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Contributors

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RURAL DISTRICT OF ALNWICK.

Annual Report for 1914.

Rural District of Alnwick.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1914.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, and GENTLEMEN,—

The climatic conditions of the year 1914 have in this district been somewhat remarkable and have led to considerable difficulties from a public health point of view. It will be remembered that in the end of May, 1913, after a full year of wet cold weather, a dry season followed, which extended to the end of that year. No great difficulties as to water supply were then experienced, as the ground, saturated in the previous year, held a considerable reserve. But in the year 1914 conditions were entirely changed. The winter 1913-1914 continued dry throughout, and in no month, except perhaps March (3.08 inches) and June (3.24 inches), was the rainfall anything like the average, so that up to the end of October the ground got more and more dry, and the water supplies failed entirely. This shortage of rainfall, after having lasted for nearly eighteen months, ceased on October 30th, and from that date until the end of the year enough rain fell to raise the total rainfall for the year to within 1.75 inches of the average. I have gone into this matter in some detail to show that the deficiency of water supply complained of, especially in the south-eastern part of the district, was due, not to any omission or neglect on the part of the Council, but to the fact that peculiar conditions, not likely to recur, have been produced by an extraordinarily prolonged drought. As to heat and cold, the year 1914 showed no extreme variations. Little or no snow fell either at the beginning or end of the year, and although spring, summer, and autumn showed a good average of sunshine, yet no extreme heat was experienced.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The system now ordered by the Local Government Board of allocating all deaths and births to their own proper districts, according to corrections made by the Registrar General, tends to much greater exactitude, but makes it impossible to get the report presented to the Council as early in the year as formerly. To illustrate the necessity of these transfers, I may quote an extreme case, that of two youths belonging to the Alnwick Urban District who were drowned a few years ago while skating on the river Aln, whose deaths were credited to the Rural District, for the sole reason that the bodies were brought ashore on the Rural District side of the river.

This year the transfers as regards deaths number 22, of which 15 are added as belonging to our district and 7 subtracted as belonging to other districts, although they died in the Alnwick Rural District. There were no corrections as to births.

The following table shows the number of births and deaths registered in the district for the year 1914, and for comparison the two previous years are also given:—

			Birth Rate per 1,000 per annum			Death Rate per 1,000 per annum.
	Births.			Deaths.		
1912	260	.....	21.4	.....	152	..... 12.5
1913	253	.....	20.9	.....	158	..... 13.0
1914	234	.....	19.4	.....	155	..... 12.8

From the above it will be seen that the number of births for 1914 was less than 1913 by 1.5 and less than 1912 by 2.0.

The number of deaths in 1914 was less than in 1913 by 3, and greater than in 1912 by 3, the death rate in 1914 being less than in 1913 by .2 and greater than 1912 by .3.

The following table shows the distribution of deaths as regards the sub-districts, the number for the previous years being given for comparison:—

	Warkworth.		Embleton.		Denwick.
1912	77	.....	48	.....	14
1913	85	.....	62	.....	11
1914	89	.....	57	.....	9

The following table shows the death rate in the sub-districts:—

	Warkworth.		Embleton.		Denwick.
Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.
89	12.9	57	12.5	9	12.5

From the above table it will be seen that the death rate is distributed very evenly over the whole district, that of Warkworth being only .4 higher than the other two sub-districts. In 1913 the death rate of Warkworth sub-district was considerably the lowest of the three sub-districts.

