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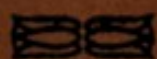
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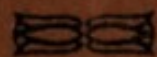


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BEESTON
Urban District Council.



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
FOR THE YEAR 1914.





Beeston Urban District Council.



Officers :

MR. A. KIRKLAND, (Rate Collector and Assistant Overseer)

MR. W. H. REDGATE, (Clerk).

MR. E. A. BUSH, (Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector).

DR. F. ROTHERA, (Medical Officer of Health).

Members :

W. H. SPENCER, Esq., J.P., (Chairman).

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MR. J. HEARD.

MR. S. R. BANNISTER.

MR. H. H. HAYES.

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MR. W. THOMAS.

MR. W. DODSON.

MR. W. THUMS.

MR. W. H. GEORGE.

MR. C. P. WALKER.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1914.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
BEESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Twenty-second Annual Report which deals with the vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Parish for the year 1914.

The year will ever be memorable by reason of the "Great War" which was sprung upon us with the utmost suddenness on the 4th of August. Fortunately, our army, though small as compared with our enemy's and allies, was thoroughly efficient and rendered the most invaluable assistance in resisting the first onrush of the German Army towards Paris, fighting with the utmost gallantry and conducting a rear-guard action from Mons to the Marne that few other armies could have faced without disaster. Since then the Allies on both sides of Europe have more than held their own, and meantime the young manhood of this country have risen nobly to the occasion, until now we have not less than 3,000,000 in active training, the majority of whom are ready for the front, where we have no doubt they will give a good account of themselves. Our first line of defence too—the Navy—has more than justified the lavish sums spent upon it, and the love and admiration all Britons have for the senior service. Not only has it confined the German High Sea Fleet to their harbours, driven their merchant ships off the high seas, checked all, or nearly all contraband of war from getting into their country, but also on the few occasions when we have had the chance of a fair stand-up fight, has inflicted a decisive defeat upon them. Were it not for our fleet we might before now have been in the unhappy position of Belgium

and suffering all the horrors this brave people have had to endure. Locally, Beeston has done her share in the good work. Nearly 600 of her sons are serving their Country in the two services. At very short notice the Beeston Branch of the Red Cross Society equipped a temporary hospital of 25 beds with all the necessary appliances in the Church Sunday Schools, kindly lent by the Vicar and Church Wardens, and were prepared for another 25 beds in the Boys' Brigade Headquarters, kindly lent by Mr. Hetley Pearson. Fortunately they were not immediately required and as the retention of these rooms led to much inconvenience and curtailment of the usefulness of the two authorities named, we were compelled to look about for other quarters. Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Poyser, we were able to secure rent free for the duration of the War, a large house standing in its own grounds of six or seven acres, known as the "Cedars" and this has been thoroughly cleaned, decorated and fitted up with 25 beds, and is now (Feb. 10th) ready for occupation. It is an ideal house for the purpose and any men sent here may deem themselves fortunate in being placed in such happy surroundings. I might add that most of the work done in preparing the house has been voluntary, both the members of the Women's and Men's Detachments coming to the rescue and working with a will that excited the admiration of Mr. Anelay—who kindly superintended the operations, and indeed of all the members of the Committee. In addition to all this work the ladies of Beeston have been assiduous in knitting scarves, socks, helmets and other comforts for the men at the front. Nor have the Belgian refugees been forgotten, no less than 30 being provided for in eight houses with funds sufficient for their comparative comfort. This is the least we can do for a people who have suffered so terribly, and I think no money has been given so voluntarily and willingly as this for their relief and maintenance until happier times are restored to them and they can return to their own country.

While war is a terrible and costly business and an altogether barbarous method of settling international disputes, I feel most strongly that it is not an unmixed evil for any nation to have inflicted upon it. It certainly brings out the manhood of a nation, helps to sink class distinctions, makes us realise that there are other things than mere pleasure to be considered, and reduces the risk of our becoming effete and stale through over luxurious living. The way, too the men have improved in physique since joining the ranks is simply wonderful, and is a strong argument to my mind in favour of some form of universal service. The loss of work for one year would be amply compensated for by their improved health and strength, by their more erect carriage and by the respect learnt for their superiors.

