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Contributors

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ASHINGTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1912,

R. J. MILLS, M.B.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ASHINGTON :
MICHAEL WILKINSON, PRINTER, HIGH MARKET.

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COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

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WASHINGTON

ROBERT WILSON, PRINTER, 1010 N. 1ST ST.

1916

COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
ASHINGTON.

Surveyor's & Sanitary Inspector's Report

For 1912.

MR CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS.

My report for the year ended December, 1912, is as follows :

HIGHWAYS.

The scavenging of all highways and other roads taken over by the Council has been regularly and systematically carried out. At certain times the accumulation of mud has been somewhat abnormal, as much as 150 tons being removed from the surface of the roads in one week. Now that a loan has been arranged, the work of improving the main road will at once be carried out. The widening of Newbiggin Road near North Seaton Hotel is now completed. The work has been carried out by the Council's own workmen. Plans for improving and widening Stakeford and Newbiggin Roads are with the Road Board, London. The alteration of telegraph poles and relaying of electric cables at lower levels has now been completed ; while the laying of an underground telegraph cable has also been arranged for. The roads generally have received due attention in the way of repairs ; while many minor improvements have been effected to crossings, etc. Additional gullies have also been fixed at suitable points. Improvements have also been made where New Moor and Longhirst Roads join the Main Road. New Ash Footpaths have been provided to North Seaton Road, also to East and South boundary of Hirst Park, together with boundary fence where necessary, while many other secondary or subsidiary roads have been made up and levelled with clinker. The paving, channelling, etc., of the following back streets will be carried out under the provision of the Private Streets Works Act, 1892, viz :—Laburnum Terrace, Myrtle Street, Poplar Street, Sycamore Street, Maple Street, Victoria Terrace, and Gable End Street. The work will be carried out during 1913. The defective footpaths to Main Road are being repaired gradually—concrete flags being substituted in the place of existing concrete and ashphalt. All footpaths will eventually be made satisfactory as circumstances will permit.

Roads belonging to the Ashington Coal Coy. have been scavenged and repaired by their own workmen. The making up and paving of several streets on His Grace the Duke of Portland's estate is also progressing favourably. Proper construction of all streets should be carried out concomittant with the erection and tenancy of houses.

The following additional streets have during the year been taken over by the Council as highways, viz :—

Back Duke Street.
 „ Charlton Street.
 „ Cresswell Terrace.
 Haldane Street.
 Council Road.
 Council Terrace.

SEWERAGE.

Many of the Sewers are far from satisfactory, and although several new sewers were provided last year, it will be necessary to provide other sewers during 1913. Several minor improvements have been carried out to some of the older sewers to render them easy of access, by the provision of inspection chambers. The drainage system connected with the public arinal near Grand Hotel has been completely overhauled, and is now in good working order. The provision of w.c's. in place of the existing privies is very desirable. The drainage system to the Council's stable yard has also been remodelled, and proper sanitary conveniences provided for the workmen. The sewer passing through the Allotments on the east boundary of the N.E. Railway has been temporarily repaired. Heavy rains at times have caused back flooding in this sewer. The proposed new sewers to be laid shortly will remedy this evil. Additional fencing has been provided to the Hayden Letch as requested by the M.O.H., Dr. Hembrough. An overflow pipe has been provided to the ventilating chamber on the Hirst Sewer at Rollington Dene where the 18" sewer near the river has been renewed where defective. I am pleased to state there has been no complaints of emissions of foul air from certain sewers so prevalent in 1911. The provision of tall vent shafts and close covers to certain manholes has been fully justified.

WATER.

The Council is the Water Authority of the District.

The main supply is from the mines of the Ashington Coal Company. There is also a supply from the North Seaton Colliery. Eight bulk meters are employed to register the quantity of water used.

The consumption for the year was 49,078,060 gallons (or about 4.98 gallons per head per day, assuming the population to be 27,000) as compared with 47,019,000 gallons for the previous year.

Additional stand pipes, fitted with special taps, have been fixed in several of the back streets, with necessary gullies and branch drains to sewers as required.

165 water connections have been made to new houses. 3,225 yards of new water main have been laid as compared with 3913 yards for the previous year. The Council have 62 private meters fixed for trade and business purposes, the whole of which are in good repair and working order.

The storage tanks at Hirst have also been thoroughly overhauled, cleansed, and all sediment carefully removed. Speaking of the water supply generally, there is room for much improvement, provision must be made for an increased head or pressure, more storage, and larger mains.