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred, with the two previous years for comparison:—

	Under 1 year.	1 year & under 2 years.	2 years & under 5 years.	5 years & under 15 years.	15 years & under 25 years.	25 years & under 45 years.	45 years & under 65 years.	65 years & over
1912	17	5	4	6	5	16	32	54
1913	21	5	2	6	3	15	30	76
1914	18	2	4	6	7	15	41	62

The information conveyed by this table is on the whole very satisfactory, both for the year 1914 itself and also by comparison with the two previous years. If here the deaths were taken to represent an army, we would say that the most desirable distribution of the forces was to have a weak left wing, and a strong right wing, that is, the least possible number of deaths at the young end of the line and the greatest possible number at the old end. Thus in 1914 we find 18 deaths under one year against 21 in 1913, and 17 in 1912; or again, under two years, we find for 1914, 20 against 26 for 1913, and 22 for 1912. Then at the other end of the table we find that in 1914 there were 62 deaths of persons over 65 years as against 76 in 1913 and 54 in 1912, which makes 1914 an exact average, being 11 below in one case and 11 above in the other. Returning to the infantile deaths, we find that those returned from premature birth and debility at birth are 9 in number, or exactly half the deaths registered under one year. These deaths must be looked upon as more or less accidental and beyond the influence of sanitation.

Last year I noted it as a curious fact that for three years the deaths under 25 years had numbered 37 in each year. It adds considerably to the strangeness of the coincidence to find that the number is again 37 in 1914.

The percentage of deaths over 65 years in 1914 was 40.0, as against 48.1 in 1913 and 38.8 in 1912.

The infantile death rate for the whole district for 1914 was 76.8 per 1,000 children born, as against 83.0 for 1913 and 65.3 for 1912.

In Warkworth sub-district 141 children were born, and 14 died under one year.

In Embleton sub-district 73 children were born, and 2 died under one year.

In Denwick sub-district 20 children were born, and 2 died under one year.

This gives the sub-districts the following infantile death rates:—

Warkworth.	Embleton.	Denwick.
97.0	27.3	100.0

From the above it will be seen that the infantile death rate has been very unequal in the various sub-districts. The more populous the sub-district the more likely are we to arrive at an average, and thus the rate for Denwick, with a population at last census of only 720, must be looked upon as chancy, as with 20 births every death gives an increase of 50 per thousand. In Warkworth, with a population of 6,881 and 141 births,

and in Embleton, with a population of 4,558 and 73 births, more exact conclusions can be drawn. In Warkworth sub-district the birth rate is much greater than in Embleton, and so also is the infantile death rate. This has constantly been the case for several years back, and the explanation is difficult, unless it be that children being a scarcer commodity in Embleton are taken greater care of. It can hardly be the milk supply, as Embleton is a more purely rural district than Warkworth, and now-a-days milk is always more difficult to obtain in the country than in towns and villages. Altogether the infantile death rate for the whole district may be taken as satisfactory, in that it is only from two-thirds to a half of what it was about twenty years ago.

The greatest number of deaths for one month, viz., 21, occurred in April, and the smallest number, viz., 8, in July.

The total number of births for the year 1914 was 234, giving a birth rate of 19.4, distributed over the sub-districts as follows:—

Warkworth.		Embleton.		Denwick.	
Births.	Birth Rate.	Births.	Birth Rate.	Births.	Birth Rate.
141	20.4	73	16.0	20	20.7

Of the births 125 were males and 109 females.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 1914, 98 cases of infectious disease were notified in the district. Of the cases reported, 24 were scarlet fever, 33 diphtheria, 1 enteric fever, 7 erysipelas, 8 poliomyelitis, 1 ophthalmia neonatorum, and 24 tuberculosis.

The following table shows the distribution of the infectious diseases as regards the sub-districts:—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Erysipelas	Poliomy- clitis	Ophthal- mia Neonatorum	Tuber- culosis.	Totals		
Warkworth	20	...	30	...	0	...	1	...	68	
Embleton	...	4	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	28
Denwick	.....	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	2
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	24	33	1	7	8	1	24	98		

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease, which is usually the most common of the notifiable infectious diseases, has not been prevalent to any great extent in this district during 1914. More than half the cases reported, viz., 13, were in Togston and Radcliffe, and it was only there that it assumed anything like an epidemic form. In that part of the district we are more liable to infection being introduced from without, owing to the proximity of considerable centres of population in adjoining districts. The rest of the cases occurred as sporadic outbreaks in various parts of the district, and the spread of the disease was easily prevented by disinfection and as far as possible isolation.

DIPHTHERIA.