While on the subject of War there is one other aspect of the question that is worth consideration, and that is, that appalling as is the loss of life in battle a greater number are saved from death every year by improved sanitation and rigid observance of quarantine regulations,

than was the case a hundred years ago. No longer are we scourged with epidemics of typhoid, typhus and other fevers, small-pox, plague, etc., as was the case only three or four generations ago. These deaths occurred without any of the glamour or excitement attendant upon actual fighting, but they were none the less deaths and the cause of much suffering and grief to those in near relation to them.

With these few desultory remarks, I will now proceed with my subject, which is to give a resumé of the work done in the department of Public Health in Beeston during the year 1914.

In my last report I gave a comprehensive statement of our new sewage scheme with a detailed estimate of the cost of the different items as drawn up by our Consulting Engineer, Mr. W. H. Radford. The work was commenced in April. The position of affairs now is that the deep pumping pit and culvert are complete, also the four filtering beds are ready for the filtering media; the three Dortmund Tanks are nearing completion, and the main 24 inch sewer has been carried under the railway and some distance up Humber Road South. Tunnelling under the railway was a stiff proposition and presented many difficulties owing to the heavy and constant traffic passing over the four sets of rails at that point, and the obligation not to interfere with the traffic. That it was carried out to the entire satisfaction of our own and the Midland Railway Engineers reflects considerable credit to the Contractors. In addition to all this work much taking up and relaying of pipes on the farm has been accomplished and the work is well in hand. The coming year 1915, will see its completion and Beeston then will be in the proud position of possessing sewage disposal works thoroughly up to date, and likely to fulfil all requirements for many years to come.

While on this subject I would wish to record the fact that owing to increased pumping facilities there has been no occasion during the year when flooding of any part of the Parish has taken place. The purchase by your Council of a self-recording gauge to show the depth of sewage in the tank has certainly helped the man in charge of the pumps to prevent this flooding, and at the same time is a record of the man's attention to his duties.

Acting upon instructions from the Local Government Board, I have to give a brief description of the natural and social conditions of the district. The Town of Beeston is built on a bed of gravel and gravel-grit brought down by the river Trent superimposed on a sandstone rock. It has a gentle slope from the north to the south extending from 212 feet above sea level at the top of Wollaton Road, to 80 feet at the level of the Trent, which forms its southern boundary. This slope and the character of the subsoil afford ready drainage, especially in the upper part of the town north of the High Road. South of the Queen's Road, the township is liable to flooding in times of heavy and continuous rain, but fortunately this but seldom occurs.

The total area of the district is 1,536 acres, which gives a population of 7 per acre.

The chief industries in the place are the manufacture of lace with its various subsidiaries, telephone works, foundry, horticultural builders and minor engineering works. The health conditions of these various industries compare favourably with other towns and leave little to be desired. There is no occupation in the district likely to produce lead poisoning, and no obnoxious trades are carried on. Unfortunately the staple trade, viz., the manufacture of lace has been more heavily hit by the war, and the consequent closing of many markets, than possibly any other in the kingdom, and has led to much unemployment and loss of wages. While this has been a stimulus to recruiting, it has proved exceptionally hard on the female population by whom much of this work is done.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

That there is ample house accommodation for the people is proved by the fact that on August 1st, the date upon which I have to compile my statistics there were 142 houses unoccupied. This number has, I fear, since been considerably increased. Very little building has been done during the year. Plans for only 26 houses have been submitted to and passed by your Building Committee and 18 new buildings certified as fit for occupation. All new houses are built strictly according to the bye-laws, plans having been passed by the Building Committee and the drains are tested before a certificate of occupation is granted. In addition to houses, plans as follows have been approved:—

Additions to factory, 1; Addition to dwelling houses, 2; Motor Garage, 1; and Electric Power Sub-Station. 1.

Since July no plans have been deposited for approval. This can only be attributed to the shortage of labour and the advance in the price of building material owing to the War.

