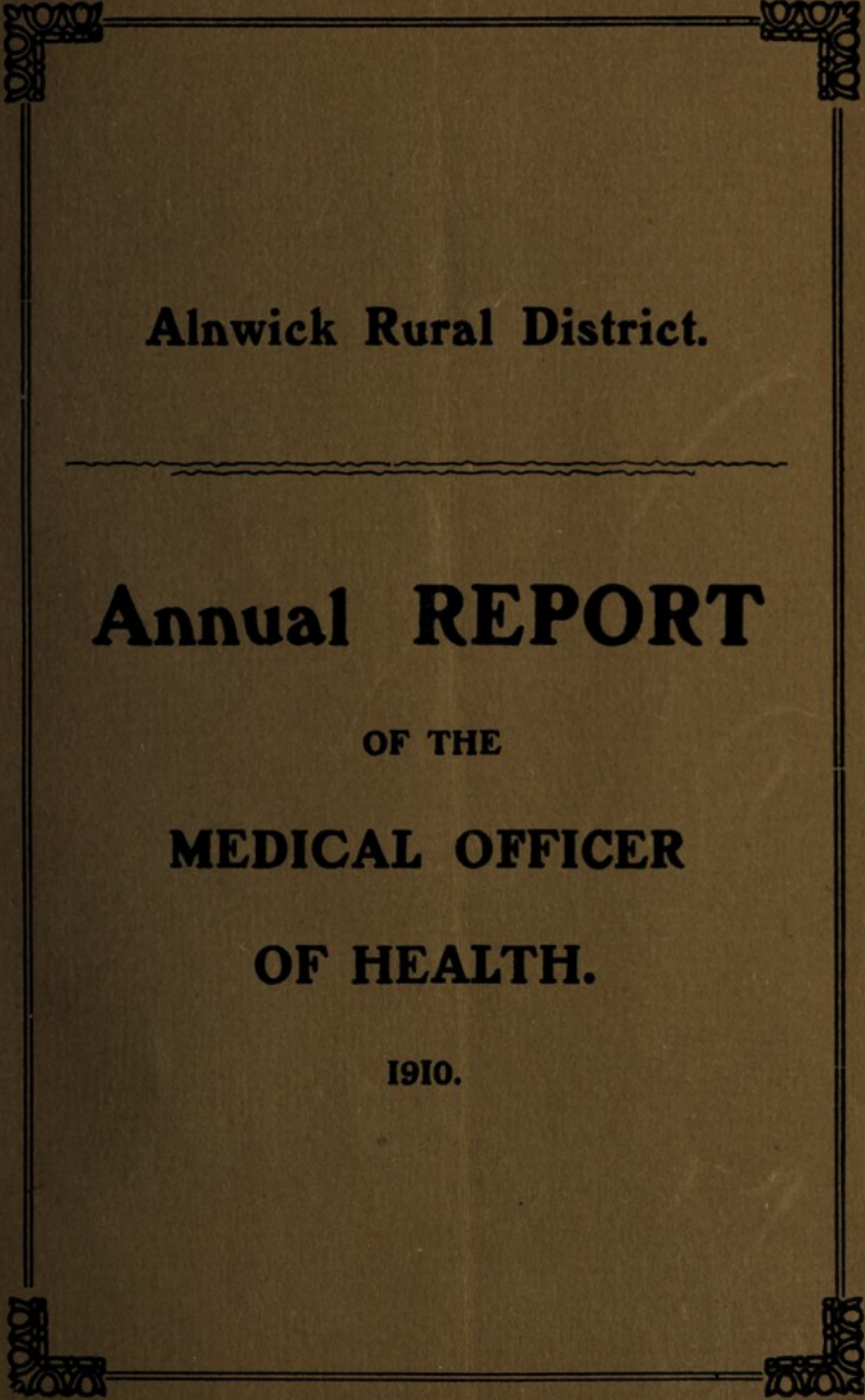
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Alnwick Rural District.

