

**[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Beaminster R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Beaminster (Dorset, England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1925

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Beaminstor, Dorset.

April. 1926.

Gentlemen;

I have the honour of presenting my report for 1925.

General Statistics.

Area. (Acres) 57,017  
Estimated population. 8345. Decrease 80.

Vital Statistics.

Births Legitimate. 125.  
Illegitimate. 8. Total 133.

Birth rate per 1000 of population 15.9

Deaths. Male 60  
Female 48 Total 108.

Death rate per 1000 of population 12.9

Death rate of Infants under one year.

Legitimate 14  
Illegitimate. 0

Death rate per 1000 births. 106

Deaths from :

|                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| Measles                                    | 2.  |
| Influenza.                                 | 6.  |
| Tuberculosis. Respiratory.                 | 3.  |
| Non Respiratory.                           | 2.  |
| Cancer                                     | 10. |
| Heart disease                              | 16. |
| Arterio sclerosis                          | 5.  |
| Bronchitis                                 | 8.  |
| Pneumonia                                  | 4.  |
| Congenital debility<br>or Premature birth. | 12. |

Infectious diseases notified.

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Pneumonia                | 3.  |
| Chicken-pox.             | 4.  |
| Diphtheria.              | 2.  |
| Scarlet Fever.           | 10. |
| Tuberculosis + Pulmonary | 15. |
| Non Pulmonary.           | 2.  |

The Board of the University of the State of New York

has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration.

Very respectfully,  
The Board of the University of the State of New York

Secretary of the Board of the University of the State of New York

Office of the Secretary of the Board of the University of the State of New York

Albany, New York, 10th day of May, 1888

Very respectfully,  
The Board of the University of the State of New York

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Albany, New York, 10th day of May, 1888

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Very respectfully,  
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Secretary of the Board of the University of the State of New York

The health of the District has been satisfactory.

The increase in the cases of Tuberculosis was foreshadowed in my report of last year as a probable result of the wet season of 1924.

The birth-rate is the lowest recorded in the past five years and the death rate - 12.9 per 1,000 - is the lowest, except 12.8 in 1923.

The increased Infant mortality of 106 per 1,000 births is fully accounted for by the fact that 12 deaths were reported as being due to congenital debility or premature birth.

#### Water Supplies.

There has been no change in the Water Supplies. That of Beaminster which was ample, is, owing to the fresh demands made upon it, only just sufficient, and steps must soon be taken to increase the supply.

#### Refus and Scavenging.

A dumping ground in Peasehill for refuse was provided in 1922, but there is no system of refuse collection.

#### Nursing.

A Nurse has been appointed for the Marshwood District. The arrangement which was made by which the Beaminster Nurse was available for Stoke Abbott has proved very successful, but Hocke, Mosterton, South Perrott and Chedington, are still without the services of a certified Midwife.

#### Slaughterhouses.

There are eight licensed and registered Slaughterhouses which have been inspected and are now satisfactory.

#### River Pollution.

The pollution of the River Brit by the discharge from the West Surrey Central Dairy Company, which was reported in 1923 has been successfully dealt with. In the dry season of 1925. no complaint was made of the state of the stream.

#### Hospitals.

There are 24 beds available in the Bridport Joint Isolation Hospital. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital.

#### Infant Welfare Centre.

This Centre is doing an increasingly useful work. It has been removed to new premises and between £200 and £300. has been spent in making it thoroughly up to date. A Dental Clinic is being opened. The Centre has been opened 44 times during the year, the average attendances being 8.

#### Housing.

Up to 1925 but few Cottages had been built in the District, but in that year 31. were erected - 20 by the Rural District Council. The latter are let at a rental of 6/6d weekly, with rates 9/6d. They are excellent Cottages, in an eminently healthy situation, and the Architect is to be congratulated on the fact, that they differ from so many Council Houses in that they are not a blot upon the Landscape.



Housing. cont.

They have not however by any means solved the Housing problem; up to a certain point they have been eagerly sought after, but a few are still without Tenants.

It must be obvious that a rental of 9/6d weekly is beyond the means of the agricultural worker, but if the more highly paid workers who at present occupy cottages with medium rentals, would move into the Council Houses, they would do much to help their less fortunate brethren.

There has been one attempt made, by an enterprising builder, in speculative building, and it is to be hoped that he will be encouraged to persevere in the good work. On the whole, the condition of the Cottages in Beaminster shows a distinct improvement. Tenants are beginning to recognise that having paid a rental of from 2/- to 3/- a week they have not fulfilled the whole duty of man, and there is a growth of sturdy independence noticable.

Tenants of the cottages with uneconomic rents are repairing them themselves, and one street in the Town, which was notorious for its squalor, has by their action, blossomed into neatness, if not opulence.

With regard to the surrounding villages, it appears to be quite useless for the Council to erect Houses there

Cottages at a rental of 9/- weekly are beyond the means of the Rural worker, and if built, they would only be occupied by strangers, attracted by the natural beauties of the District. On the other hand the philanthropic Landlord, although he still exists is rapidly becoming a venerable and interesting antique; And the only hope seems to lie in the Council taking to themselves power to repair and reconstruct the existing delapidated cottages.

I should like to draw attention to the fact that there are no Building Bye-laws in the area, and we may at anytime fall a prey to the ravages of the jerry bungalow builder.

Yours faithfully,

Arthur A. Pim.

M. O. H.

Beaminster Rural District.

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the structure of the atom. The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the structure of the atom. The third part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the structure of the atom.

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HOUSING CONDITIONS - Year ended 31st December 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) 57,017.  
 Population (1925) 8345.  
 Number of inhabited houses 1966.  
 Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) Unknown.  
 Rateable Value. £85,266.  
 Sum represented by a penny rate. £220.6.5d.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :-

- (a) Total. 31.
- (b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts.  
 1919 or 1923:  
 (1) By the Local Authority. 20  
 (2) By other bodies or persons.

(1) Unfit dwellinghouses.

Inspection - (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 225.  
 (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910. 30  
 (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 21  
 (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 50.

(2) Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 20.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

A. - Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town

Planning &c., Act., 1919.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 2.
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit:-
  - (a) By Owners. 1.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. 0.

Number of available houses in 1930-1931  
Number of houses in 1930-1931  
Number of houses in 1930-1931

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Number of houses in 1930-1931

- (3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders become operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close.

1.

B. - Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.

4.

- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied :-

(a) by Owners.

1.

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners.

Nil.

C. - Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act. 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.

1.

- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.

1.

- (3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit.

Nil.

- (4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.

Nil.

- (5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition Orders.

Nil.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

(Clerk to the Local Authority, or  
Medical Officer of Health).

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_

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