The rateable value of the Parish is £43,111 16s. 0d., the assessable value is £37,426 18s. 0d. The General District Rate is 4s. 2d. in the £ and the Poor Rate 2s. 11d. in the £. A 1d. rate is estimated to produce £154 gross.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In consequence of the operations on the farm, very little of the land could be utilized for the growing of crops and no annual sale took place. What few surplus crops remained after supplying our own horses were sold by private tender and realised £24. More attention has been paid to pumping operations, men being on duty the 24 hours. As a result no instance of backing up of sewage matter into private drains has been recorded during the year.

NIGHT SOIL AND ASH BIN REFUSE.

The number of pails to be emptied weekly remains about the same, viz., 2,200. You may remember in my last report a conversion scheme has been decided upon by which this obsolete method of excrement disposal should be changed to water carriage. It was felt however, that until the new sewage disposal works were completed it would be better to defer entering upon this and for the time being it is in abeyance.

Under the Housing Act, 15 Sanitary tubs have been done away with during the year. Eleven were converted into W.C.s and four entirely disused. The Council contributed £35 towards the cost of these conversions.

CESSPOOLS.

There are now only five of these left in the parish, all at Silver Hill. Before my next Report is issued I hope these houses will be connected to the new intercepting sewer to be laid specially to receive the sewage from this district. Plans and estimates for a new sewer in Albert Road have already been approved by the Council, and provisional apportionments served on the owners as required by the Private Street Works' Act, 1892. The cesspools above mentioned are regularly emptied by the Council's workmen during the night or early morning, and every effort is made to prevent this from being a nuisance.

NUISANCES.

The Sanitary Inspector has investigated and dealt with the following complaints during the year :

		Verbal Notice.	Written Notice.	Statutory Notice.
Stopped up or defective sewers, drains and gullies	29	19	10	
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	1		1	
Accumulation of trade refuse	3		3	
Offensive Manure pits	4	4		
Smoke nuisance	1	1		
Defective yard paving	1			1
Offensive pig styes	1		1	
Overcrowding	3	1		2
Insufficient ashpit accommodation	6			6
Deposit of refuse or waste on unoccupied land	3	2	1	
Polluted wells	2			2
Stagnant water under house floors	2			2
Pollution of dykes	1		1	
Various	22	18	4	
	79	45	21	13

DRAINS AND SEWERS.

These have been put right in every case on receipt of a complaint from the Sanitary Inspector. Much less slaughter house refuse has found its way into the sewers than during the previous year, but we have still much trouble with cotton waste mostly from lace factories. This gets into the pumps at the Farm and frequently causes stoppages.

PIG-STYES.

Several applications have been made during the year to keep pigs, but in no instance was the position of the proposed sty suitable and they were consequently refused.

SMOKE NUISANCE.

The only complaint received was attended to immediately by those responsible and the nuisance effectively remedied. I should again like to point out that most of the smoke nuisances are entirely due to faulty stoking.

OVERCROWDING.

Our attention has been drawn to three cases of overcrowding. In one a statutory notice followed by a summons and conviction was served on the occupier. In the second case the statutory notice was immediately complied with, and the third is now being dealt with.

POLLUTED WELLS.

In both instances, samples of water were submitted to S. R. Trotman Esq., for analysis, and he reported that in each case the water was unfit for drinking purposes. A supply from the Nottingham mains has been laid on to both houses.

WATER IN CELLARS.

This has occurred in many houses after prolonged rain. In two, however, the water became stagnant, and created a nuisance which the owner remedied by raising the floors on receipt of a notice from the Council.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.

Taken as a whole the year 1914 has been universally mild, very dry until the last two months, and with a moderate excess of sunshine. The mean temperature was 49.9° F., which is 2.6° F above the average for the last 30 years. The rainfall up to the middle of October was well below the average, but a wet November and very wet December, when 3.56 and 5.19 inches fell respectively brought us .90 inch above the average. In December, there were only six days on which no rain fell. On May 2nd there was a disastrous frost which cut off the early potatoes and seriously spoilt, what up to that date had promised to be an exceptionally good fruit year. A summary of the observations will be found in the appendix. The absence of extremes of heat and cold has had a good effect upon the health of the community especially in lessening summer diarrhœa in children, and lung diseases during the winter months.

