

[Report 1914] / Medical Officer of Health, Aylesbury R.D.C.

Contributors

Aylesbury (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1914

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1915.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE


RURAL DISTRICT OF AYLESBURY,

For the Year 1914.

AYLESBURY:

PRINTED BY "THE BUCKS ADVERTISER" Co., LTD., BOURBON STREET.

1915.



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Aylesbury Rural District Council.

WADDESDON,

February, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,—

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

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

It is noticeable that there has been an increase in population of 406 during the last 10 years.

It is rather a difficult matter 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 268, this includes deaths at Bucks Hospital and Workhouse, which, after deducting the deaths of non-natives at Asylum 65, is reduced to 203, the net mortality, or at the rate of 12.5 per 1,000 population.

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

	Males.		Females.		TOTAL.
Births	129	...	127	...	256
Deaths	140	...	128	...	268

The Births represent a ratio of 15.2 per 1,000 population.

„ Deaths „ „ 16.8 „ „

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

The total number of inmates at the Asylum on January 1st was 701, and the number of deaths for the year was 67, which represents a death-rate of 97.0 per 1,000 population, and this high mortality accounts for the difference between 16.8 and 12.5 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, 1914:—

Birth-rate (Rural) ... 21.9 per 1,000 population.

Death-rate ,, 12.2 ,, ,,

Infantile Mortality

(Rural) 93 ,, Births

Infantile Mortality, that is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births registered, was 77.6, and that for Rural England and Wales 93.

Table showing *Mortality from Zymotic Diseases*:—

Deaths in 1914 and five preceding years.

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Small Pox	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Measles	1 ... 0	0 ... 2	5 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Whooping Cough	0 ... 0	0 ... 4	3 ... 3	3 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Diphtheria	0 ... 0	0 ... 2	4 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Croup	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Typhoid	1 ... 1	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Continued Fever	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 1	1
Influenza	5 ... 6	4 ... 1	4 ... 4	13 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Cholera	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Diarrhoea	2 ... 2	5 ... 6	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Puerperal Fever	0 ... 2	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
Erysipelas	0 ... 0	1 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0 ... 0	0
	9 ... 11	18 ... 19	7 ... 14			

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

1909	0.94
1910	0.48
1911	1.17
1912	0.87
1913	0.68
1914	0.55

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

	Typhoid.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Ery- sipelas.	Peurperal.
Haddenham	1	19	0	2	0
Oving	0	11	0	1	0
Quainton	0	7	0	1	0
Hardwick	0	2	0	1	0
Weedon	0	6	0	0	0
Cuddington	0	0	1	0	0
Aston Clinton	1	1	1	3	0
Halton	0	1	0	0	0
Waddesdon	0	0	1	0	0
Grendon	0	0	0	1	0
	2	47	3	9	0

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

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Scarlet Fever ...	47	28	34	24	6	19
Diphtheria	3	2	16	8	3	4
Typhoid	2	2	4	8	6	2
Erysipelas	9	6	3	0	3	5
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	2	0	1	1	0
Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acute Ant-Polio Myelitis	0	1	0	0	0	0
	61	41	57	41	19	31

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

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Under 1 year.....	21	19	25	24	23	31
1 and under 5 years	7	3	9	8	8	5
5 ,, 15 ,, 	4	4	10	12	3	7
15 ,, 25 ,, 	8	6	10	11	5	7
25 ,, 65 ,, 	87	78	88	92	80	105
65 and upwards	141	129	128	120	104	155
	268	239	270	267	223	310

The above mortality—268 for the year—includes all deaths registered in the district at Asylum, and cases from the district that died in the Bucks Hospital and Union Work-house.

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

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Phthisis	7	18	16	23	2	14
Bronchitis, Pneumonia ...	25	26	26	17	12	38
Zymotic	7	11	16	13	7	14
Injuries	4	4	9	1	6	6
Rheumatic Fever	0	0	1	0	0	2
All other Diseases	225	180	202	213	221	221
	268	239	270	267	248	295

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

BIRTHS.

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
No. I. District	85	68	77	81	91	79
No. II. District	93	94	98	114	102	130
No. III. District	78	117	108	105	140	103
	256	279	283	300	333	312

From above it is noticeable the decided fall in the number of Births during the year.

DEATHS.

	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
No. I. Aston Clinton ...	55	70	73	62	42	66
No. II. Haddenham	71	44	65	65	50	94
No. III. Waddesdon	77	59	71	64	71	67
Asylum	65	66	61	76	60	78
	268	239	270	267	223	305

The above Deaths are for the whole district, and include non-natives at Asylum.

