

[Report 1920] / Medical Officer of Health, Bampton U.D.C.

Contributors

Bampton (Oxfordshire, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1920

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ame3nxh2>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

BAMPTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

— 1920 —

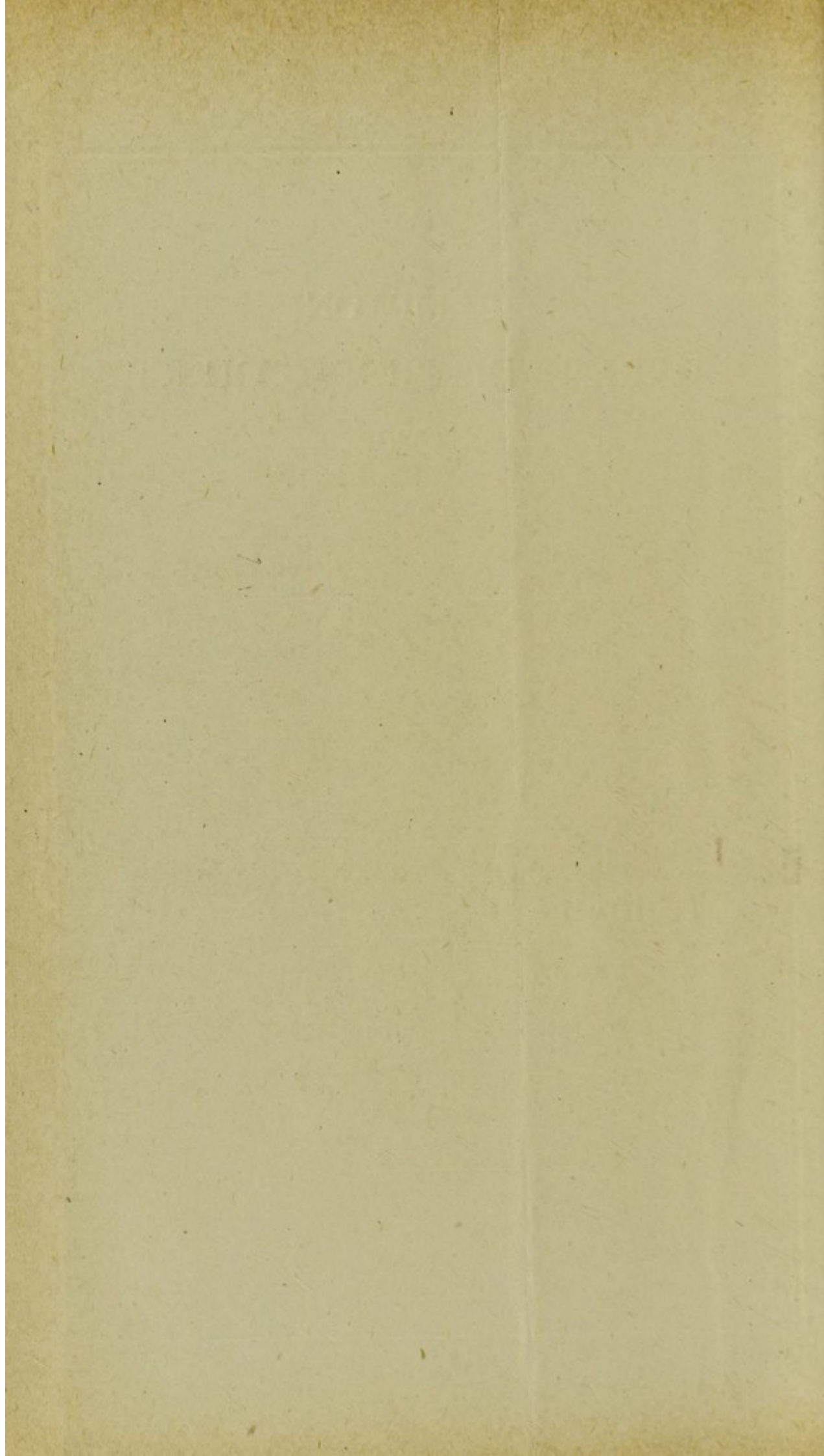
Davon

REPORT

— OF —

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending
31st December, 1920



**MEDICAL OFFICER'S
REPORT**

For the Year ending 31st December,
1920.

TO THE
Bampton Urban District Council

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1920.

**PHYSICAL & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE DISTRICT.**

The whole of the Parish constitutes the District, which is $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from East to West and $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from North to South, and can be conveniently considered as partly Urban (the town of Bampton) and partly Rural, with an equally divided population. Census of 1911: The population was 1,572; it is now estimated by the Ministry of Health for statistical purposes to be 1,442.

The town of Bampton lies in a valley, 350 feet above sea level, on gravel soil, at the junction of two streams, which unite close to the main street and join the River Exe about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant. The neighbouring hills are from 800 to 1,200 feet above the sea level.

The Area is 7,799 acres.

The net Rateable value for 1921 is £9,499. The amount of money paid for Poor Law Outdoor Relief was £432 15s. 7d., just 6s. per head.

There is no Cottage Hospital in the District; the nearest is at Tiverton.

The people are engaged in agricultural work, dairy farming and stock-raising, with the exception of a few quarrymen employed in the various quarries.

SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Medical Officer of Health.

A Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor—a whole time officer—who has supervision of the Water Supply, Sewerage System, New Buildings, and carries out the disinfection of premises.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the district. Arrangements are made for cases to be admitted to the Tiverton Joint Isolation Hospital, 8 miles distant, which has a total of 23 beds.