POPULATION.

I am indebted to Mr. Kirkland, our esteemed Rate Collector, for the information that on August 1st, 1914, the total number of houses in Beeston was 3,020 of which 143 were empty, leaving 2,878 inhabited. Estimating the number of persons per house at $4\frac{1}{8}$ (the average shown in the Census of 1911) this gives a population of 11,991, which is the figure upon which I base my vital statistics for the year. It is somewhat disconcerting to find the population decreasing by 51 instead of increasing, and must be ascribed to the very depressed condition of our staple industry—the lace trade. Personally I know of many instances where whole families have been obliged to emigrate in consequence of this depression, and since the war commenced, it has had a marked influence on recruiting.

In estimating my figures for the year, I may say that I have not taken into consideration the large number of Beeston men who have been called up, or, who have joined the army and navy since war commenced. Many of the latter have only just left the parish, and it would be difficult to strike an average. Should hostilities, unfortunately continue all this year, then in compiling my next Report, some deductions will have to be made and I fear our figures will suffer in consequence.

During the year under review, viz.: 1914, there have been:

312	births	and	125	deaths	against
323	..		110	..	in 1913
329	..		117	..	.. 1912
304	..		118	..	.. 1911
309	..		117	..	.. 1910
279	..		90	..	.. 1909
317	..		111	..	.. 1908
323	..		141	..	.. 1907
278	..		118	..	.. 1906
286	..		116	..	.. 1905

306

116 Average for the 10 years.

This gives a
Birth-rate of

26.0
26.8
28.1
26.8
26.1
24.7
26.7
26.8
24.1
26.4

26.2

and a Death-rate of

10.4 per 1000 per annum for 1914
9.1 1913
10.0 1912
10.4 1911
9.9 1910
8.7 1909
9.3 1908
11.7 1907
10.2 1906
10.7 1905

10.4 Average for the 10 years.

BIRTHS.

Of the 312 births registered during the year, 158 were males and 154 females. Fourteen were illegitimate: 8 males and 6 females, a proportion of 1 to 22 births. Our birthrate maintains a very uniform rate which is a healthy sign.

DEATHS.

There were 125 deaths within the confines of the parish during the year, an increase of 15 on the previous year, and 9 above the average for the past 10 years. It is difficult to account for this increase, as we have had no epidemic of any kind of an alarming nature, and the climatic conditions have been favourable. This gives us a death-rate of 10.4 per 1,000 per annum. Of these deaths, 73 were males, and 52 females. On three of them an inquest was held, and one was certified by the Coroner as due to natural causes.

In addition to these 125 deaths of 'residents within the district,' the Local Government Board now requires us to add the deaths of residents taking place outside the district. I am indebted to Dr. Handford, the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that 20 of these occurred, viz.: 8 in Basford Workhouse Infirmary; 6 in the Nottingham General Hospital; 2 in the County Asylum and one each in the Women's Hospital, Castle Gate; Children's Hospital, and two suicides—one by drowning in the Trent, and one by being run over by a train on the Midland Railway. To arrive at the absolute nett rate we have further to subtract the deaths of persons staying in the District but who usually resided outside the locality, of these none have occurred.

The addition of these 20 deaths brings up the total to 145, with a nett or corrected death-rate of 12 per 1000 per annum.

Of the total deaths:

42	occurred	during	the	1st	quarter.
33	"	"	"	2nd	"
28	"	"	"	3rd	"
42	"	"	"	4th	"

145

The chief causes of death are as follows: Measles 3, Whooping-cough 1, Influenza 1, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 8, Other Tuberculous diseases 4, Cancer 14, Meningitis 1, Organic Heart disease 15, Bronchitis 16, Pneumonia 11, Other diseases of Respiratory Organs 2, Diarrhœa 4, Cirrhosis of Liver 4, Alcoholism 1, Bright's disease 5, Accident of Parturition 1, Congenital debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth, 12, violent deaths excluding suicides 3, Suicides 3, Other defined causes 35.