A greater number of notifications of this infectious disease has been received during 1914 than of any other. During the months of March and April an epidemic occurred at Radcliffe, and occasional cases were reported there later on in the year. Altogether, out of 33 cases in the whole district 23 were reported from Radcliffe. I have frequently reported on what I consider the causes of the frequent and extensive outbreaks of diphtheria which have occurred there. First and most important there is the uneven condition of the roads, causing accumulations of dirty lying water in wet weather and dust in dry weather, and second there is the stagnant open ditch which extends round the south-west side of the village. Circumstances are this year against the achievement of any sweeping sanitary reforms in this the most populous township in our district owing to a greatly diminished prosperity caused by the closing of the Newburgh Pit.

At Alnmouth, where it will be remembered that diphtheria appeared in an epidemic form in 1913, three cases were notified during the early part of the year, but since the thorough overhaul of all the sewers and drains of this village no case has been notified, and there is every reason that public confidence in the sanitary condition of this popular seaside resort should be completely restored.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Only one case of enteric fever was notified in the district during 1914. This case occurred at Powburn, but the history showed clearly that the infection had been acquired before the patient came to the district. In 1913 also one case was reported, and that also was an imported one.

POLIOMYELITIS.

This disease was made notifiable over two years ago, owing to serious epidemics which had occurred in various parts of the country. Up to last autumn only one case, which occurred the very week the disease became notifiable, had been reported in this district. The next case, also in my own practice, occurred on September 15th of 1914 at Eglington. This case was followed by seven others in the same village. Of these three died, this mortality being about what is usual from this very deadly disease. The conditions under which epidemic poliomyelitis occurs cannot yet be said to be thoroughly understood. Where the infection came from, and what special conditions rendered Eglington liable to such a serious outbreak, are mysteries. True, the water supply was at the time deficient, but that also applied, during September and October, to most of the villages in our district. Some cases of a similar nature, but of a less serious kind, occurred in the town of Alnwick, the water supply of which is now excellent. The most acute case of the epidemic was notified on October 12th, after which date, for no very apparent reason, the plague was stayed. Isolation was carried out as far as was possible, and all the houses affected, five in number, were carefully disinfected.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1914 24 cases of tuberculosis have been notified in the district. Of these 20 were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 cases of other forms of tuberculosis. As will be seen from the table, in incidence of the cases was pretty well proportionate to the population of the sub-districts. There appears still to be a tendency to notify only the more advanced cases, but this will no doubt improve as sanatorium benefit becomes more quickly and easily available. A great deal of good has resulted from the provision of shelters, so that the open-air treatment can be carried out at home. Last year 17 cases of tuberculosis were notified and 13 died; this year 24 were notified, with 11 deaths, which is at any rate an improvement. A point to which I should like to draw attention is the necessity for disinfection after deaths from tuberculosis. This should be carried out as soon as possible after the burial. As I receive no intimation of such deaths except through the monthly death returns, I some time ago forwarded to all the medical men practising in the district letter cards addressed to myself stating that death had taken place and requesting disinfection after a certain date.

During the year 1914 there occurred in the district 14 deaths from notifiable infectious disease. Of these three were caused by poliomyelitis, 8 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 3 from other forms of tuberculosis. It is rather remarkable that no deaths have occurred from diphtheria considering that 33 cases of this very fatal disease have been notified. This gives a death rate from notifiable infectious diseases of 1.16 per thousand per annum.

There was one death from influenza and three from diarrhoea and enteritis.

This gives a total zymotic death rate of 1.49 per thousand per annum.

In closing my report, I must thank the Chairman and Council for their consideration and support, and my fellow-officers, the Clerk and the Inspector, for the help they have so freely given me in the carrying out of my duties.

SCOTT PURVES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Inspector's Annual Report for 1914.

In commenting on my annual report for 1913, Dr. Hembrough reported to the County Council that:—"It gave a most interesting resumé of the sanitary work, actual and prospective, which had received the Council's attention during the year"

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.