The old Bye-laws made in 1892 are still in force in this district.

Parts ii, and iii. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 have been adopted.

Parts ii., iii., iv., v. and Section 95 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, are now in force in the district, with certain reservations.

Chemical and Bacteriological work to a large extent has been done at the Devon County Laboratory, Exeter, and the results promptly posted. For this I am greatly indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The Health of the District was excellent during the last year. There were no epidemics and very few cases of Influenza.

Deaths.

There were 27 in the District and 2 outside, making a rate of 20·11 per 1,000, including 2 of infants.

This is a high death-rate compared with that of the rest of the country, 12·4.

Of the above deaths (29) 9 were over 70 years of age.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Two deaths of infants under one year of age are included above, making an infant death-rate of 1·38 per 1,000.

Births

Numbered 33, including 1 illegitimate, making a rate of 22·38 on the estimated population 1,442, and is an increase on last year's rate 17·30, although below the average estimate of 25·4 for the rest of the country.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The District is worked from Tiverton, the nearest Health Centre. The Health Visitor visits and gives advice to expectant and nursing mothers. There is no lack of milk or difficulty in getting it. No cases of Ophthalmia or Puerperal Fever were notified.

Prevalence & Control of Tuberculosis.

During 1920 three notifications were received of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. One death occurred, two cases are now under Sanatorium treatment. On receipt of notification every case is visited and instructions given: sputum flasks are provided by the local authority.

The Divisional Tuberculosis Officer also visits and decides if Institutional Treatment is necessary. As in other infectious diseases the premises are disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

With the exception of three cases of Pneumonia and one of Chicken Pox, the district was free.

I did not find it necessary to use the District Isolation Hospital.

I am indebted to the School Teachers for their co-operation and vigilance in promptly drawing attention to suspicious cases.

In the Urban District the number of successful vaccinations for 1920 is 23.

The number of exemptions from vaccination is much to be regretted. The value and harmlessness attending vaccination are not sufficiently realised by parents, who object not really from a conscientious feeling, but because they will not be bothered.

The Public Elementary Schools have been frequently inspected: their sanitary condition and water supply are satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

I must continue to direct attention to the deficiency. I cannot say that there is any apathy on the part of the Council to remedy it, as several schemes have been considered to augment the present supply. The present system has never served houses in the town on the high level, and now fails to serve houses on the same level as before. A large quantity of grand drinking water is wasting for want of suitable storage.

What is required is either a larger storage reservoir on a higher level fed from the present supply, or what is generally considered more economical, an altogether new source of water secured by gravitation from one of the many springs on the hills above the town.

As the building of cottages on the higher west side of the town will be soon commenced, the urgency cannot be overlooked. The brook which runs under the main street

serves to flush the street well by having some of its water diverted—an important factor in maintaining the health of the Town.

Generally speaking the water in the Rural side of the district is very good: the hamlets and farms are supplied by wells.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS.

There is little or no pollution of the streams. Precautions are taken to prevent the sewage effluent from the tank of the town sewage getting into the River Batherum by distribution over grass land : likewise that of the hamlet of Shillingford.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage of the Eastern and Southern streets is piped through the town into a septic tank; that of the west side of the town would be more satisfactory if piped to meet the former.

The Hopper and washdown flush closets prevail, and in those houses where the town water supply does not reach sufficiently high for flushing, pail and earth closets are used.

Two privies have been converted into the permanent flush system during the year. Many more could be so flushed if the level of the reservoir was raised. Generally speaking the privy and closet accommodation is sufficient for the district.

Scavenging

is done satisfactorily. House refuse is removed by carts twice a week from the town. Street cleansing is also done twice a week and the sweepings carted away.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The usual visiting and inspections of the sanitary conditions of the district have been carried out with the Sanitary Inspector. There are no common lodging-houses, underground sleeping rooms, or offensive trades.

FOOD.

Milk.

A very large quantity of Farm and Dairy Produce is sent away by rail from the district.

The supply is very good and sufficient. There are 10 registered dairies, one dairy sends all its milk to London.

Meat

Locally is excellent. Very little foreign meat is consumed. There are two Registered Slaughter-houses, which are frequently inspected and kept clean.

Bread.

The 3 Bakehouses, none underground, are kept in good order.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

There are 12 Workshops, these have been frequently inspected and found satisfactory.

HOUSING.

There are 354 houses, 233 of these are occupied by the Working Class. Under the present Housing Act it is proposed to build 24 houses in the district. Four of these are nearing completion at Shillingford hamlet. The population will steadily increase provided cottages are built, as all labour is absorbed, and no unemployment exists.

No cottages have been built for the last 20 years.

There are some cases of overcrowding, but no alternative accommodation can be secured.

The general standard of houses in this district is very low, and their chief defects are damp and cracked walls, weak and decayed staircases, insufficient ventilation and small windows.

No notices have been served on the owners to do extensive repairs since 1915: repairs absolutely necessary have been carried out.

No complaints have been received from householders that their houses are unfit to live in, probably because they know there are no others.

HOUSE INSPECTION.—Sec. 17 Housing Act, 1909.—30 houses have been inspected. Of these 4 houses are considered unfit for human habitation. In several cottages the owners have done the repairs. No Closing or Demolition Orders have been made.

The SANITARY INSPECTOR has carried out his duties with activity and sound judgment.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS W. WIDGER BOVEY,

M.O.H., Bampton Urban District.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO