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Contributors

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Amblecote Urban District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

**For the Year ending
December 31st, 1922.**

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1922. The Report is much on the same lines as that of previous years, and is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

The Vital Statistics are satisfactory, especially with regard to the Death-rate, which is lower than any I have previously reported, and considerably below the average of the previous five years.

The Infantile Mortality is also satisfactory, but is not so good as that of 1921. The difference is due to the very low birth-rate. There were 20 fewer births than in the year 1921.

As regards the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, the death-rate in Amblecote is very satisfactory.

There are no special circumstances relating to the health of the Area which have not been adequately dealt with during the year.

No outbreak of Epidemic Disease has occurred.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There is one Centre in the District, which also provides a dressing-room for the District Nurse.

Veneral Diseases.

One Clinic in the District, at the Corbett Hospital. Clinic twice weekly.

In September, in anticipation of an outbreak of Small Pox, leaflets were distributed from house to house, throughout the District, and public notice given of free vaccination.

No special Report was necessary during the year.

The Infectious Diseases notified were—

			Cases.	Died.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	2	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	2	1
Pneumonia	...	...	2	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	0

Population.

The Registrar General estimates the Population of Amblecote to June 30th, 1922, at 3,267.

The following extract from the Memorandum issued by the Registrar General, explains how this figure was arrived at.

“The estimates of Population as at the 30th of June, 1922, which are now provided, have been based on the adjusted 1921 figures, after allowance for varying rates of natural increase, as evidenced by the births and deaths in each area, and of migration as indicated from other sources of information, such as the changes in the numbers of the Parliamentary Register, and the Migration Returns obtained by the Board of Trade.”

Such increase as there is in Amblecote, is shewn by the sub-joined figures.

Date of Census.	Population.	Persons per Occupied House.
1881	2,808	5·2
1891	2,876	4·8
1901	3,128	4·7
1911	3,155	4·4
1921	3,236	4·3

An increase of 11 per annum in the decennial period.

General Statistics.

Area (in Acres)	...	...	665
Population (1922)	...	...	3,267
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	766
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Approximate)	...	...	746
Rateable Value	...	...	£19,200
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£80

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births	{	Legitimate 54	}	Birth-rate	16·5
		Illegitimate 8			
Deaths	...	32		Death-rate	9·7

Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth none.

Deaths of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 births),
 Legitimate 4 Illegitimate none Total 4

Vital Statistics.

Population Census 1921, 3,236. (Estimated to middle).

Comparative Birth-rates and Death-rates, Per 1000 of Population.

	Number.	Rate 1922.	Rate 1921.	Five years average.
Births	62	16·5	23·1	19·8
Registered deaths	32	9·7	11·7	16·6
Deaths under 1 year of age (Rate per 1,000 births)	4	64	40	85
Zymotic Diseases	1	0·3	0·6	0·4
Respiratory Diseases	5	1·5	1·8	3·1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	0·6	0·6	0·7
Cancer	1	0·3	0·6	1·0
Influenza	1	0·3	0·0	2·3

Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Infantile Mortality during 1922 in England and Wales.

	Birth-rate	Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality.
England and Wales	20·6	12·9	77
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns	21·4	13·0	82
155 Smaller Towns Population			
20,000—50,000	20·5	11·7	75
London	21·0	13·4	74

Ages at which Deaths occurred in Amblecote (all causes.)

Under 1 years.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 years and over.
4	3	1	2	4	9	8
	Births, Males 33.			Females 29.		
	Deaths, Males 18.			Females 14.		

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE	Total cases notified	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...			
Scarlet Fever	4		
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)			
Puerperal Fever			
Pneumonia ...	4		1
Other Diseases generally notifiable (Encephalitis Lethargica) ...			
Other Diseases notifiable locally (Chicken Pox) ...	6		
Tuberculosis:			
a Pulmonary	2		2
{ M 1			
{ F 1			
b Non Pulmonary	1		1
{ M			
{ F 1			

The ages at which these Deaths occurred were, Pneumonia, 45 years. Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 26 and 47 years. Non-Pulmonary 8 months.

The Registrar General has furnished the Statement below, showing in the first column of figures, the number of cases of certain Infectious Diseases notified during the year in Amblecote, and in the second column the case rates per 1,000 of Population from the same Diseases in England and Wales.