IMPROVEMENTS.—The main sewer at High Buston has been re-laid with socketted earthenware pipes. The main sewers in the Front Street at Alnmouth have also been re-laid with socketted earthenware pipes in place of open jointed red tile field pipes, which has completed the renewal of the main sewerage in the village. As regards private drainage in Alnmouth, the whole of the drainage in connection with 195 premises has been carefully smoke tested, and many of the smaller houses had drains and fittings which were found to leak badly. All those with tile pipes, antiquated sinks, etc., have been noted, as well as soil pipes from w.c.'s made of thin metal down spouting with putty joints, which leaked all the way up. The property owners, who have displayed a praiseworthy co-operation in safeguarding the health interests of the village, are getting these defects put right.

REQUIREMENTS.—An extension of the north sewer at Embleton to avoid the pollution of a quarry pond wanted for watering stock. An improvement to the outfall from High Hauxley sewer which has subsided over pit workings and has flooded the neighbouring fields. The diversion of the Togston sewage into the proposed new sewerage system about to be laid by the Morpeth Rural District Council at Broomhill.

PRIVIES, WATERCLOSETS, ETC.

IMPROVEMENTS.—At Christon Bank four ashpits near dwellings have been abolished, and the privies converted into ash-closets. At Togston statutory notices served on fifty-five owners have resulted in ashpits which adjoined, or were close to, pantries being abolished, and all the privies being converted into ash-closets, and the ashpits made into extra ash-closets, with one to each tenement. The ashpit at High Learchild cottage has been roofed over. A privy has been converted into a pail closet at Embleton Hall. An ashpit has been built for the new dwellings at Glanton, which were completely without any. At Acklington three privy ashpits have been re-modelled and roofed over. At Wharrier's Yard, Felton, the privy ashpits have been re-built. At Sion House, Felton, a new back entrance has been made to prevent refuse from being carried through the dwelling.

The Alnwick Castle Authorities are now making an improved privy ashpit on their estate, which includes a third of the population in this rural district. It has a cement riser and a hinged seat, and the hole in the wall at the back is open full width of the privy. The floor slopes down to a deep channel in the ashpit, which is roofed over, and furnished with proper doors and coverings as described in the Public Health Act. Ashes, or earth, can either be put under the hinged seat or through a door into the ashpit direct. This can be seen at Dean Moor and elsewhere, and is the best form of privy ashpit to be seen in the district.

STATISTICAL.—In round figures there are about 1,800 privies in the district with fixed receptacles, 200 with movable receptacles, and about 50 earth closets. About 500 water closets are estimated. About ten slop water closets exist at the Stanners, Warkworth, which consist of vertical shafts which can never be flushed, the drain being flushed with waste water from gulleys close by.

Some years ago an attempt was made to improve the old-fashioned privy ashpit at farms by making them into ashclosets with movable receptacles. But farm servants never put in ashes down the wooden shoot through the side walls into the wagons, but throw ashes and sewage on to the middens on the ground outside. Thus at the Hermitage Farm, Birling North Field, and Guyzance East House cottages a praiseworthy effort of the landlord has resulted in failure, owing to the neglect of the cottagers.

The substitution of water closets for privy ashpits at farm cottages is not very promising, as it has been tried at Doxford, but the closets are often stopped up with such articles as Nestlé's Swiss milk tins.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Ten of the above exist in the district, of which five at Alnmouth, Embleton, and Warkworth, are licensed, and have bye-laws under urban powers; and five at Craster, Felton, Glanton, Longhoughton, and Radcliffe, are only registered.

IMPROVEMENTS.—A slaughter house in the village of Embleton has been removed to a small holding outside the village.

REQUIREMENTS.—New public slaughter houses outside the village of Warkworth, on account of continuous complaints by visitors regarding recurring nuisances at each killing amongst dwelling houses, which are disadvantageous to letting.

OFFENSIVE DITCHES AND COLLECTIONS OF MATTER.