Scarlet Fever.—Forty-seven cases were notified during the year, viz.: Nineteen from Haddenham, eleven from Oving, seven from Quainton, Weedon six, Hardwick two, Halton and Aston Clinton one each respectively.

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 during the year 1914.

Typhoid Fever.—Two cases have been reported during the year. One case proved fatal. Probably no better test exists of the efficiency of the Sanitary Administration of a given district, and of the district 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 has not been spent in vain. On looking up old reports, I find 13 cases were notified in 1895, and 15 cases the following year, from this disease.

Erysipelas.—Nine cases were notified during the year. No deaths.

Acute Anterior Polio Myelitis.—No cases of this complaint have been reported during the year.

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

Whooping Cough.—No deaths occurred from this disease during the year.

Membranous Croup.—No cases have been notified from this complaint during the year.

Diphtheria.—Three cases only have been reported from this disease. No deaths.

Puerperal Fever.—No cases have been notified from this complaint.

Continued Fever.—No cases reported.

Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis.—Nine cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one only other form were notified, as against fifteen and eight last year. Seven deaths occurred through Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year. The houses were inspected, and directions given to prevent spread.

Disinfection after death has been carried out in all cases.

Cholera and Typhus.—These complaints are unknown throughout the district.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Provision has been made for inspection. I consider 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. A large portion of the supply sent to London is also inspected by the various firms' own veterinary or other inspector.

Your Council has never had occasion to deal with an epidemic due to infected milk during the last twenty years, to my knowledge.

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 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.—Two hundred and fifty-two houses have been inspected (this does not include repeat visits).

Eighty-three houses were found unfit for habitation; fifty-eight houses were remedied and put into habitable repair, without closing orders, upon receipt of notice.

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.

I find that your Inspector and myself have been inspecting houses chiefly under the 1875 Act, and we now find it desirable to make such inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

I am pleased to state that your Council has not been requested to put this Act into force in a single parish in your district (39 parishes).

Halton Camp.—Your Inspector and myself have made inspections of the above Camp on several occasions, and have acted in co-operation with the Military Authorities as much as possible. In October I met the Inspector of the L.G.B. and Major Prynne, R.A.M.C., at Halton, when we discussed all matters relating to the sanitation of the Camp, and all matters arising therefrom. I am glad to state there has been no serious epidemic amongst the troops stationed in your district.

Food.—Inspections have been made of slaughter-houses. No seizure of meat has been found necessary during the year.

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 out-

break during the year. The tents which accommodate twelve to fourteen patients were purchased in 1903, during the first epidemic of Small Pox, and were also used for an epidemic of a similar nature in 1904. They have been also used for an epidemic of diphtheria at Aston Abbotts. Your Sanitary Inspector has reported to you that he superintended, some months ago, the airing and general overhauling of same.

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 the surrounding hills.

The water supplies have been well maintained during the year. I have made an analysis of eleven samples from wells sent me by the Sanitary Inspector, and also on request privately.

Quainton Water Supply.—Steps have been taken to protect the spring from pollution and interference.

During the year four wells have been cleansed.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Waddesdon and Quainton.—The sewers have been flushed periodically, and the tanks and sewage disposal areas regularly cleansed.

At Bishopstone, Dinton, Haddenham, Cuddington, Aston Abbotts, and Bierton the public sewage tanks and filters have been cleansed as required and kept under careful observation.

Scavenging.—This work has been carefully supervised, and is carried out in the following parishes:—Haddenham, Dinton, Cuddington, Bierton-with-Broughton, Quainton, and Westcott, Aston Clinton, Buckland, and Weston Turville.

In the case of billeting troops, arrangements have been made with the Scavenging Contractors at Weston Turville, Aston Clinton, and Buckland to carry out the extra work necessary, for which extra payment has been granted.

Special attention has also been given to the question of providing an efficient and safe disposal for the sewage carted from Halton Camp.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—The district being an agricultural one, the work in connection with the 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 two underground bakehouses in your district have been inspected.

The following is a brief summary of the work done in the district taken from your Inspector's report.—252 inspections under the Housing Act (this does not include repeat visits); 347 inspections under Public Health Act Nuisances (not including repeat visits); 38 dirty houses cleansed; 7 new drains laid; 36 earth closets constructed; 10 old drains repaired; 4 wells cleansed; 9 inspections of slaughterhouses, 13 of bakehouses, 22 of dairies, &c., and 16 of factories and workshops; 35 visits were paid under Infectious Diseases Act, and 31 houses were disinfected.

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.