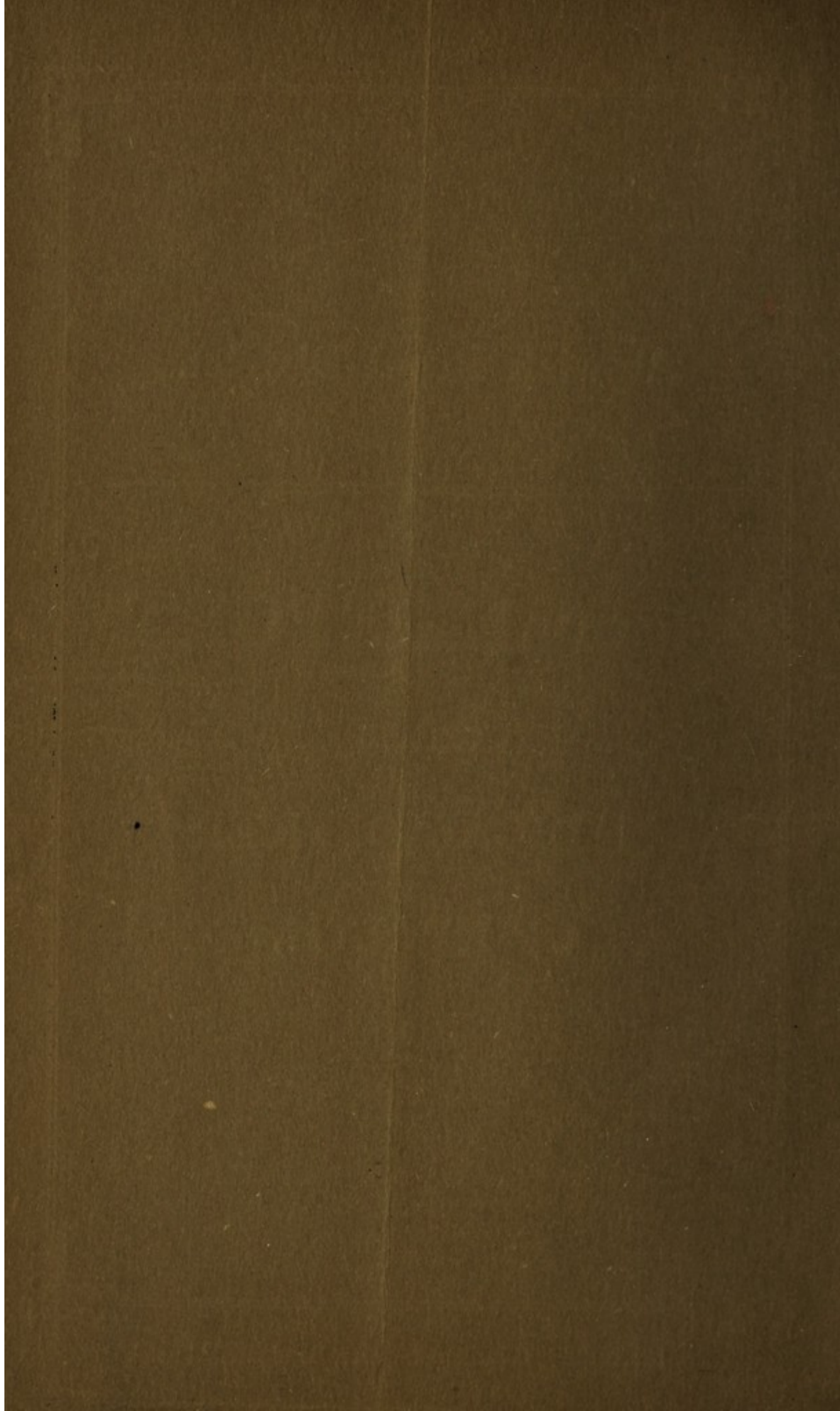
Annual REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH.

1910.



Finnish Rural District Council

Annual Report

1900

REPORT OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1900

The following report is submitted to the Council of the Finnish Rural District Council for the year 1900. It contains a summary of the work done by the Medical Officer of Health during the year, and a statement of the results of the various measures taken for the improvement of the health of the population. The report is divided into two parts, the first of which deals with the general state of the health of the population, and the second with the results of the various measures taken for the improvement of the health of the population.

