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Contributors

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Borough of Basingstoke.



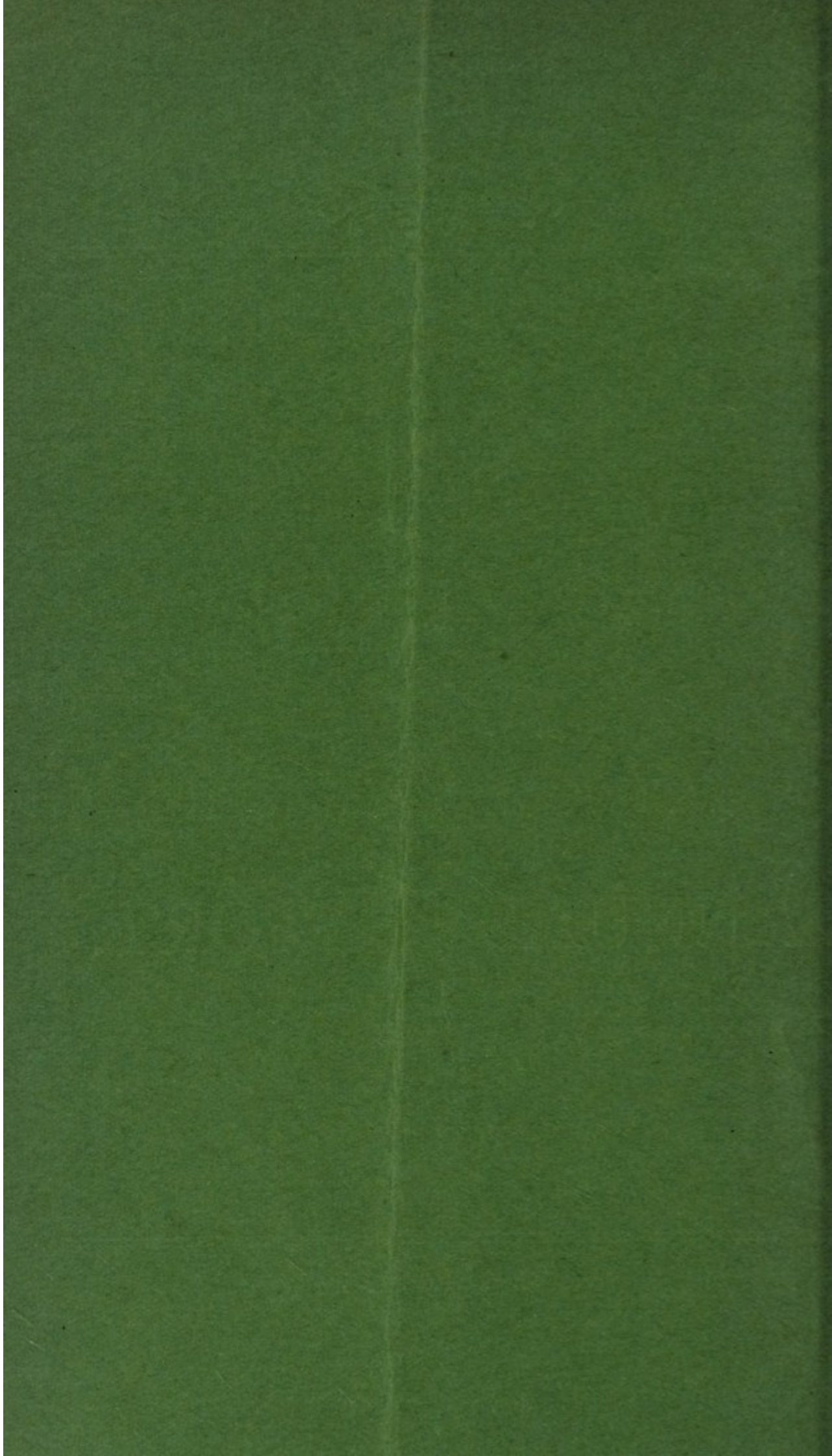
MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT.



1914.

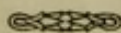




Borough of Basingstoke.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.



February, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report for the Borough ending December 31st, 1914.

Physical Features of the District.

Basingstoke is situate 300ft. above sea level and occupies two slopes facing North and South and the intervening valley of the River Loddon. It has a subsoil of chalk, with clay in some places. The climate is bracing. The surrounding country is under cultivation and is well wooded.

Occupation of Inhabitants.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are mercantile, artisan and labouring, of the two latter classes the population is rapidly increasing. There is no particular occupation detrimental to health.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply is obtained from a Well at West Ham sunk in the chalk, it is of good quality and is amply sufficient for all requirements. The Water is analysed twice yearly and is reported on satisfactorily.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Sewage is carried by pipe sewers to the Pumping Station which pumps it on to the Sewage Farm. I reported to the Health Committee on Jan. 5th, 1915, the result of my inspection of the Sewage Farm and I wish again to emphasize the facts, namely : That the acreage is totally inadequate for the efficient disposal of the Sewage of the Town and that a further acreage should be immediately obtained and unless this is done it will lead to Sanitary complications. The Sewerage and Drainage is sufficient in all parts of the Borough and is in good working order. Excremental disposal is by the water carriage system from water closets to which water is laid on and is satisfactory.

Some of the outlying districts outside the sewered area the houses are drained to cesspools, in some cases have pail closets and in a very few cases privy middens are in use.

Refuse Disposal.