The public systems of scavenging by contract at Alnmouth and Togston carried out by your Council continue to be satisfactory. At Alnmouth ashbox refuse is deposited once a week in winter and twice a week in summer in a dépôt near the tidal river, and covered over with gas lime and earth. At Togston privy ashpit refuse is deposited every fortnight in a disused quarry. It is done during the day in open carts at both places. At Warkworth, which is resorted to by visitors, occupiers with gardens can manage well enough, but others have only small and confined yards of an urban character, and ashes have to be carried through dwellings. In these cases the evil hour is put off as long as possible, and then they have to wait for a farmer. A cart is sent round once a month in summer, and once every alternate month in winter, to collect all rubbish, consisting of broken glass, earthenware, tins, metal, etc.

BYE-LAWS.—Bye-laws as to cleansing footpaths, cesspools, privies, and ashpits are in force for four townships only, viz., Alnmouth, Embleton, Togston, and Warkworth.

IMPROVEMENTS.—The sewage ditch near Titlington Farm House, and the ditch near the cottage at the Kennels in Titlington Lane, have been piped in for a greater distance from dwellings.

REQUIREMENTS.—A refuse depôt for High Newton-by-the-Sea to prevent rubbish being strewn over the village common. A cart round the township of Rennington, once a quarter, to prevent old tins, broken crockery and glass being deposited on the roadside near the pond. The prohibition of garden refuse on the waste land in the Wynding leading to Lesbury footbridge. The diversion of sewage from the highways at Hartlaw and Newton Barns, and a public footpath at Guyzance. The discontinuance of refuse on the heap near the houses at the Burn Row at Radcliffe.

WATER SUPPLY.

IMPROVEMENTS.—A supply from the spring near Shilbottle Colliery Farm has been laid on to the Farmhouse and cottages at Middle Cawledge Park. The "Bishop's Well" at High Newton-by-the-Sea has been cleaned out, and the overflow pipe from it put in order. The Denwick Quarry Drift supply has been connected into the Alnmouth water main, and was the means of preventing water famine in the village last summer.

REQUIREMENTS.—An extra spring to augment the Eglington village supply, which ran short last autumn. A better supply to the Scroggs, where water is obtained from a field drain, which is immersed when the lech is flooded. An improved supply to two cottages at the Loaning Head, where water is carried from Broomhouse for a distance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile. A supply to Acklington Low Park. A supply for the Farmhouse on Gloster Hill, where many springs abound at the foot of the hill. An improved supply for the village of Embleton, where the private supply failed last summer during the middle of the visitors' season. A supply to Shipley Lodge, the Lane, and Shop, where water is obtained for the two latter places out of a burn. A supply for Sturton Grange South Side, instead of a well below the level of the farm steading. The duplication of the Hauxley and Togston water main as far as Heather Leazes, the Council having been fortified by the independent opinion of two consulting engineers who reported that the running power of the 4 inch main is now too small to supply enough for a population which has increased during the last twenty-two years from 1,600 to 3,200, a scheme for which, amounting to £1,280, is now before the Local Government Board. A new supply to Acklington, instead of the pump well on the other side of the road to the churchyard which, from analysis, has been found to be 'polluted by sewage matter finding its way into the supply by percolation through the surrounding soil,' and which caused an epidemic. A duplication of the 4-inch main from Snableazes to Alnmouth,

as recommended by the consulting engineer who reported that the running power of the present main is now too small for summer requirements during the visitors' season.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

Notice has been received from the tenant that the premises at Embleton are no longer to be used as a common lodging house. But they are now used as houses let in lodgings for workmen at the quarry, and the question of getting bye-laws under section 90 of the Public Health Act, 1875, deserves consideration.

MILK SUPPLY.

Forty-two cowkeepers are on the register, which has been revised and corrected to date, who keep 369 cows for the sale of milk as a regular trade. Milk is exported into the urban districts of Alnwick, Amble, Blyth, Newcastle, Tyne Dock, and Whitley Bay. During my inspections particular attention was paid to the absence of impervious floors, insufficient drainage, both inside and outside the byres, and water supply. A few cowkeepers are still unaware that it is not lawful for any person to carry on the trade of purveyor of milk unless he or she is registered. The names that are added to the register from time to time are those of persons whom I have reminded. Unless three cows are kept for the regular sale of milk, no registration is made.