The proposed new scheme of distribution to the Hirst Area is a step in the right direction, and provides for proper and complete control of the various sections of distribution with all necessary Valves, Hydrants, etc., and dispenses with all objectionable bends, angles, dead ends, etc. The laying of private service pipes by the various plumbing contractors is now being carried out in a satisfactory and workmanlike manner. All service pipes having at least 2' 0" of cover, and of the requisite weight.

LIGHTING.

The lighting of the district by Electricity and Petrol is far from satisfactory. The provision of another 360 street lamps is desirable.

The existing lamps are as follows:—

Electric Lamps	...	282
Petrol	"	67
TOTAL		349

A complete scheme for the improving of the lighting of the district by Electricity and Gas is now receiving careful consideration.

FIRE BRIGADE.

The Council have now made an arrangement with the Durham and Northumberland Collieries' Fire and Rescue Brigade for the hire of their engine and complement of Firemen in case of an outbreak of Fire. A small Brigade is also being formed from the Council workmen.

There are 15 Fire Hydrants in the district and 28 Minimax Fire Extinguishers.

Additional Fire Hydrants, provided for in the proposed new water mains, will also be an acquisition.

ASHPIT REFUSE AND WASTE PRODUCTS DISPOSAL.

The removal of ashpit refuse is carried out by Contractors in covered wagons and deposited on Agricultural land. The work during the month of May up to the month September, inclusive, is carried out between the hours of 11 p.m. and 10 a.m. the following day. All ashpits at present (except by special arrangements) are emptied fortnightly. The specification and conditions of concrete prepared for the carrying out of the work, and agreed to by the various contractors, will result in the work being more efficiently executed than heretofore (meanwhile the Council would do well to take into consideration the advisability of doing this work by their own workmen). The desirability of emptying and cleansing the ashpits, etc., at shorter periods and on more sanitary lines should receive careful consideration.

The improving of existing ashpits also calls for attention, and where advisable and practicable **the water carriage system should be adopted** for the disposal of sewerage, excreta, and urine, the ashes being stored in a portable ashbin, or preferably a Dr. Quinn's or or Lee's ash receptacle. Ashes or other refuse so stored, should, from a sanitary point of view, be collected weekly to render such work really satisfactory.

The number of Ashpits, Ash-bins, Privies and W.C's may be summarised as follows:

No. of covered Ash-pits	...	...	...	1818
" uncovered "	...	...	...	51
" Ash-bins	...	...	...	30
" Privies with fixed receptacle (midden vault)	...	...	...	1864
" " " Movable " (pail or tub)	...	...	...	2
" Water Closets, fresh water...	...	...	...	239
" Conversions from Privies to F.W. Water Closets	...	...	...	21
" Houses with separate Privy accommodation	...	...	...	4610
" " without " " "	...	...	...	536

HOUSING.

There are 5146 occupied houses in the district. The erection of new houses proceeds steadily. The work generally is fairly satisfactory. There is still a large demand for houses. All house drains have been carefully laid, consisting of glazed stoneware socketted pipes, all joints being well stemmed with spunyarn and jointed in Portland cement—this work as a whole being well executed. All drains have been thoroughly inspected and approved before being covered up. The growing desire on the part of the owners to provide Wash-houses is to be commended, also where practicable and desirable the conversion of privies into water closets. The abolition of the annual water charge of 5 shillings for each water closet to dwelling houses should tend to a more general adoption of the water carriage system. There is a marked improvement in the erection of out offices both from a constructional and sanitary point of view.

Certificates have been issued (after inspection) in the case of all new houses as fit for human habitation.

New houses erected and occupied during the year as follows :

	ASHINGTON.			HIRST.
1912	...	61	...	133
1911	...	98	...	354

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Town Planning. Interviews have now been obtained with the representatives of the Duke of Portland and Milburn Estates respecting an improved system of laying out certain land available for building sites. I am pleased to report that some concession has been made by the Milburn Estates, in respect to certain land on the north boundary of Hirst Park.

Three rows of houses were originally shown to be erected on this piece of ground. The proposed central row has now been deleted from the block plan and only two rows of houses are to be erected. Each house having a garden in front 75' 0" in length. A block plan has been prepared showing a proposed laying out of a portion of land on the Duke of Portland Estate and situate between Milburn Road and North Seaton Road, and near Garden City. The houses are arranged in short blocks, with gardens. This scheme has not yet been approved by the Council.

