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ALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For Year ending December 31st, 1925.

ALTON:
E. MOODY, PRINTER, 62, NORMANDY STREET.

1926.

TO THE ALTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ALTON, HANTS.

March, 1926.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health require that the Annual Report for 1925 should be a survey Report of five years.

The following is my Report on this District for the year ending 31st December, 1925.

The area of the District is 57,835 acres.
The Population (1921 Census) is 15,767.
The number of inhabited houses is 3,439.
The rateable value is £101,949.
The sum represented by a penny rate is £355 14. 4.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the year.

BIRTHS.	Males	...	145	Birth rate 19.6.
	Females	...	165	
		Total	310	

DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths in the District was 123. Death rate 7.87 per thousand. The total number of Deaths including persons who died in Public Institutions outside the District was 187. Death rate 11.9 per thousand.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Deaths of Infants under 1 year numbered 27. 7 of these died in Public Institutions outside the District. The Infant Mortality during the 5 years under review remained practically the same each year.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are County Tuberculosis Clinics at Winchester and Aldershot, and a Clinic for Venereal Diseases at Winchester.

There is a Child Welfare Centre in Alton, attended by cases from the Country Districts.

There are Ambulance facilities for removing infectious cases and for use in case of accident or illness.

All Fever cases requiring isolation are removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital at Alton.

There is sufficient accommodation for the requirements of the neighbourhood.

Cases arising at Bordon are removed to the Military Isolation Hospital at Aldershot.

The villages are supplied with Nurses and Midwives. There has been great improvement in this respect during recent years as at one time some of the villages were unable to get the service of a nurse.

The nurses are supplied by private Associations in the District.

OFFICERS.

Sanitary Inspector, whole-time officer.
Medical Officer of Health, part-time officer.

Contribution is made by Exchequer Grant for Sanitary Inspector, also hitherto for M.O.H. At present the necessary sanction to my recent appointment has not been received.

BYE-LAWS.

The Bye-laws in force are those relating to New Buildings.

Bye-laws for hop-pickers, pickers of fruit and vegetables.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.

Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1907. Section 18, 20, 23, 25, 27, 33.

Part ii, Section 34—38, 43—46, 49.

Part iii, Section 52—60 and 68.

WATER.

The District is supplied chiefly by Wells. The Parish of Medstead is mainly supplied by underground rain-water tanks—owing to its high situation.

This form of supply is adequate except during exceptionally dry Summers.

The Parishes of Grayshott and Headley are for the greater part supplied by the Wey Valley Water Co. The supply is constant and good.

The Wey Valley supply is now available in Bentley Parish.

Selborne Parish is mainly supplied by a spring-ram supply—taken to stand-pipes in the village augmented by wells.

The Rivers and Streams in the District appear to be fairly free from any source of pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Bentley is the only village where a drainage scheme is in operation. The whole of the household waste water and sewage passes through screening chambers thus returning all solids. The effluent is then disposed of by broadland irrigation.

I am glad to note that the Council are giving serious consideration to a drainage scheme for the Parish of Grayshott.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No systematic conversion of closets on the conservancy system to the water carriage system have been carried out in the District.

The closet accommodation consists of dry earth closets and privies.

Where privies are met with, and found to be defective, these are converted into earth closets.

SCAVENGING.

During the year two Scavenging Schemes have come into operation in the District, namely at Bordon within the parish of Headley and at Grayshott.

On August 1st a Scavenging Scheme was started at Bordon.

Collections of night soil are made twice a week and in addition one collection of house refuse.

This work is carried out by contract, and I am pleased to say that the scheme is working most satisfactorily, and the sanitary condition of Bordon has markedly improved in consequence.

I am of opinion that a drainage scheme would cause still further improvement.

The scheme for Grayshott consists of one collection fortnightly of dry non-combustible house refuse.

As a result of this the appearance of that neighbourhood has considerably improved.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

EARTH CLOSETS.

Privies converted into earth closets during the year number	7
Number of earth closets repaired	31
Nuisances detected	180
Nuisances abated	183
Nuisances not abated but in hand	12
Other premises inspected	48
Overcrowding	3
Dirty houses cleansed	36
Drains cleansed and repaired	14
Water samples taken for Analysis	21
Wells cleansed and repaired	14
Wells condemned	4
Premises disinfected	36
Other Abatements	31
Number of Water Certificates issued during the year	59
Number of Registered Knackers Yards	2
Number of Registered Slaughter Houses	7

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS, and the MILK AND DAIRIES (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1922.