IMPROVEMENTS.—A cowkeeper at High Newton has provided a dairy for his milk instead of keeping it in his kitchen or on his staircase. The drainage at West Cawledge Park has been improved. A new cow shed has been built at Morwick Mill, for use instead of an old building. Limewashing is better attended to than formerly, especially the roofs.

REQUIREMENTS.—An improved water supply to Spittleford Dairy Farm. A better water supply at Shipley Old Shop, where about two dozen pails are carried daily from the burn, and allowed to settle for use after a flood.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Ninety-one workshops are on the register, which are as follows:—24 blacksmiths, 23 joiners, 8 quarries, 5 grain mills, 5 saw mills, 5 dress-makers, 5 bootmakers, 4 tailors, 4 fishyards, 2 laundries, 2 lineworks, 1 gas works, 1 tile shed, 1 bakehouse, and 1 tinsmith. Most of the above in this rural district only employ two or three persons in each, and no overcrowding has been found. Sometimes only one man is employed, and then it is not a workshop within the meaning of the Act. The cleanliness, ventilation, drainage of floors, etc., is generally satisfactory. The only difficulty that arises is with blacksmith shops, who seem to despair of keeping their walls limewashed, which are covered with irons, etc. Messrs. Young's bakehouse, which is above the ground level at Christon Bank, is a model of cleanliness.

OUTWORKERS.—Further inquiries might be made as to whether materials are sent to homeworkers engaged in such work as shirt making, hosiery knitting, making or finishing of household linen, making or cleaning of wearing apparel, as it is important that such articles are made under sanitary conditions, and in houses free from infectious disease.

IMPROVEMENT.—A privy has been provided for the employees at Lesbury Flour Mill.

DISINFECTION.

Forty-six houses, or schools, were disinfected with Formalin during the year as follows:—Alnmouth 2, Denwick 1, Eglington Village and Hill 7, Dean Moor 1, Felton 1, Glanton 3, Hedgeley 1, Radcliffe 19, Rennington 1, Titlington 1, Togston 8, and Warkworth 1.

THE TOWN PLANNING, ETC., ACT, 1909. HOUSING REGULATIONS, 1910.

During 1914 I inspected 855 houses, which brings the total to 1,729 since the above regulations came into force, which is nearly three-fifths of the dwelling houses in this district.

UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION.—Only two dwellings at North Togston Garden Cottages have been condemned as unfit for human habitation, and vacated, without any appeal by the owners.

SERIOUSLY DEFECTIVE.—The old cottages at Morwick, although improved are still so very damp that one room is not used. The twenty miners' houses at Bilton Banks are damp, unpointed, and badly spouted, and the wooden floors are wet, as intimated to the Shilbottle Coal Co. The upper house at Castle View, Warkworth, Littlehoughton Kiln Lodge, and the Burn Row at Radcliffe have been examined by the Medical Officer to ascertain if they were fit for human habitation, and representations as to their defects have been made to the owners. At a farm in the township of Shilbottle two kennels, with a bothy above for a man, were built some years ago by a gentleman who had the shooting. I found one kennel was used as a cake house and the other as a piggery, and a man and his wife and child were living in the room over the pigs. Since then the family has removed.

OVERCROWDING.—Measurements as to apparent overcrowding were only needed in one tenemented house at Bell's Row, Lesbury, but none was found.

GENERAL SANITATION.—As regards water supply, closet accommodation, drainage, dampness, paving, refuse and ashes, and other defects 198 informal notices have been served, and 2 put right. In addition certain matters reported in 1913 have been attended to in 1914, but not counted in the figure for that year. Moreover, as certain defects were notified to the owners towards the end of 1914 they have not had reasonable time to get them remedied.

