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1914.

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# Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF AYLESBURY,

For the Year 1913.

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AYLESBURY:

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# Aylesbury Rural District Council.

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WADDESDON,

*February, 1913.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit my Eighteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Aylesbury Rural District.

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Population, Census 1891 ..... | 16,664 |
| „ „ 1901 .....                | 15,619 |
| „ „ 1911 .....                | 16,025 |

It will be noticed that there has been an increase in population of 406 during the last 10 years.

It is very difficult to give an approximate estimate of the population of a Rural District owing to emigration to the large towns and the Colonies.

The gross mortality from all causes for the year was 239; this includes deaths at Bucks Hospital and Workhouse, which, after deducting the deaths of non-natives at Asylum 56, and adding three inward transferable deaths, is reduced to 186, the net mortality for the district, or at the rate of 11.4 per 1,000 population.

The Births and Deaths registered in the district during the year:—

|              | Males. |     | Females. |     | Total. |
|--------------|--------|-----|----------|-----|--------|
| Births ..... | 137    | ... | 142      | ... | 279    |
| Deaths ..... | 117    | ... | 121*     | ... | 239    |

\* And one unknown.

The Births represent a ratio of 17.3 per 1,000 population.

„ Deaths „ „ 14.8 „ „

The above death-rate is calculated for the whole district, and includes deaths at the Asylum.

The total number of inmates at the Asylum on January 1st was 682, and the number of deaths for the year was 66, which represents a death-rate of 98.2 per 1,000 population, and this high mortality accounts for the difference between 14.8 and 11.4 per 1,000 population, the net mortality proper to the district.

Area of the district, 72,123 acres.

Birth and Death-rate, England and Wales, 1913:—

|                         |      |                       |
|-------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| Birth-rate (Rural) ...  | 22.2 | per 1,000 population. |
| Death-rate           ,, | 12.1 | ,,       ,,           |
| Infantile Mortality     |      |                       |
| (Rural) .....           | 96   | ,,       ,,           |

Infantile Mortality, that is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births registered, was 64.5, and that for rural England and Wales was 96 per 1,000 births registered.

It will be noticed that the birth, death, and infantile mortality for your district is below that for Rural England and Wales.

Table showing *Mortality from Zymotic Diseases*:—

Deaths in 1913 and five preceding years.

|                     | 1913.     | 1912.    | 1911.     | 1910.   | 1909.   | 1908.   |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| Small Pox .....     | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Measles .....       | 0 ... 2   | 5 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 1 | 1 ... 1 |
| Scarlet Fever ..... | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 1 | 1 ... 1 |
| Whooping Cough...   | 0 ... 4   | 3 ... 3  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 1 | 0 ... 7 | 7 ... 7 |
| Diphtheria .....    | 0 ... 2   | 4 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Croup .....         | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Typhoid .....       | 1 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Continued Fever ... | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 1 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Influenza .....     | 6 ... 4   | 1 ... 4  | 4 ... 13  | 8 ... 8 | 8 ... 8 | 8 ... 8 |
| Cholera .....       | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Diarrhoea .....     | 2 ... 5   | 6 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Puerperal Fever ... | 2 ... 0   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
| Erysipelas .....    | 0 ... 1   | 0 ... 0  | 0 ... 0   | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 | 0 ... 0 |
|                     | 11 ... 18 | 19 ... 7 | 14 ... 18 |         |         |         |

The Zymotic death-rate for the whole district for this and previous five years:—

|            |      |
|------------|------|
| 1908 ..... | 1.27 |
| 1909 ..... | 0.94 |
| 1910 ..... | 0.48 |
| 1911 ..... | 1.17 |
| 1912 ..... | 0.87 |
| 1913 ..... | 0.68 |

Table showing Localities, with the number and nature of Infectious Cases from each:—

|                     | Infectious Cases from each. |     |    |                |   |     |            |     |             |             |                                |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----|----|----------------|---|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|
|                     | Typhoid.                    |     |    | Scarlet Fever. |   |     | Puerperal. |     | Diphtheria. | Erysipelas. | Acute Anterior Polio-Myelitis. |
| Aston Clinton ..... | 1                           | ... | 7  | ...            | 1 | ... | 0          | ... | 1           | ...         | 0                              |
| Buckland .....      | 0                           | ... | 3  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 1           | ...         | 0                              |
| Stone .....         | 0                           | ... | 2  | ...            | 0 | ... | 2          | ... | 1           | ...         | 0                              |
| Haddenham .....     | 0                           | ... | 10 | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 1           | ...         | 0                              |
| Rowsham .....       | 0                           | ... | 1  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
| Aston Sandford .... | 0                           | ... | 2  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
| Upton .....         | 0                           | ... | 1  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
| Chearsley .....     | 0                           | ... | 0  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 2           | ...         | 0                              |
| Waddesdon .....     | 1                           | ... | 0  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
| Whitchurch .....    | 0                           | ... | 1  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
| Quainton .....      | 0                           | ... | 0  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 1                              |
| Upper Winchendon    | 0                           | ... | 1  | ...            | 0 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
| Bierton .....       | 0                           | ... | 0  | ...            | 1 | ... | 0          | ... | 0           | ...         | 0                              |
|                     | 2                           | ... | 28 | ...            | 2 | ... | 2          | ..  | 6           | ...         | 1                              |