Alnwick Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

The past year has been one which presented no very severe or remarkable climatic conditions. Perhaps the most notable feature was the deficiency of sunshine, for otherwise the year 1910 was comparatively favourable to an agricultural district like the Alnwick Rural. The year began with cold wintry weather, and severe snowstorms were experienced in January and February. The seed-time succeeding was, however, quite the dryest and most favourable of recent years, and the spring following, if not very early, was at least unchecked by frosts. The summer was disappointing, as although dry and fine at the beginning, the weather became broken and uncertain during the later months. This, fortunately, was followed by a spell of fine dry weather in the latter part of September and throughout October, which enabled the corn crops to be got in, in good condition. The only sharp frost of the beginning of winter occurred in November, and the close of the year was mild and wet.

The water supplies have been well maintained, and although, as I have said, there has been a lack of heat and sunshine in 1910, yet there have been compensations.

Vital Statistics.

The calculation of the Birth and Death rates of any district must necessarily become more or less speculative in the latter years between each census. Thus in the Alnwick Rural District during the years from 1891 to 1901, notwithstanding the depopulation of the more rural Sub-districts of Embleton and Denwick, an increase of about 32 per annum was found to have occurred in the total population. This increase had taken place entirely in the Warkworth Sub-district, or rather in the south-east corner of the Warkworth Sub-district, where numerous houses had been erected to accommodate an increased mining population. From my observations in the district, I very much doubt if this increase has been maintained, as fewer new houses have been built in this than in the last decade, and where building has been going on it has been mostly to replace old houses with new. The extremely low death-rates, more especially of the last two years, point in the same direction, and although one would be glad to believe that this diminution was entirely due to sanitary improvements, yet it appears to be too marked to be entirely accounted for in that way. For those reasons I have in the body of my report based the figures on the 1901 census, although the tables at the end show the figures arrived at on an estimated increase. The death-rate in 1910 is, with the exception of that in 1909, the lowest recorded, and the birth-rate is much less than in any previous year. The following table shows the number of births and deaths registered in the district during 1910, with the corresponding rates, and for comparison the same figures for the two preceding years are also given.

	Birth-Rate per 1000 per annum.		Death-Rate per 1000 per annum.	
	Births.	Deaths.	Births.	Deaths.
1908.	306	170	24.44	13.58
1909.	286	137	22.85	10.94
1910.	249	139	19.89	11.10

From the above it will be seen that the number of births for 1910 was less than in 1909 by 37, and less than in 1908 by 57. The birth-rate in 1910 was less than in 1909 by 2.96, and less than in 1908 by 4.55. I notice that as lately as 1899 the birth-rate of the district was as high as 27.5.

The number of deaths was greater in 1910 than in 1909 by 2, and less than in 1908 by 31. The death-rate in 1910 was greater than that in 1909 by .16, and less than that for 1908 by 2.48.

As regards sex, the deaths were somewhat unevenly divided, 65 being males and 74 females. In 1909 the disparity was even greater, but in the opposite direction, 77 being males and 60 females.

The following table shows the distribution of deaths as regards the Sub-districts, the numbers for the two preceding years being given for comparison.

	Warkworth.	Embleton.	Denwick.
1908.	110	50	10
1909.	86	42	9
1910.	80	52	7

From the above it will be seen, in the Sub-districts of Warkworth and Denwick, the number of deaths has decreased, while in Embleton it has fluctuated considerably, with a slight increase in 1910 over 1908, and a considerable increase over 1909.

The following table shows the death-rates in the various Sub-districts :—

Warkworth.		Embleton.		Denwick.	
Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.
80	11.36	52	10.80	7	10.46

From the above it will be seen that the death-rates in all these Sub-districts have been very even, that in the Warkworth Sub-district being slightly above and those in the Embleton and Denwick Sub-districts being slightly below the average death-rate of the whole district, viz., 11.10.