DISEASE	Cases noti- fied in the District	Case Rate per 1000 living in England & Wales	Case Rate per 1000 living in Amblecote
Small Pox ...		0.03	
Scarlet Fever ...	4	2.85	1.22
Diphtheria ...		1.37	
Enteric Fever ...		0.06	
Puerperal Fever		0.06	
Erysipelas ...		0.35	

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hospital				
	2	2		2			

These Cases were attended to by the Health Visitor.

4. Causes of Sickness.

Nothing especially noteworthy. Enquiries have been made as directed.

5. Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals, and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the home :—

- (a) General, one part-time District Nurse.
- (b) Nurse engaged as required. There is also a Voluntary Nursing Association, to which the Council contribute £30 per annum.

Midwives.

No subsidy to practising Midwives. The County Council administers the Act. One Certified Midwife practises in the District.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

One Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and Clinic.

No day Nursery.

One Venereal Disease Clinic.

One School Clinic (County Council).

No Tuberculosis Clinic nearer than Dudley, (5 miles).

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council.

- 1, 2 and 3, Tuberculosis, Maternity and Children—none.
- 4 Fever—By arrangement with Kingswinford Rural District Council.
- 5 Small Pox—By arrangement with the County Council.
- 6 Other—Corbett Hospital, Voluntary, in the District, 30 beds.

There is no Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) Infectious Cases.—An Ambulance provided by Kingswinford Rural District Council.

(b) For non-infectious Cases and Accident Cases.—None. Easily obtainable from neighbouring Districts.

Laboratory Work.

At Wolverhampton General Hospital. County Council Bacteriologist. Five Swabs sent for Tubercle Bacilli. Two Positive.

Adoptive Acts.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890. All Sections.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. (II, III and V).

7. Sanitary Administration.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report (appended).

8. Public Health Staff.

1. Medical Officer of Health, part-time. One half of Salary contributed under Public Health Act.

2. Sanitary Inspector (C.S.I.) and Surveyor. One half of Inspector's Salary contributed under Public Health Act.

3. Health Visitor (Certified). Part-time and part-time under Brierley Hill Urban District Council.

4. District Nurse (Trained). Part-time, and part-time under Brierley Hill Urban District Council.

9. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a)—Total	...	...	...	...	8
(b)—As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	8

1.—Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	...	...	...	...	130
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.	...	...	...	...	96

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 10
- (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. 62

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 49

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

- (a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 Nil
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit.
- (a) By Owners Nil.
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became Operative, in pursuant 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. ... 68
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied.
- (a) By Owners. 65
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. ... Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.
- (1) 7
- (2) 7
- (3) 7
- (4) Nil.
- (5) Nil.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

Particulars relating to the work during the year ending
December 31st, 1922.

Births Notified :—

Legitimate	...	...	...	54
Illegitimate	...	...	...	8
Still Births	...	...	...	0
Notified by Midwives	...	...	...	46
Notified by Doctors or Parents	...	...	...	9
Not Notified	...	...	...	1

Visits Paid :—

Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	8
Children under 1 year	...	...	...	58
Re-visits	...	...	...	609

Welfare Centre.

Number on Books, Dec. 31st, 1922, 369. Dec. 31st, 1921, 320

Attendances :—

Children	...	...	...	695
Health Visitor	...	...	...	48
Medical Consultations	...	...	...	38
Tuberculosis—New Cases	...	2	Re-visits	...	21

The Ladies Voluntary Committee continues to render most valuable assistance.

I am satisfied that their influence is productive of good results amongst the mothers.

“Necessitous Cases” are still much in evidence. To meet this, the Ladies have, by subscriptions and voluntary efforts raised £51 16s. od., during the year, and have spent it in providing food and clothing where most needed.

Gifts of clothing and groceries have also been given by individual members of the Committee.

With regard to the Routine Work in the Sanitary Inspector's Department, the details will be found set forth in his Report, which is appended.

The 24 Council Houses have now been completed and occupied. In my opinion where there is overcrowding, here or elsewhere, a different class of house is required to meet the economic needs of the poorer classes. Proposed legislation may encourage private enterprise to provide houses of this class.

H. D'ARCY ELLIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

May 28th, 1923.

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector,

For the Year ending
December 31st, 1922.