It affords me great pleasure to thank the Council in deputing me in company with Councillor E. H. Warne to represent this Council at the National Town Planning Conference, Manchester, in May last. I take this opportunity of stating I heartily corroborate and agree with all Councillor Warne has stated in his excellent paper submitted to the Council in December last, and have no doubt the valuable information gained will result in some practical good to the district.

PLEASURE GROUNDS.

Ashington Park. The band-stand now being fitted with revolving shutters has been used during the Summer Season by five different bands.

The whole of the seats have been repaired or renewed and properly secured to the ground. A wood fence has also been fixed to the North Boundary and the hedges trimmed, while the footpaths have been levelled from time to time with ashes or clinker. The advisability of providing swings for the children in this park, is receiving consideration.

Hirst Park. The provision of a Green House, Forcing House and Heating Chamber has now been completed with necessary drainage and water supply. Three cold frames have been fixed in position.

The whole of the boundary fencing has been strengthened by stays and stout wire.

Some 4,000 trees and shrubs have been planted forming a belt to the west, south and east boundaries, while the whole of this ground has been thoroughly trenched and afterwards dug over.

The trees and shrubs are generally in good condition and making good growth.

The Park-keepers house has been colour washed and venetian blinds fitted to the windows.

The works of drainage, roadway, footpaths, bowling greens etc., is deferred, pending a loan being arranged for the work.

HOSPITALS.

The whole of the building including Caretaker's House, also the iron buildings are in good repair. Walls roofs, etc., have been painted while all external wood and ironwork has been thoroughly painted.

All urgent repairs to windows, baths, heating apparatus etc., have been carried out as circumstances would permit.

The Ambulance Van has been thoroughly overhauled and placed in good repair.

The drains, roadway and footpaths are also being attended to.
Other desirable improvements are deferred pending Dr. Farrar's report.

ALLOTMENTS AND SMALL HOLDINGS.

The Allotment generally have not produced results so satisfactory as last year, due chiefly to the abnormal rainfall and little bright sunshine. Those on the East Side of the N. E. Railway have suffered most from heavy rains, the ground being quite slack in places and in a boggy condition.

The demand for Allotment in other parts of the district is increasing. The Council are endeavouring to acquire suitable terms and additional land for this purpose.

DISINFECTING.

All Ashpits, Ash-bins etc., during the month of May to September inclusive, have been regularly disinfected immediately after emptying with an antiseptic (15 per cent. Carbolic) powder as a deodoriser and afterwards lime sprayed. Special attention has been given to the cleansing and disinfecting of ashpits and drains of all recently infected houses. All rooms which were occupied by infected persons have been thoroughly fumigated with a powerful preparation of Sulphur Di-oxide gas.

In addition to the Disinfecting of Houses, numerous articles of bedding etc., have also been subjected to special treatment.

The Thresh Disinfector is now practically worn out. The provision of a Steam Disinfector of a modern type would be a great acquisition.

A supply of disinfectants has been judiciously distributed to persons occupying infected houses.

The public urinals have been cleaned daily, flushed and disinfected, while those to the various clubs, schools and other public buildings have been kept in a Sanitary Condition.

NUISANCES.

Summary of nuisances for the abatement of which informal notices or letters were served during 1912.

Blocked Drains	...	...	...	15
Deposit of Refuse in Highways and thoroughfares				4
Dilapidated out-offices	...	...	...	3
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	2
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	27
Miscellaneous including overcrowding			...	30

TOTAL—81

In addition to the above tabulated notices a large number of minor nuisances were abated after an interview with the offenders. In no case has the serving of a Statutory notice been necessary. Nuisances arising from the erection of ill-constructed pig-styes, poultry houses etc., referred to in my monthly reports, and the close proximity of such erections to dwelling houses are matters which will require careful yet urgent consideration.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

There are 12 Premises used as Slaughter Houses in the district. The adoption of Model Bye Laws for Slaughter Houses as recommended in my last report is now being considered, also the licensing of such premises from year to year. I have again to repeat that the close proximity of many of the existing slaughter houses to dwelling houses and the many difficulties in securing thorough and efficient inspection of all slaughtering justify the erection of a Public Abattoir.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK-SHOPS.

All Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops have been periodically inspected. In addition these premises were also inspected by Dr. Farrar, from the L. G. B., in company with Dr. Mills and myself.

The Standard of cleanliness in the dairies and milk-shops is satisfactory.

The Milk Supply including that imported from outside the district was found to be very good. There are 90 milch cows in the district.

Dairy Farms	...	8
Milk-shops and Milk Sellers		23
Cowsheds	...	8

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Lighting, Ventilation and Sanitary Arrangements to the various factories and workshops generally, speaking, is fairly satisfactory, in some cases there is room for improvement while the standard of cleanliness might be higher.

There are 32 Workshops and 9 Factories.

There are no underground bakeries.

No complaints have been received from H. M. Factory Inspector this year.

SHOPS ACT.

A register of all shop-keepers in the district has been compiled. A circular letter has also been issued to each shop-keeper, drawing attention to the chief requirements of the Act.

A complete card filing index system of all shop-keepers in the district including the number and sex of employees together with the nature of their respective trade or business has now been established.

The provisions of the Act are being generally adhered to. A few contraventions have occurred but chiefly of a trivial nature.

GENERAL.

Speaking of the District generally, there yet remains a good deal to be done. Several large urgent works will be carried out during the present year. The preparatory work being well in hand. Referring to Dr. Farrar's visit and his inspection of the district I may say every assistance was given him by your officials in the prosecution of his enquiry extending over seven days. His report may be expected shortly.

In conclusion let me thank you for the confidence you have placed in me, also for your kind expression of sympathy with one during my recent illness, trusting your appreciation of my services may be justified in a constant and faithful discharge of my duty.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BEATY.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1st NOVEMBER, 1912,
TO 31st DECEMBER, 1912 INCLUSIVE

Nuisances and Notices.

- 38 complaints have been received and investigated.
 49 informal notices have been given and 22 statutory notices served dealing with the following matters .—
 5 Blocked Drains.
 6 Ashpits improperly used.
 3 Ashpits without proper doors, covers or fastenings.
 2 Dwellings without accommodation for ashes.
 1 Dwelling with damp house walls.
 1 Defective house floor.
 2 Insanitary premises.
 24 Insanitary premises due to improper keeping of animals.
 8 Accumulations of filth.
 44 Informal notices and 19 statutory notices have been complied with leaving
 5 informal notices and 3 statutory notices not complied with at the year end

Inspections.

Class of Premises.			Number of Visit.
Premises general	...	...	181
Slaughterhouses	...	...	30
Bakehouses	...	...	7

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, ETC.

Bakehouses.

Defect			Number Found.			Number Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	...	...	1	...	...	0
Defective Floor	...	...	1	...	...	1
No separate sanitary accommodation for each sex. }	...	...	1	...	...	0
Neglect to renew } painted surfaces. }	...	...	2	...	...	2
			Total - 5			3

Bakehouses on register.	Visits.	Written notices sent.
5	7	3

R. BROWN.

DR. MILLS,
 Medical Officer of Health,
 Glebe Cottage,
 Ashington.

MEDICAL REPORT FOR 1912.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to submit my Report for 1912.

The population of our district last year was taken from Census Returns which you remember were equivalent to my estimate.

I give figures as follows, of my new estimate based on the Census with the numbers accruing from the new factors namely, increase of Births over Deaths and number of new houses built and occupied during that period, viz. June 1911 to June 1912.

Last Census ASHINGTON	8,155	HIRST	16,428
Increase of New Houses		Increase of New Houses	
June, 1911—12.	400	June, 1911—12.	890
Increase of Births over Deaths	123	Increase of Births over Deaths	518
	<u>8678</u>		<u>17,836</u>

Checking this by the number of occupied houses up to the end of year, I find the figures practically 27,000 and for Statistical purposes I allocate as follows:—

Ashington 9,000, Hirst 18,000 and on such I base my returns for the year.

DISTRICT.

Our Urban District at the institution of the present Council covered an administrative area of 2,786·280 acres. By increments of extension, firstly, of 97·424 acres and, secondly, of 165·000 acres the total area is now 3,048·704 acres:—Ashington Ward containing 2,384·771 acres and Hirst Ward 663·933 acres.

The district is bounded on the north, east and west by agricultural land in the Morpeth Rural District and on the south by the river Wansbeck.

There is but one staple industry in the district, namely, coal mining at which the bulk of the population find employment. There is, however, a great and increasing number of persons employed in a growing population such as this, by private traders, by stores, and especially by the builders, to whose energy and enterprise a large amount of employment has been found necessary for the increasing demands of the district.

BIRTH RATE.

The total number of births registered during the year in our district is 958, as against 926 for last year, an increase by 32. There were 499 males and 459 females.

The distribution of the two wards is:—Ashington 226, Hirst 732, an increase of 16 in each ward.

The rate per thousand population is 35·5 a decrease of 2·24, that of last year being 37·74. In the wards the rates are 25·1 and 40·6 respectively, the rate in Hirst being considerably above the national average.

Average County Rate is	...	29·52
„ Urban (Northumberland)	...	31·77
„ Rural	...	25·44
„ England and Wales	...	26·7
„ Ashington U.D.C. (for 5 years)	...	36·74
„ „ „ 1912	...	35·5

The following tables show the respective distribution of births in each ward, in which is included the illegitimate births for the year, 28 in all, an increase of five on that of the preceding year, 12 being in Ashington and 16 in Hirst giving a rate of 29.2 per thousand population.

There were no transferred births during the year.

ASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. BIRTHS 1912.

Months.	Males.	Females.	Total.
January ...	45	28	73
February ...	37	43	80
March ...	32	44	76
April ...	37	30	67
May ...	34	33	67
June ...	35	30	65
July ...	28	41	69
August ...	54	49	103
September ...	51	31	82
October ...	56	55	111
November ...	44	40	84
December ...	46	35	81
Total ...	499	459	958

Transferred None.

ASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS, 1912.

Months.	Ashington.	Hirst.	Total	ILLEGITIMATES.				Total
				Ashington.		Hirst.		
				Male.	Fem.	Male.	Fem.	
January ...	10	63	73	0	0	0	0	0
February ...	15	65	80	0	1	1	1	3
March ...	23	53	76	0	0	2	0	2
April ...	15	52	67	0	0	1	1	2
May ...	15	52	67	0	0	0	2	2
June ...	20	45	65	1	2	2	0	5
July ..	20	49	69	0	0	0	1	1
August ..	31	72	103	2	1	0	1	4
September ...	19	63	82	2	0	0	0	2
October ...	18	93	111	0	0	0	1	1
November ..	21	63	84	1	1	0	1	3
December ...	19	62	81	1	0	2	0	3
Total ...	226	732	958	7	5	8	8	28

DEATH RATE.

The Mortality for the year from all causes is 323—166 males and 157 females a decrease of 118 on that of last year.

The gross rate per thousand population is 12·0 as against 18·0 for last year, but which must be corrected by 49 Premature births, etc., 19 fatal accidents, 2 suicides and 7 cases of accidents of parturition, so that the new death rate in our district is reduced to 9·1.

The distribution of Age Mortality is :—

Under 1 year.	97 deaths
From 1-2 "	30 "
" 2-5 "	16 "
" 5-15 "	15 "
" 15-25 "	24 "
" 25-45 "	45 "
" 45-65 "	48 "
" 65 & upwards	48 "

The following tables show the distribution each month.

ASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. AGE MORTALITY 1912.

Months.	Males	Fem'ls	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years.	2 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years.	65 yrs. Upwds
January ...	17	16	33	8	2	3	1	2	5	8	4
February .	16	11	27	9	2	2	0	2	5	3	4
March ...	10	14	24	8	1	0	1	3	3	5	3
April ...	15	9	24	6	2	1	3	0	5	3	4
May ...	12	6	18	3	0	1	3	2	3	3	3
June ...	16	8	24	4	1	0	0	5	4	3	7
July ...	14	8	22	6	2	0	1	4	3	4	2
August ...	10	13	23	8	2	1	0	1	3	4	4
September	6	11	17	5	3	0	1	2	2	2	2
October ...	12	21	33	12	2	0	3	2	4	3	7
November.	21	17	38	13	9	5	2	0	3	3	3
December.	17	23	40	15	4	3	0	1	5	7	5
Total ...	166	157	323	97	30	16	15	24	45	48	48

DISTRIBUTION OF AGE MORTALITY. ASHINGTON, 1912.

Months.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years.	2 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 yrs. and Upds.
January	11	2	0	1	0	1	0	5	2
February	5	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
March	10	3	0	0	0	2	2	2	1
April	11	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	3
May	9	1	0	0	1	2	1	2	2
June	9	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	3
July	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
August	7	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
September	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
October	13	7	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
November	14	3	2	3	1	0	1	3	1
December	13	6	0	0	0	1	1	3	2
Total	107	27	3	6	4	10	13	22	22

DISTRIBUTION OF AGE MORTALITY. HIRST, 1912.

Months.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	65 yrs. and Upds.
January	22	6	2	2	1	1	5	3	2
February	22	7	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
March	14	5	1	0	1	1	1	3	2
April	13	6	2	0	2	0	1	1	1
May	9	2	0	1	2	0	2	1	1
June	15	2	1	0	0	3	3	2	4
July	20	6	2	0	1	3	3	3	2
August	16	7	1	1	0	1	2	3	1
September	14	5	3	0	0	2	2	1	1
October	20	5	2	0	3	2	2	2	4
November	24	10	7	2	1	0	2	0	2
December	27	9	4	3	0	0	4	4	3
Total	216	70	27	10	11	14	32	26	26

The rate of Infantile Mortality over the district per thousand population is 3.6 nearly as against 8.0 last year, and as against 5.4 in 1910.

In the Wards the rates are 3 and 3.6 respectively.

Basing the Infantile Mortality not on the population, but per thousand children born, the rate over the district is considerably low namely, 101.2 as against 212.7 for last year and as against 163.7 in 1910.

In Ashington the rate is 119.4, and in Hirst 95.6, these rates last year being 190.5 and 219.2 respectively.

I have already mentioned the number of non-viable children as represented in Infant Mortality table, and excluding these to the number of 50, the nett death rate in promising lives is only 49.

ASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1912.

Causes of Death. 1	Deaths in or belonging Whole District at Subjoined Ages.									Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District. 11
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 yr. 3	1 and und 2 4	2 and und 5 5	5 and und 15 6	15 and und 25 7	25 and und 45 8	45 and und 65 9	65 and upds 10	
Enteric Fever	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Measles	14	3	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Diphtheria and Croup	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	
Influenza	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Erysipelas	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Septic Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Convulsions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Heart Disease	31	0	0	0	1	1	8	15	6	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	22	0	0	1	2	3	13	2	1	
Tuberculous Meningitis	4	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	
Other Tuber Diseases	5	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	
Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cancer, malignant diseases	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	7	
Bronchitis	15	5	3	0	0	0	0	5	2	
Broncho-Pneumonia Pneumonia (all other forms) }	38	12	9	7	1	2	3	2	2	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	9	5	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Alcoholism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	9	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	2	
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other accidents and Di- seases of Pregnancy and Parturition	7	3	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	49	47	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	19	0	1	0	4	9	4	0	1	
Suicides	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
Senility	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Apoplexy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Defined Diseases Meningitis, etc	40	19	0	3	0	2	4	6	6	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	28	0	1	0	1	2	0	5	19	
Total	323	97	30	16	15	24	45	48	48	1

An analysis of the foregoing causes of death shows the following from Infectious diseases excluding Tuberculous diseases :—

Enteric Fever	...	2	Rate 0.07
Scarlet "	...	2	
Diphtheria	...	3	
Erysipelas	...	2	

9, giving a rate of 0.3 per thousand population.

Infectious diseases not notifiable show :—

Whooping Cough	...	2	Rate 0.07
Measles	...	14	" 0.51
Influenza	...	1	" 0.03
Diarrhoea	...	9	" 0.3

26

Tubercular diseases :—

Phthisis	...	22	Rate 0.8
Others	...	9	" 0.3

31

Respiratory diseases :—

Bronchitis	...	15	Rate 0.5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	38	" 1.4
Other Respiratory	...	3	" 0.1

56

The total number of deaths from Respiratory diseases (excluding Phthisis) is 56 as against 69 last year. The deaths from Whooping Cough are only 2 as against 13 last year, but the disease is prevalent, however, in both Wards. The deaths from Measles are higher than last year, namely 14 as against 5, a great number of these deaths taking place in the early months of the year.

There are 3 deaths from Diphtheria out of 19 cases notified. Out of 20 cases of Enteric Fever notified as against 78 cases last year we had 2 deaths, the rate per thousand population being 0.07 or 10 per cent. attacked as against last year's rate of 0.48 or 15 per cent. of cases attacked.

Phthisis is responsible for 22 as against 19 last year and 21 in 1910, other forms of Tubercular disease being 9.

In the Infantile Mortality tables you will notice as compared with last year that even in proportion with the decrease in death rate, there is a marked decrease in deaths under 1 week, namely 26 as against 38 last year, and under 1 month 41 as against 51 last year.

To understand this improvement you must consider that such conditions of decrease do not depend on the general causes of Infant death, but are to a large extent controlled by the health of the parents, excepting accidents at birth.

The deaths from debility at birth show this in the first month, as only 11 are recorded as against 22 last year ; with 17 premature births in the same period as against 20 last year.

It must also be borne in mind that even with a lower birth rate over the County which we so far cannot complain of, the remarkable decrease of the death rate compensates, and in proportion to the future estimates will tend to increase the actual birth rate in comparison.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1912.

Causes of Death	Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total und. 1 month	4 weeks & und. 3 mths.	3 mths. & und. 6 mths.	6 mths. & und. 9 mths.	9 mths. & und. 12 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
{ Small-Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Chicken-Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
{ Scarlet fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Whooping-Cough ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Diphtheria and Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
{ Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Convulsions	3	0	1	2	6	5	2	0	1	14
Laryngitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	6	12
{ Diarrhoea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
{ Enteritis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	4
Gastritis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rickets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffocation, overlying	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury at birth	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
Atelectasis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Congenital Malformations (c)										
{ Premature birth	14	3	0	0	17	3	0	0	0	20
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	6	2	0	3	11	10	2	1	1	25
{ Other Causes	0	1	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	4
{ Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	26	7	2	6	41	22	10	7	16	96

1 Transferable—Total—97

You will also notice that the Infantile Mortality from Diarrhoeal diseases this year is only 5, as against 64 last year. It must be borne in mind that the climatic conditions have been different, that much cooler weather prevailed, but the lesson from which should be emphasised that in the hot weather, especially in the third quarter of the year, greater precautions should be exercised in preventing contamination from dust and especially from flies, the danger of the latter being impossible to be minimised while the open ashpits and privy system prevails.

I was not depressed last year by the check put on my favourable returns for some years past, and I am **justified** in giving you one of the lowest rates on record in our Council.

Comparing this last year with that of the County, etc., we find for a mean of 10 years per thousand Births :—

County	...	...	...	133.73
Urban	...	...	...	143.40
Rural	...	...	...	111.77
England and Wales	...	...	...	125.5
Ashington last Year	...	...	...	212.7
" 1912	...	...	...	101.2

But although we have such a good record this year we should be all the more careful not to relax our vigilance in general sanitation, free ventilation and housing in order to maintain this record.

I append a table showing the proportion of births and deaths in each Ward explaining their ratio, from the relative population of each of that of the Combined population, which explains the difference in ratio in the Birth Rate of Hirst, which is inhabited by the younger portion of the community to that of Ashington inhabited by the older.

Births in Ashington should be	...	319	Births in Hirst should be	...	638
" " are	...	226	" " are	...	732
		93 less			94 more
Deaths in Ashington should be	...	108	Deaths in Hirst should be	...	215
" " are	...	107	" " are	...	216
		1 less			1 more
Infantile Mortality in Ashington			Infant Mortality in Hirst		
per 1,000 children born should be	23		per 1,000 children born should be	75	
" " " are	27		" " " are	70	
		4 more			5 less

The Health Visitor has paid first visits to 977 houses during the year, the total number of visits being over 4,000. From her visiting book I append the following as indicative of the healthy condition of mothers in our district as being able to rear their children in a normal and natural way.

Breast Fed Children	...	94%
Hand Fed " "	...	4%
Part Breast and part Hand fed	...	2%

The figures are practically the same as last year, a slight increase only being 4% in Hand-fed children as against 2% last year.

The duties of the Health Visitor have been transferred to the Local Nursing Association, who have not had an opportunity so far as reporting on their work, but from the monthly summary I find it is satisfactorily carried out.

I have to thank the retiring Health Visitor for the amount of work done in carrying out the Act, and in her observations of minor Sanitary defects which came under her notice in her official work.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious diseases notified during the year is very greatly in excess of that for many years, viz. 317 as against 144 last year giving a rate per thousand population of 11.7 as against 5.8 for last year for the district and the rate in the Wards is 18.5 and 8.3 respectively as against 7.5 and 5.0 for last year.

As I mentioned for several years the infectious diseases rate is again greater in Ashington than in Hirst; but this year the proportional difference is very much increased owing to an epidemic of Scarlet fever in Ashington.