The deaths may also be analysed as regards age at death, and for comparison I give the two preceding years :—

	Under one year.	1 year, & under 5 years.	5 years, & under 15 years.	15 years, & under 25 years.	25 years, & under 65 years.	65 years, and over.
1908.	32	13	10	7	39	60
1909.	30	7	6	4	38	52
1910.	22	6	7	7	53	44

The distribution of the deaths in the above table is fairly satisfactory. There is a marked decrease of the number of infantile deaths, but it must be remembered also that there is a marked decrease in the number of children born as compared with the two preceding years. The number of deaths between one year and 25 years are satisfactory, for although hardly as good as in 1909, they are a marked improvement on 1908. The most unsatisfactory feature as regards 1910 is the high proportion of deaths between 25 and 65 to those over 65. Whereas the deaths over 65 exceeded those between 25 and 65 in 1908 by 30, and in 1909 by 14, we find that in 1910 the proportion is reversed, and the deaths between 25 and 65 exceed the senile mortality by 9.

The percentage of deaths over 65 was, in 1910, 31.4, as against 38.6 in 1909 and 40.5 in 1908.

The Infantile death-rate for the whole district was 88.3 per 1,000 children born, as against 104.8 in 1909 and 104.5 in 1908.

In Warkworth Sub-district 157 children were born, and 15 died under one year.

In Embleton Sub-district 76 children were born, and 7 died under one year.

In Denwick Sub-district 16 children were born, and all survived.

This gives the Sub-districts the following Infantile death-rates:—

Warkworth.	Embleton.	Denwick.
95.5	92.1	0.0

From the above it will be seen that the Infantile death-rate is satisfactory, in fact it is the lowest recorded during my tenure of office. It may also be noted that this diminution has been going on for a series of years. As lately as ten or twelve years ago it was not uncommon for a Sub-district to show an Infantile death-rate as high as 160 to 170 per thousand children born, but this is, I hope, a thing of the past in this district.

The greatest number of deaths for one month, viz., 21, occurred in May, and the smallest, viz., 6, in October.

The total number of births for the year 1910 was 249, giving a birth-rate for the whole district of 19.89, distributed over the Sub-districts as follows:—

Warkworth.		Embleton.		Denwick.	
Births.	Birth-Rate.	Births.	Birth-Rate.	Births.	Birth-Rate.
157	22.31	76	15.79	16	23.91

Of the births, 133 were males and 116 females.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 1910, 36 cases of infectious disease were notified in the district. Of the cases reported, 19 were Scarlet Fever, 9 Diphtheria, 2 Enteric Fever, 5 Erysipelas, and 1 Puerperal Fever. The following table shows the distribution of the infectious diseases as regards the Sub-districts:—

Sub-District.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Totals.
Warkworth.	2	4	2	3	0	11
Embleton.	17	5	0	2	1	25
Denwick.	0	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	19	9	2	5	1	36

The district has been singularly free from infectious disease during 1910. Since compulsory notification became the law, no year has shown anything like so small a number of cases. During 1909, which was quite an average year, 114 cases were notified, as against 36 in 1910. I fear that we can hardly hope that this small number will always be maintained, but there is no doubt that the action of the Council in disinfecting all houses, the occupiers of which are unable to do so themselves, has had a very beneficial effect. Also, although no isolation hospital scheme has been found possible in this scattered district, yet the public themselves have now come to attach greater value to isolation and to make greater individual efforts in that direction.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease generally contributes the greater number of the notifications. During 1909 it only appeared in anything like epidemic form on one occasion. This was in and around the village of Eglington, where 12 cases occurred within a few days. A short school closure was found necessary, but the disease did not extend beyond the houses originally affected.

DIPHTHERIA.—The number of cases of diphtheria notified during 1910 is very satisfactory, considering our experience of the two previous years, 1908 and 1909. For no very well explained reason during those two years cases of diphtheria arose in large numbers both sporadically and in the epidemic form, although the district was, without doubt, in better sanitary condition. After having 55 cases reported in 1908, and 39 in 1909, we have now returned to more normal conditions, 9 only being reported, with no deaths. The disease appeared in isolated outbreaks, and in no case became epidemic.