NEW DWELLINGS.—Four new houses have been built at Togston, and three at Longhoughton, and two cottages at Lemmington Hall. At Togston, with a public sewer and water supply close by, privy ashpits have been provided. Two houses at Longhoughton have pail-closets and one a water closet. At Lemmington Hall two cottages have water closets.

In conclusion, I think a meed of praise is due to the accuracy of the work of the pressmen, and especially, on account of length of service, the *doyen* of Alnwick reporters, Mr. A. H. Tate. An official in the County Council office, whose duty it is to collect every Saturday morning the newspaper accounts of the meetings of local authorities, has informed me that the proceedings of the Alnwick Rural Council are better reported than any other authority in Northumberland.

I may mention that in March I will have completed a service of a quarter of a century, having succeeded my late father, who was appointed in 1873. That I have seen great changes is evidenced from the fact that since 1890 no fewer than 29 members have died, and 21 have left, and only one now remains of the authority under which I first started, Mr. Geo. Tate, who has represented Brotherwick since 1864. After the passing of the Local Government Act, 1894, many new members were elected, but of these only three have remained since that date, namely, the Rev. W. Rogerson and Messrs. W. Douglas and J. Richardson.

My annual tabular statement, which is appended, shows that 2,035 inspections have been made this year, as against 1,493 last year, and I beg to express my indebtedness to the members and officials for their support during the past year, and for being

"To my virtues very kind,
To my faults a little blind."

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

M. TEMPLE WILSON, M.R.SAN.I.

Alnwick, 31st December, 1914.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

ALNWICK RURAL.

Year.	Popula- tion esti- mated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths†		Net Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncor- rected Number	Nett.		Number *	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District. †	of Resi- dents not registered in the District. †	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number †	Rate 5					Number *	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number *	Rate 13
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	12772	286	286	22.3	137	10.7		4	30	104.8	141	11.0
1910	12804	249	249	19.4	139	10.8		6	22	88.3	145	11.3
1911	12159	260	260	21.3	147	12.0		20	18	69.2	164	13.4
1912	12115	260	260	21.4	139	11.4	1	14	17	65.3	152	12.5
1913	12280	253	253	20.9	159	13.1	12	11	21	83.0	158	13.0
1914	12045	234	234	19.4	147	12.2	7	15	18	76.8	155	12.8

Area of District in acres, (land and inland water) 89590. Total population at all ages 12159.

Number of inhabited houses 2790.

Average number of persons per house 4.3.

At Census of 1911.

Table II.

ALNWICK RURAL.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.										Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages - Years.						Markworth.	Embleton.	Denwick.				
		Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.				65 and upwards.			
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup ..	33	3	13	15	2	4	1	1	30	2	1			
Erysipelas ..	7				1				4	3				
Scarlet Fever ..	24		9	12	3				20	4				
Enteric Fever ..	1				1					1				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1							1	8	1			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	20				6	8	6		11	2				
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4			3		1								
Poliomyelitis	8		3	5										
Totals ..	98	4	25	35	13	13	7	1	68	28	2	0		

No Isolation Hospital except Joint Smallpox Hospital, 3 miles south of Alnwick.

TABLE III.
ALNWICK RURAL.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District
1		All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	11	
All Causes { Certified. Uncertified.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
	154	17	2	4	6	7	15	41	62			
	1	1										
	Influenza	1						1				
	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8					3	3	2			
	Tuberculous Meningitis	1				1						
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	2				1			11	8		
	Cancer, malignant disease	20										
	Meningitis	3			1							
	Organic Heart Disease	18						1	9	8		
	Bronchitis	6	2					1	1	2		
	Pneumonia (all forms)	6	1					1				
	Other Diseases of respiratory organs	1	3							1		
	Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3										
	Alcoholism	1								1		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	4							2	2			
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	9	9					1					
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	4				1		2		1			
Suicide	2								2			
Other Defined Diseases	66	3	2	2	2	1	2	3	16	37		
TOTALS	155	18	2	4	6	7	15	41	62			
Polio-myelitis	3				1	2						

| No Institutions in District. | | | | | | | | | | | |

No Institutions in District.

INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1914.

[illegible]