ZYMOTIC OR EPIDEMIC DEATH-RATE.

Eight deaths under this heading have occurred during the year, viz. : Measles 3 Whooping cough 1, and Epidemic Diarrhoea 4. This gives a zymotic death-rate of .66 which is eminently satisfactory, the average for the previous 10 years being 1.43.

AGE AT DEATH TABLE.

	1914	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07	'06	'05
Under one year ..	29	33	20	30	32	26	32	27	41	30
1 year and under 5 years	13	4	12	14	15	6	9	24	16	15
5 years & under 15 years	5	5	4	5	4	4	1	11	4	5
15 years & under 25 years	6	3	3	7	1	3	6	4	4	5
25 years & under 65 years	49	47	47	44	35	29	31	38	30	31
65 years and upwards ..	43	31	47	38	30	31	32	37	23	30

145 123 133 138 117 99 111 141 118 116

Of the 43 deaths occurring in persons over 65 years of age 9 were between 65 and 70; 21 between 70 and 80; and 13 between 80 and 90 years of age.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

It is consoling to find that the number of deaths in children under 1 year of age is smaller than the previous year. Twenty-nine of these infants have died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 96.1 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 102.1 in 1913. That is to say, if 1000 children had been born in Beeston during the year, 96 would have died during the first year of their existence. The average for the past 10 years is 105.

Following my usual plan, I give in tabular form, the cause of deaths in infants and compare with the previous 10 years :

	1914	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07	'06	'05
Premature Birth and Debility from										
Birth	12	16	12	11	20	9	7	10	11	10
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	9	5	5	2	3	3	5	2	5	6
Convulsions	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	3	2
Constitutional Syphilis ..	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	2
General Tuberculosis	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Diarrhoea	4	6	1	11	3	4	7	2	16	2
Tubercular Meningitis	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0
Natural Causes (Coroner's enquiry)	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	2	0
Whooping Cough	0	1	0	2	0	4	3	2	0	0
Other Causes	2	1	0	1	4	2	2	2	4	4
	29	33	20	30	33	26	32	27	41	30

Twelve of the 29 deaths were due to Premature Birth or Debility from Birth. This is still a large percentage, and might in small measure be reduced were we to adopt the Notification of Births Act. Unfortunately, this is useless, unless a competent nurse be appointed to look after these delicate children, and, so far as I can judge, there is not sufficient work of that character to keep one fully employed.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The numbers of Infectious diseases notified to me during the year was 43. Considering that no less than 19 of these were due to various forms of Tuberculosis, which have only been notifiable during the last three years, this is eminently satisfactory, and compares favourably with the average of the last 10 years, which is 69.

Tabulated, and compared with the previous 10 years, they are as follows :

	1914	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07	'06	'05
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet fever ..	9	24	67	23	21	21	5	13	53	22
Diphtheria	6	9	7	5	20	15	19	33	57	81
Typhoid fever ..	4	1	2	6	0	6	1	2	3	1
Erysipelas	4	6	4	1	4	6	7	9	6	10
Puerperal fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14	12	6	Not recorded.						
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5	1	0	.. ..					
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	.. ..							
Cerebro-spinal fever and Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	.. ..					
	43	53	86	35	45	49	33	57	119	114

Average for the previous ten years, 69.

The same measures that I have enumerated in my last and previous Reports are adopted in their entirety, and rigorously carried out. I need hardly refer to them again in detail, except to say that every case has had my personal attention.

We have still no Isolation Hospital, except for Small-pox, which we share with other Urban Authorities, and situated at Hucknall Torkard. This to some of you may seem a white elephant, and hardly to justify our share of the cost, which this year is £31 15s. 4d., but it is only by the provision of such a hospital, that we can isolate the first case, should one occur, and thereby possible save the community from a serious epidemic.

SMALL POX.