*Notifications* (Infectious Diseases Act) of this and previous five years:—

|                                   | 1913. | 1912.  | 1911.  | 1910.  | 1909.  | 1908.  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Scarlet Fever .....               | 28    | ... 34 | ... 24 | ... 6  | ... 19 | ... 38 |
| Diphtheria .....                  | 2     | ... 16 | ... 8  | ... 3  | ... 4  | ... 23 |
| Typhoid .....                     | 2     | ... 4  | ... 8  | ... 6  | ... 2  | ... 2  |
| Erysipelas .....                  | 6     | ... 3  | ... 0  | ... 3  | ... 5  | ... 5  |
| Small Pox .....                   | 0     | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  |
| Puerperal Fever ...               | 2     | ... 0  | ... 1  | ... 1  | ... 0  | ... 2  |
| Croup .....                       | 0     | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  |
| Continued Fever ..                | 0     | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 1  | ... 0  |
| Acute Ant-Polio<br>Myelitis ..... | 1     | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  | ... 0  |
|                                   | 41    | ... 57 | ... 41 | ... 19 | ... 31 | ... 70 |

Mortality from all causes for this and previous five years (gross):—

|                                   | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. | 1908. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Under 1 year .....                | 19    | 25    | 24    | 23    | 31    | 24    |
| 1 and under 5 years .....         | 3     | 9     | 8     | 8     | 5     | 9     |
| 5     ,,     15     ,,     .....  | 4     | 10    | 12    | 3     | 7     | 13    |
| 15     ,,     25     ,,     ..... | 6     | 10    | 11    | 5     | 7     | 9     |
| 25     ,,     65     ,,     ..... | 78    | 88    | 92    | 80    | 105   | 94    |
| 65 and upwards .....              | 129   | 128   | 120   | 104   | 155   | 130   |
|                                   | 239   | 270   | 267   | 223   | 305   | 279   |

The above mortality—239 for the year 1913—includes all deaths registered in the district, at Asylum, and cases from the district that died in the Bucks Hospital and Union Workhouse.

Mortality classified according to diseases for this and previous five years:—

|                            | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. | 1908. |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Phthisis .....             | 18    | 16    | 23    | 2     | 14    | 10    |
| Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c. | 26    | 26    | 17    | 12    | 38    | 27    |
| Zymotic .....              | 11    | 16    | 13    | 7     | 14    | 18    |
| Injuries .....             | 4     | 9     | 1     | 6     | 6     | 3     |
| Rheumatic Fever .....      | 0     | 1     | 0     | 0     | 2     | 0     |
| All other Diseases .....   | 180   | 202   | 213   | 221   | 221   | 221   |
|                            | 239   | 270   | 267   | 223   | 305   | 279   |

Table showing Births and Deaths classified according to Districts for this and previous five years:—

#### BIRTHS.

|                         | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. | 1908. |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| No. I. District .....   | 68    | 77    | 81    | 91    | 79    | 118   |
| No. II. District .....  | 94    | 98    | 114   | 102   | 130   | 115   |
| No. III. District ..... | 117   | 108   | 105   | 140   | 103   | 136   |
|                         | 279   | 295   | 300   | 333   | 312   | 269   |

#### DEATHS.

|                            | 1913. | 1912. | 1911. | 1910. | 1909. | 1908. |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| No. I. Aston Clinton ..... | 70    | 73    | 62    | 42    | 66    | 59    |
| No. II. Haddenham .....    | 44    | 65    | 65    | 50    | 94    | 62    |
| No. III. Waddesdon .....   | 59    | 71    | 64    | 71    | 67    | 78    |
| Asylum .....               | 66    | 61    | 76    | 60    | 78    | 80    |
|                            | 239   | 270   | 267   | 223   | 305   | 279   |

The above deaths are for the whole District, and include non-natives at Asylum.

*Scarlet Fever.*—Twenty-eight cases were notified during the year, viz.: 10 from No. I. District; 15 from No. II.; and 3 from No. III. Not a single death occurred from this complaint during the year.

The decline in the death-rate from Scarlet Fever, which has been almost continuous since 1880, and which has been particularly marked in the last ten years, has continued since 1913.

*Typhoid Fever.*—Two cases were reported during the year, as against four last year. One case proved fatal. Probably no better test exists of the efficiency of the sanitary administration of a given district, and of the districts from which it receives its food supplies, than the degree of prevalence of typhoid fever. This is a matter for congratulation on the part of your Council, and the above remarks prove that when money has been spent on drainage, water supply, and general improvements, it had not been spent in vain.