Number of registered Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	89
Number of Retail Purveyors of Milk	58

These registered premises are periodically inspected, and action taken as found necessary. The general standard is good and steadily improving.

HOP PICKERS.

The Councils Bye-laws respecting Hop Pickers, etc., are enforced in the District. Permanent Barracks, consisting of separate lock-up cubicles, are provided, augumented by good tent accommodation. The water supplies are good and the Sanitary Conveniences up to a fair standard.

The Hutments are lime-washed annually and a good supply of clean straw provided before the Pickers take possession. Ample Kitchen accommodation is provided. 40 new Hutments have been erected during the year and 65 repaired.

The general standard is good.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total 59

(b) With State assistance under the Housing, &c., Acts, 1923, Section 2.....32

(i) By the Local Authority.....Nil

(ii) By other bodies of persons 27

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts.....197

(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.....161

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....89

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....61

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.....2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—.....2

(a) by Owners 2

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners.....Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.....Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by Owners .....Nil

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners.....Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.....1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....1

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....Nil

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil

OVERCROWDING.

During the last 5 years very little action has been required in this respect.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Under the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, 89 retail purveyors of milk were brought on to the register.

The need for repairs, cleansing, etc., entailed a considerable amount of work in 1922 and subsequently.

As a result of this great improvement has been made.

The Bye-laws relating to Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk Shops Orders are enforced in the District and premises are periodically inspected and action taken when found necessary.

The general standard is good.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The requirements of the Public Health Meat Regulations of 1924, are complied with. The necessary note of time and place of slaughter being lodged with the Council.

The necessary inspections are made.

Shops, Stores, etc., under these regulations have been inspected and a great deal of improvements has resulted.

Under the Slaughter Houses Order of 1924, 7 were brought on to the register in 1925.

	In 1920.	Jan. 1925.	Dec. 1925.
Registered	—	—	7
Licensed	2	2	2
Total	2	2	9

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been no serious outbreaks of infectious disease during the period under review since 1920.

In 1922 cases of Scarlet Fever kept occurring at Rowledge. This school is on the borders of Hampshire and Surrey, taking children from Farnham Rural and Alton Rural District and this fact made it difficult in dealing with the outbreak.

There have been very few cases of Diphtheria. Diphtheria Antitoxin is promptly supplied when necessary.

One case of Pneumonia and no cases of Malaria or Dysentery have been notified under the Regulations of January, 1919. The deaths from Pneumonia number 8 or 9 each year.

All Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined at The Castle, Winchester. This is found to be most useful in cases of tuberculosis, diphtheria return cases and carrier cases, and also for the examination of pathological specimens after operation.

As yet no use has been made of the Schick and Dick Tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the artifical methods of immunization against these diseases.

There are a large number of unvaccinated children in the District owing to conscientious objection. These form a menace in case of an outbreak of Small-pox.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Mumps and Chicken-pox continue to be moderately prevalent during each year.

Notifications of these diseases are sent by the Schoolmasters as they occur in the Schools.

During 1922 and 1924, several Schools were closed for Influenza.

MORTALITY FROM INFLUENZA.

6 deaths were attributed to Influenza during the year.

The average number of deaths from Cancer during the 5 years is about 18 each year. In 1925 there were 19 deaths from Cancer.

Disinfection is done immediately after a case of Infectious disease is removed to Hospital.

During closure of Schools for infectious disease, the School is thoroughly disinfected.

Notifiable Diseases during the year 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	38	35	—
Diphtheria	11	11	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	1	1
Pneumonia	1	—	6
Erysipelas	6	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Menatorium	2	—	—

There were 13 cases of Scarlet Fever at Headley and Grayshott ; 6 cases at Froyle , 7 at the Cripples' Hospital, Chawton ; 3 at Binsted ; 2 at Rowledge ; 2 at Worldham ; 3 at Bordon ; and 2 at Holybourne.

Besides the above, 15 Military cases were notified from Bordon, and are not included in these figures.

9 cases of Diphtheria were notified from the Cripples' Hospital, Chawton.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following are particulars of new cases and of deaths from this disease in the area during 1925.

Age-Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0						1	2	
1								
5	1		2				1	
10		1		1		1		
15		1						
20		1			1			
25	3	1				2		
35	1							
45	2	2			1	1		
55								
65 and upwards	1							
Totals ...	8	6	2	1	2	5	3	

I should like to add that your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bennett, has rendered very valuable services during the year.

Your obedient servant,

H. CURRER WILLIAMS,

Acting M.O.H.