The number of Diphtheria cases is practically the same as for last year.

Scarlet fever is over 7 times that of last year the figures being 232 as against 32 in 1911.

Confirmation of diagnosis of Bacteriological Examination is practised throughout and in case of Diphtheria, Antitoxic Serum is supplied by the Council

The following tables show the areas of Distribution in the different months and the ages of those attacked.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 12 MONTHS ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1912. ASHINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases Notifiable in Whole District.								Total Cases in each Locality.	
	At Ages—Years.									
	At all Ages	Und. 1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upds.	Ash- ington	Hirst
Diphtheria	19	0	6	9	2	2	0	0	11	8
Erysipelas	18	1	1	0	0	6	8	2	15	3
Scarlet fever	232	1	48	156	20	7	0	0	119	113
Typhus fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric fever	20	0	1	8	3	8	0	0	12	8
Continued fever ...	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	2	1
Puerperal fever .. .	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Poliomyelitis	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pulmonary Tubercul's	23	0	0	4	6	12	1	0	6	17
Totals	317	3	56	179	32	36	9	2	167	150

DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES. 1912.

Months.	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas		Enteric.		Cont. Fever		Puer. Fever.		Phthisis		Total.		
	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash-ington	Hirst.	Ash.	H'st	both
Jan.	2	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	5	9	8	17
Feb.	0	1	3	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	6	12
Mar.	1	1	1	7	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	10	16
Apr.	0	2	6	9	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	15	21
May	1	0	13	36	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17	36	53
June	0	0	11	15	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	16	30
July	0	0	15	22	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	18	26	44
Aug.	3	1	20	7	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	28	10	38
Sept.	3	0	11	10	3	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	23	14	37
Oct.	0	1	17	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	18	4	22
Nov.	0	1	18	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	19	3	22
Dec.	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1*	0	0	0	3	2	5
Total	11	8	119	113	15	3	12	8	2	1	2	0	6	17	167	150	317

* Case of Poliomyelitis.

HOUSING INSPECTION.

A systematic though not a formal inspection has been carried out during the year. The result has been for good though more in a moral and educative than a statutory sense.

Though handicapped at the beginning of the year, a considerable amount of work has been done both through your Health Visitor and the energetic labours of your new Sanitary Inspector Mr. Brown, to whose services both the Council and myself are indebted for taking up and classifying the work in a systematic form.

In this department of Public Health, there remains a great deal to be yet achieved, the progress of which in our district has to be very liberal where new houses are erected, and new areas developed to meet the needs of the immigration to our community, and more so the conversion of existing conditions, even in a semi-conservative manner to suit the needs of the elder population.

Provided a more ample Water Supply, not for want of water, but better distribution a great blessing would be conferred, in so much as wash-houses could be established, or converted on a more extensive scale.

The numbers of such are given in the Surveyor's Reports.

The lack of open spaces has been often commented on, and so far we have been innocent of actual overcrowding per acre the redeeming feature being that there were many open spaces or quadrangles among the areas.

Unfortunately for the air space available, though technically without overcrowding, the number of new buildings erected on these spaces has conduced to a restriction of the available air spaces per street.

We have available parks, but they do not compensate for the loss of these spaces referred to as they do not effect the living and working air space as a whole. The result of thus congesting the housing accomodation per area naturally deprives children of playgrounds which the Parks do not compensate for except in adjoining localities.

HEALTH OF DISTRICT.

The Health of the District has been good throughout the year as judged by Mortality returns.

Unfortunately we had rather an extensive epidemic of Scarlet Fever in the Ashington Ward, which, however did not materially increase the Mortality.

The relation between the amount of Sickness and Mortality which I commented on some years ago, will, I expect be based on a more accurate standard when we have the Insurance Act in full working order, and only then shall we be able to estimate the Mortality proportion to that of actual sickness in our community.

I have to thank you, Gentlemen for the facility placed at my disposal for my work during the year, and also to thank Mr. Beattie, Mr. Marshall and Mr. Brown, for the help in association with my work.

Sincerely Yours,

R. J. MILLS.

APPENDIX.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories	36	0	
Workshops	128	3	
Total	154	3	

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Rem- edied.	Referred to H.M. Inspect- or.	
Want of cleanliness	1	0	0	0
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	0	0
Sanitary accommodation	1	0	0	0
Total	3	1	0	0