*Erysipelas.*—Six cases were notified during the year. All were mild cases, and no deaths occurred from this complaint.

*Acute Polio Myelitis.* — Only one case was notified (from Quainton) during the year. This case was of an acute type; the patient died within three days. I was unable to trace the cause of above isolated case.

*Influenza.*—This complaint caused six deaths during the year, as against four last year.

\* *Whooping Cough.*—No deaths occurred from this disease during the year. There were four deaths from this during 1912 and 1911 respectively.

*Membranous Croup.* — No cases were reported during the year.

*Diphtheria.*—Two cases were reported during the year, as against sixteen last year. No deaths.

*Puerperal Fever.*—Two cases were notified, and both proved fatal.

*Continued Fever.*—No cases notified.

*Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis.*—Fifteen cases of the former and eight cases of the latter were notified during the year. Nine deaths occurred through Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one from other forms. The houses were inspected, and directions given to prevent spread. Disinfection after death has been carried out in all cases.

*Cholera and Typhus.* — Are unknown throughout the district.

*Dairies and Cowsheds.* — Provision has been made for inspection. I should say that probably more than half the milk produced in the district is supplied to the Anglo-Swiss Milk Factory at Aylesbury, who take all precautions for insuring its purity through their own inspector.

The supply sent to London is also inspected by the various firms' own veterinary or other inspector.

I am pleased to state that we have never had occasion to deal with an epidemic due to infected milk.

All directions given to prevent pollution or infection of milk where infectious disease occurs in a household, are systematically carried out throughout the whole district. Your Sanitary Inspector keeps a register of all dairies and cowsheds. I find from his report that there are 14 dairymen, and 240 cow-keepers on the register.

A Veterinary Inspector has not been appointed by your Council.

*Housing and Town Planning Act.* — One hundred and twenty-three houses have been inspected. (This does not include repeat visits).

Sixty-eight houses were found unfit for habitation; sixty-two houses were remedied and put into habitable repair, without orders, upon receipt of notice; two houses were demolished voluntarily.

Taking the district as a whole, I may say it is well supplied with cottages, and quite a number of the older ones with a little expense can be put into habitable repair. A number of cottages which from external appearances look as probable cases to come under the above Act, are found on further examination to be quite clean and comfortable.

New houses are being built all over the district.

There are many excellent landlords who own cottages throughout the district, and who always keep them in good repair.

*Food.*—Inspections have been made of slaughter-houses. Only one seizure was made during the year, viz.: a bullock's liver which looked suspicious, and on which veterinary advice was taken.

*Bakehouses.* — There are two underground bakehouses in your district. These are inspected systematically, and directions given as to lime-washing and other necessary details.

*Elementary Schools.*—With regard to your district I may say that practically all the schools are up to a good standard and satisfactory in every way.

*Isolation Hospital.*—I am again pleased to state that it has not been necessary to use the Hospital Tents for any outbreak during the year.

*Systematic Inspection* of your district has been carried out.

*The Infectious Diseases Notification Act* has been in force in your district since June, 1901.

Your Council has now for several years sanctioned a supply of Anti-Toxin and Bacteriological Examination of suspected diphtheria cases when necessary and as required.

*Water Supply.*—The district is well supplied with water, partly from the Chiltern Hills Water Company and partly from spring wells from surrounding hills.

The water supplies have been well maintained during the year.

I have made an analysis of 27 samples from wells sent me by the Sanitary Inspector.

Eight wells have been cleansed and repaired.

*Quainton Water Supply.* — The filter and spring in connection with these works have been properly cleansed.

Three cisterns in connection with water supply have been cleansed.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

*Waddesdon Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.*—The precipitation tanks in connection with above, and the trenches at the works, have been regularly cleansed. The sewers have been systematically flushed with disinfectant.

The same remarks as above apply to the regular work in connection with the tanks and sewers at Quainton, Aston Abbots, Dinton, Cuddington, Bishopstone, and Wingrave respectively.

*Scavenging.*—The scavenging of closets, cesspools, etc., is carried out weekly by the Council in the following parishes:—Aston Clinton and Buckland, Quainton and Westcott, Bierton with Broughton, Weston Turville, Haddenham, Dinton with Ford and Upton, and Cuddington.

*Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.*—The district being an agricultural one the work in connection with above is necessarily small. There are no large factories in the district. There are 18 on the register. These have been inspected, and notices served for lime-washing and any other matters requiring attention.

The following is a brief summary of the work done in the district by your Inspector: — 123 inspections under Housing

Act (this does not include repeat visits); 334 inspections under Public Health Act Nuisances (not including repeat visits); 36 dirty houses have been cleansed; 13 new drains laid; 31 earth closets, pail closets, or privies constructed; 27 samples of water taken for analysis; 35 visits paid under Infectious Diseases Act; 28 houses disinfected.

I append report for your inspection.

I have again to thank your Council and Inspector for their cordial co-operation and assistance rendered to me during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. T. MORRISON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*