Refuse Disposal is being satisfactorily dealt with by the New Destructor which consumes effectively the greater part of the refuse collected. About 2000 tons of refuse is disposed of per annum at a cost for labour of about 1/2 per ton, the heat generated is utilized for steaming the Sewage Pumping Engines at a great saving of coal and economy, the ordinary accumulation of refuse is now largely increased by the military by several loads per week. The removal of house refuse is by public scavenger who collects twice weekly.

Milk Supply.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops were regularly inspected as in preceeding years.

Housing Accommodation.

Investigations are being carried in connection with the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and 264 houses were inspected.

Plans for 87 new houses of the artisan, labouring and villa classes of which the whole will shortly be finished and ready for occupation, among these are included the 28 houses under the Council's Housing Scheme, allowing an average of 5 per house accommodation for 435 persons will be provided.

The arrival of the military in the middle of November brought some 4800 extra men into the town, the overcrowding already prevalent being accentuated by the billeting of the men upon the householders. St. John's Schools, Fairfields Council Schools were taken over and are still in the possession of the Military Authorities and at time of writing some 5800 men are being accommodated.

Isolation Hosptial.

The number of cases admitted for the year was 22—

- 7 Diphtheria from Urban District.
- 9 „ from Rural District.
- 3 Scarlet Fever from Urban District.
- 1 „ from Rural District.
- 2 Enteric from Rural District.

The mortality was 2—1 Diphtheria from Urban District.

1 „ from Rural District.

Infectious Diseases.

The year has been singularly free from infectious disease. 11 cases of Diphtheria, 2 Scarlet Fever, 1 Erysipelas were notified.

Tuberculosis.

There were 17 cases of Tuberculosis notified—namely : 15 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 case of Tubercular Disease of the Knee and one of the Hip.

Vital Statistics.

The death rate is 9·68 with a population of 12,500 which compares favourably with other years.

The number of infants dying under 1 year is 16 which is a very low rate and shows a marked decrease.

There were 11 deaths from Consumption which shows a slight increase on preceding year—9 in 1913.

The number of births is 269 giving a birth-rate of 21·52 which is a slight increase on 1913.

Factories and Workshops.

These have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. H. REES-THOMAS,

Act. Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths of Non-residents not registered in the District.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District.	
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett. Rate.	Number.	Rate.		Under 1 Year of age. Rate per 1000 nett Births.	At all Ages. Rate.
1907	10,000	289	28.9	122	12.2			
1908	10,000	264	26.4	126	12.6			
1909	11,000	261	23.5	139	12.7			
1910	11,000	219	19.9	110	10.0			
1911	11,500	262	22.4	111	9.6			
1912	11,500	225	20.0	102	8.8	14	18	116
1914	12,500		21.52	121	9.98	6	15	127

Total population at all ages, 12,500.

Borough of Basingstoke.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES REPORT.

Town Hall, Basingstoke,

January, 1915.

To the Chairman and Members of Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you the Annual Report of work done in this department for the year ending December, 1914.

There are 13 Slaughter Houses on the Register, 8 Licensed and 5 Registered Slaughter Houses. These have been regularly inspected, the floors are thoroughly cleansed after slaughtering, and all offal promptly removed from the premises, the Quarterly Limewashing and Cleansing of the Walls have been complied with and the Bye-Laws regulating Slaughter Houses have been generally well observed.

There are 20 Milk Vendors, Dairymen and Cow Keepers on the Register. Their premises were periodically inspected, and were found to be well and cleanly kept.

There are 20 Bakehouses on the Register. These have been periodically visited, and were generally found to be kept in a cleanly state.

The Common Lodging House, with lodging accommodation for 58 persons, has been regularly visited, the Bye-Laws regulating Common Lodging Houses have been well observed by the Keeper. The premises are Limewashed yearly, and the place is kept in a cleanly state, and generally well conducted.

There are 27 Factories and 106 Workshops on the Register. Three Clothing Establishments have sent six lists of outworkers with a total of 212 persons. These have been visited periodically, and their premises, with one or two exceptions were found to be kept in a wholesome condition.

264 Houses have been inspected under the Housing Act, 1909. 167 Houses have been dealt with under notice when defects were remedied as shewn in the following summary :—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

Inspections and Re-visits	...	3168
Complaints	...	36
Notices	...	252
Nuisances abated	...	88
Rooms coloured	...	85
Ceilings whitened	...	391
Rooms papered	...	260
New guttering to roofs	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	17
New windows, or repaired	...	9
Floors repaired	...	28
Doors repaired	...	5
Staircases repaired	...	22
Yards paved	...	15
W.C's. re-built or repaired	...	14
Fresh air inlets	...	3
Flushing apparatus repaired	...	9
Inspection covers to drains	...	4
Smoke test applied to drains	...	5
Chemical do.	...	8
Water do.	...	8
New or partly new drains	...	11
W.C. Pans	...	116
Drains cleared of obstruction	...	19
Offensive deposits removed	...	2
New inspection chambers	...	4
New traps	...	23
Lots of bedding disinfected	...	19
Houses disinfected after infectious disease	...	19
Schools disinfected	...	2

I am again pleased to report my duties have been carried out in an amicable and friendly manner as far as possible with everyone. It has not been necessary to resort to litigation or serve statutory notices, informal and verbal notices having the desired effect. In this method of procedure the desired ends are obtained without undue friction.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

HENRY J. DAVIES,

Inspector of Nuisances.

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