ENTERIC FEVER.—During 1910 the district has been singularly free from this disease. Of the two cases notified, one at Warkworth appeared to have been imported, and the other at Radcliffe was not due to any insanitary condition in connection with the patient's house.

During the year 1910 there were registered in the district 4 deaths from notifiable infectious disease, viz., one from scarlet fever (an imported case), one from enteric fever, one from puerperal fever, and one from erysipelas. This gives a death-rate of .31 per thousand per annum.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis caused 5 deaths, and Influenza one death, giving a total of deaths from Zymotic diseases of 10.

This gives a Zymotic death-rate of .79 per thousand per annum.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

A complete system of ventilation for the dead ends of the tide locked sewers at Alnmouth has been carried out. Improved ventilation has been provided for the main drain in Barber's Lane, Glanton. The pipes at Quaker Row, Embleton, and at Thompson's yard at Warkworth have been re-laid. Improvements to drainage have also been carried out at Newton Villa, Look Out, and Warkworth. At High Buston the manhole at the junction of the two main sewers has been improved, and an open grating removed. Drainage has been laid for Edlingham Hut. A house-to-house visitation of the village of Felton was made by the Inspector last November, when 124 houses were inspected, and notices were served for thirty-five cases of defective drainage, with obsolete moveable sinks, which were emitting foul air.

A Local Government Board Inquiry was held at Warkworth in December, into the application of your Council to borrow the sum of £550 for works of sewerage at Heather Leazes.

PRIVIES, WATER CLOSETS, Etc.

The privies at the farm house at Chester House, and at the south-east cottages at Shilbottle, have been converted into ash closets. An extra water closet has been provided for the premises at Barber's Lane, Glanton; and at the Town Farm, and Dryden's Lane, in the same village, privies have been converted into water closets. A similar sanitary improvement has been made at properties at Dial Place, and near the Castle at Warkworth. Improved ashpits have been made at Look Out and Acklington; urinal accommodation at the Radcliffe Assembly Rooms; and a pail closet at Dunstan. Notices have been served for five cases of ruinous and insanitary offices at Felton.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are nine of the above in this district. The byelaws only apply to four in the townships of Alnmouth, Embleton, and Warkworth, which are under urban powers. Five others at Craster, Felton, Glanton, and Radcliffe are under no special regulations. Twenty-one inspections were made, and the only structural defect found during the year was some bad drainage at one at Embleton, which has since been put right. The scavenging of offal at all the above has not been a source of complaint.

OFFENSIVE DITCHES AND COLLECTIONS OF MATTER.

Public sewage ditches have been cleaned out at Boulmer Moor, Christon Bank, and Glanton. The water course in the village of Rennington is fouled by about six drain outlets. The smell is noticeable on the highway and is a danger to health. A rubbish shoot is needed at Newton-by-the-Sea, as the village common is strewn with refuse. No public scavenging system exists for Warkworth, which is visited as a health resort.

WATER SUPPLY.

The well near Low Newton has been protected, and the dangerous pump well at Seaton Barns is now disused. At West Ditchburn a wind engine has been erected to pump up the well water to the farm house and cottages. All the old public water supplies have been kept up for use in case of emergency, and in particular the old supply to the pant at Christon Bank has been rodded out for roots, and defective parts replaced with socketted pipes, jointed with yarn and cement. The cast-iron watermain to Christon Bank has been carefully re-caulked across the railway, and no longer leaks, and an expensive scheme of diversion has been avoided. By arrangement with the Urban District Council of Amble, their 6-inch watermain has been connected to the 4-inch main of the Hauxley and Togston waterworks, so as to get the use of their supply in case of necessity during a breakage caused by pitfalls, &c. A 3-inch cast-iron branch of the latter water supply has been laid to the top of the village of Warkworth, which is a great sanitary improvement to the houses which had none inside. A scheme for the improvement of the Hauxley and Togston waterworks has been commenced, an extra supply obtained, and a new high level reservoir to hold 50,000 gallons has been constructed. When this project is completed by the duplication of the 3-inch branch to the 4-inch trunk main at a point near Low Buston, the full benefit of this new supply will be obtained at the higher parts of the system. A scheme is being formulated for supplying the village of Acklington, also Chester House, where the pump well is polluted by sewage, by getting the supply at East Thirston by means of a mechanical appliance. This project, which has been submitted to a Parish meeting for approval, will be a great improvement on the present well at Acklington, where the nearest grave in the churchyard is about 33 yards off.

The following farms and cottages are badly off for water:—
Acklington Low Park, Middle Cawledge Park, Sturton Grange South Side, and Shipley Lane.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSE.

Only one of the above exists in this district at Embleton, which is chiefly used by workmen at the neighbouring whinstone quarries. Three inspections were made, and on a bright sunny morning all the windows closed, the chimney flues stopped up, and a foul smell in the rooms. Since then the tenancy has been changed, and the ventilation is better attended to.

NEW HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

New dwelling houses have been built as follows:—Embleton, 4; Fogston, 4; Dunstan, 3; and one at Warkworth. Improvements to the miners' houses at Radcliffe are still proceeding.

THE DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.

Thirty-seven cowkeepers, who keep cows for the public sale of milk, as a regular trade, are on the register, which has been revised and corrected to date. Of these, five send milk in wholesale quantities for consumption in other districts, as follows:—From Hazon Dairy Farm (60 cows) milk is sent to Blyth, Whitley Bay, and Newcastle-on-Tyne. From Acklington Field House (50 cows) to Newcastle-on-Tyne. From High Buston (20 cows) to Blyth. From Cheveley (12 cows) to Newcastle-on-Tyne. From Bolton Buildings (12 cows) to Newcastle-on-Tyne. Sixty-five inspections were made, and sanitary defects were found at Alnmouth Link End, Bondicar, Morwick Gate, and Embleton East Farm, which are receiving attention. Improved drainage has been made for three byres at Alnmouth. The cleansing of the byre near the Reading Room at Alnmouth is frequently neglected, and the byre is not kept reasonably clean. Ventilation has been provided for the drainage at the sheds at Hazon, and apparently the trade is well conducted, as the following rules are posted on the door:—"No talking. No singing. No whistling in the byre during milking."

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Fifteen factories, in which mechanical power is used, are on the register, and seventy-eight workshops. The latter are chiefly blacksmiths (25) and joiners (21), and during sixty-nine inspections verbal notices for limewashing were given when required. No overcrowding, effluvia, or nuisances were found. Only one bakehouse exists in the district at Christon Bank, which is kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

NOTE.—The above does not include a large number of minor sanitary defects, or nuisances, such as stopped-up drains, at various premises in the district, which have been attended to after informal notices.

Before closing my report, I must express my obligation to the other officers, and to the Council, for the way they have helped me to carry out my duties.

To the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. M. Temple Wilson, I owe the latter part of the report dealing with sewerage, water supplies, drainage, cowsheds, slaughter-houses, and miscellaneous nuisances. Mr. Wilson and I have worked together harmoniously for many years, and he has always placed at my disposal his special knowledge of architecture and surveying.

To the Clerk of the Council I have frequently been indebted for information as to sanitary law and statistics.

Finally, I have to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their deference to my opinions and consistent support.

SCOTT PURVES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I.
ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District				Deaths of Resi- dents registered in Public Insti- tutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all ages.			Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate*			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1900	12419	303	24.3	36	118.8	178	14.3	2	180	14.4
1901	12516	330	26.3	50	151.5	200	15.9	1	201	16.0
1902	12548	296	23.5	31	104.7	189	15.0	2	199	15.2
1903	12580	300	23.8	35	116.6	172	13.6	5	177	14.0
1904	12612	321	25.4	46	143.3	205	16.2	7	212	16.8
1905	12644	327	25.8	40	122.3	177	13.9	6	183	14.4
1906	12676	304	23.9	38	125	163	12.7	4	167	13.1
1907	12708	282	22.1	29	102.8	171	13.4	8	179	14.0
1908	12740	306	24.0	32	104.5	170	13.3	5	175	13.7
1909	12772	286	22.3	30	104.8	137	10.7	4	141	11
Averages for years 1900-1909.	12621.5	305.5	24.1	36.7	119.4	176.2	13.9	4.4	181.4	14.2
1910	12804	249	19.4	22	88.3	139	10.8	6	145	11.3

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 89.950.

Total population at all ages 12516. Number of inhabited houses 1250. Average number of persons per house 4.9.
At Census of 1901.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

TABLE II. ALNWICK RURAL.

Names of Localities.	Warkworth.				Embleton.				Denwick.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Year.												
1900	6930	194	106	24	4831	92	66	11	662	17	8	1
1901	7036	209	138	37	4811	111	54	12	669	10	9	1
1902	7107	180	109	17	4773	103	70	14	667	13	12	0
1903	7178	191	99	17	4735	99	71	17	667	10	7	1
1904	7249	195	120	25	4696	111	78	19	667	15	14	2
1905	7320	195	107	56	4657	114	67	13	667	18	9	1
1906	7391	197	101	29	4618	94	53	8	667	13	13	1
1907	7462	174	114	22	4579	94	61	7	667	14	14	0
1908	7533	184	113	16	4540	106	52	13	667	16	10	3
1909	7604	186	89	20	4501	87	43	9	667	13	9	1
Averages of Year 1900 to 1909.	7281	190.5	109.6	23.3	4674.1	101.1	61.5	12.3	666.7	13.9	10.5	1.1
1910	7675	157	84	15	4462	76	53	7	667	16	8	0

TABLE III. ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1910.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Warkworth.	Embleton.	Denwick.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.			
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	9		4	5			4	5	—
Erysipelas.	5					3	3	2	—
Scarlet Fever.	19		9	7	3		2	17	—
Enteric Fever.	2					2	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever.	1					1	—	1	—
Totals.	36		13	12	3	6	11	25	—

INSOLATION HOSPITAL.—Joint Small-pox Hospital with Urban Authority, 3 miles out of Alnwick.
 Totals available bed, 12. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, Small-pox only.

TABLE IV.

ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1910.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Wark. worth.	Emble- ton.	Denwick.	Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Insti- tutions in the District.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Scarlet Fever	1			1					1		
Fever, Enteric	1					1		1			
Epidemic Influenza	1					1			1		
Diarrhoea	1	1						1			
Enteritis	4	2	1	1				3	1		
Puerperal Fever	1					1			1		
Erysipelas	1						1				
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	18				5	11		9	6	1	
Other tuberculous diseases	6	1	1	2		2		5	1	3	
Cancer, malignant disease	10			1		7		8	2		
Bronchitis	9	2				3		3	5	1	
Pneumonia	4	2				9		3	1		
Premature Birth	4	4						3	1		
Diseases and accidents in parturition	1					1		3	1		
Heart Diseases	16				1	8	7	8	6	2	
Accidents	3		1		1	1		3			
Suicides	2					2		1	1		
All other causes	62	10	3	1		14	34	36	25	1	
All Causes	145	22	6	7	7	54	49	84	53	8	

TABLE V.

ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Month.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under one Year.
All Causes { Certified. Uncertified.	5 1		1	1	7	3	3	5	1				1		1		21 1
Diarrhoea, all forms													1				1
Enteritis					4	1		1					1				2
Premature Birth	4						1										4
Congenital Defects									1								2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1		1	1	3	1		1	1				1		1		5
Tuberculous Meningitis ...								2									1
Bronchitis						1	1										2
Pneumonia					1	1	1	1									2
Other causes	1					1											3
	6		1	1	8	4	2	5	1				1		1		22

Population Estimated to middle of 1910—12804.

Births in the Year

{ Legitimate 236.
Illegitimate, 13.

Deaths in the Year.

{ Legitimate, 18.
Illegitimate, 4.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 145.