Number of Dwelling Houses of all classes	...	766
Number of Working class Dwelling Houses	...	667
Number of new Working class Houses erected	...	8
In course of erection	... ..	Nil.

Closet Accommodation.

Houses served by Water Closets	...	...	739
Houses served by Privies	...	...	20
Houses served by Pan Closets	...	...	7
Houses with separate Water Closets	...	...	486
Houses with Water Closets in common	...	...	253
Houses with separate Privies	...	...	18
Houses with Privies in common	...	...	2
Houses with Pan Closets	...	...	7

The total number of Water Closets is	...	...	655
The total number of Privies is	...	...	16
The total number of Pan Closets is	...	...	7

The few Privies and Pan Closets are in an outlying portion of the District where Sewer accommodation is not practicable.

Since 1905, 332 Privy Middens have been converted to Water Closets.

Scavenging.

Houses with separate Ashpits	...	...	204
Houses with Ashpits in common	...	...	286
Houses with Bins	...	...	249
Houses with Privies and Pans	...	...	27

There are 341 Ashpits and 237 Bins in your District. During the year 12 Ashpits have been demolished and replaced by Bins.

Since 1905, 213 Sanitary Dust Bins have been substituted for Ashpits.

Refuse Removal, Loads removed during the year	...	902
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SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK
 carried out in the Sanitary Inspectors' Department during
 the Year 1922.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances abated after notice by	
		Inspections & Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	130	52	19	8	47	13
	Structural Defects		50	18	9	33	15
	Overcrowding ...		1	1		1	
	Unfit for Habitation		10	3	7	3	7
	Dairies Cowsheds	48					
	Milkshops		2	1		2	
	Bakehouses ...	25					
	Slaughter-houses ...	55	1	1		1	
	Canal Boats ...						
	Ashpits and Privies ...	211	73	24	7	49	18
	Deposits of Refuse & Manure	6	1	1		1	
	Water Closets ...	296	52	17	6	33	17
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	214					
	No Disconnection		44	17	3	36	8
	Other Faults ...						
	Water Supply ...	130	1	1		1	
	Pigsties ...	16	1	1		1	
	Animals Improperly Kept ...	9	1	1		1	
	Offensive Trades ...						
	Smoke Nuisances...	25	1	1		1	
Other Nuisances ...							
Totals		1165	290	106	40	200	78

Prosecutions, nil. Unwholesome Food, no seizures or surrenders.

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Houses disinfected ...	5	Schools disinfected ...	1
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital ...			2
Leaflets on prevention of Small Pox distributed to every house. Large Posters exhibited in Shops, Factories, etc.			

Slaughter Houses.

1 Registered only. Used regularly. Has good ventilation, floors and walls, and is properly drained.

The quality of meat killed is excellent. The walls are lime-washed regularly, if occasion arises can be disinfected, walls, floor, etc., sprayed at moments notice.

Milk.

Cowsheds ...	4	Milkshops ...	2
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The Dairies and Milkshops Orders are in force. Informal action to remedy defects has been taken in two instances.

Bakehouses.

Number 4 1 Factory and 3 Workshops.

Are kept in a good sanitary condition and comply with the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Acts. There are no underground Bakehouses.

Factories and Workshops.

FACTORIES ON THE REGISTER.

Glassmaking and Decorating	...	...	11
Iron Works, Iron Foundries and Machine Shops	...	...	7
Fire Brick and Fire Clay Works	...	...	4
Hollow Ware Works	...	...	2
Saw Mills and Wood Working	...	...	3
Leather Works (part of)	...	...	1
Bakehouse (Factory)	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			29
			<hr/>

In addition, Gas Works, Water Pumping Station, Electrical Power Station, 4 Clay Mines, and 1 Coal Mine.

WORKSHOPS ON REGISTER.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	3
Motor Garages and Repair Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Carpenters and Cabinet Makers	...	...	...	...	5
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	...	1
Glass Works	...	...	...	...	2
Glass Decorating	...	...	...	...	2
Glass, etc., Factors	...	...	...	...	4
Wood Packing Case Making	...	...	...	...	1
Metal Workers	...	...	...	...	2
Fire Clay (Pots, &c.)	...	...	...	...	3
Malting	...	...	...	...	1
Shoe Repairing	...	...	...	...	2
Dressmaking (Domestic)	3
					<hr/>
					34
					<hr/>

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.

May 28th, 1923.

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