No case of this disease has again occurred during the year. This is more by good luck than by the foresight of people who have a ready

means at hand for its prevention, and who, in increasing numbers refuse to avail themselves of it. That a Nemesis will overtake them in the long run is my certain conviction.

SCARLET FEVER.

That only 9 cases of this disease have occurred is eminently satisfactory, especially when we consider that three of them were in one family, who had only just come to live in the district, and who brought it with them. In another instance, two in one family were found to be in the peeling stage before the disease was recognised. In the former case your Council thought it desirable to provide a nurse to look after the patients rather than incur the expense of sending them away. All the other cases were treated at home, and no deaths resulted.

DIPHTHERIA.

Only 6 cases of this disease have been notified during the year, and no death has resulted therefrom. Two of them were imported cases and occurred in visiting children, one from Coventry and one from Bakewell. This is a disease that can be fairly safely treated at home, and if medical help is called in early in the case, and antitoxion injected, it is robbed of half its terror, and affords reasonable hope of recovery. The same measures are still being adopted as described in previous Reports for preventing the spread of this disease, and in no single instance has a second case occurred in the same house. The throats of the patients are still swabbed, and submitted to bacteriological examination before return to school is permitted.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

It is a little disconcerting to find that four cases of this disease were notified during the year. Three of them occurred in different parts of the parish, and no history could be obtained to account for them. The fourth case was directly attributable to one of the others, and occurred in a woman who was a near neighbour, and who had not only been going to the house, but had also lent body and bed linen. All made an excellent recovery. In one of the cases, as the patient was engaged in the milk trade, I thought it desirable to have a bacteriological examination made of his fæces at the end of three months, and before he returned to work, to prove that he was not a "carrier," or one who, though apparently recovered, was still passing the typhoid bacilli. Such cases occasionally occur, and are a source of great danger to the community. Special precautions were taken in all the cases, a covered in galvanized pail was provided for the reception of all the dejecta, and these were emptied by one of your own men daily, and the contents buried deeply on the farm.

Where the water carriage system is not installed, the ordinary sanitary tub is a source of great danger, and adds to the anxiety of your Sanitary Officials. In one instance, your Council provided a nurse

owing to the indigent circumstances of the patient and the danger of allowing indiscriminate nursing.

ERYSIPELAS.

The four cases of this disease call for no special comment. I still feel the notification of this disease in private life is a superfluity, and might be dispensed with.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

That no case of this disease was notified during the year speaks well for the care and skill exercised by the medical men and midwives on their lying-in patients.

Fortunately in Beeston we have now none of the old fashioned, uneducated and untrained midwives, their places being taken by highly trained women, who are fully competent to attend ordinary straightforward confinements, and who are quick to see danger, and anticipate it by sending for medical help if necessity arises.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

This disease became compulsorily notifiable on April 1st, 1914, under a special order of the Local Government Board. The Order applies to all medical men and midwives to whose attention the disease first becomes noticeable, and they are compelled to notify it on specified forms to the Medical Officer of Health, subject to the usual penalties for non-compliance with the Order.

The disease itself is a specific inflammation of the eye or eyes of the new born, and which, if neglected, may lead to total blindness. It is computed that one-third of the total blindness in the country is due to this disease, which if properly treated, and taken in hand early, can be cured. On the theory that "prevention is better than cure" every properly trained nurse and midwife cleanses the eyes of the newborn with some mild antiseptic, but if in spite of this, inflammation sets in, then it is the duty of those in charge—medical man or midwife—to notify the case to the M.O.H., and his duty to see that proper and systematic treatment is carried out. I take it that the Order applies more to midwives than medical men, for the simple reason that the latter are fully aware of the danger attending such cases, and will institute immediate treatment on rational lines. One such case has been notified since April 1st, and made a good recovery.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS AND CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

These diseases are closely allied, and have been compulsorily notifiable since August, 1912. Cerebro-Spinal Fever occurs in epidemic form, and is due to the invasion through the lining membrane of the nose and pharynx of a specific organism, the meningococcus. It is a very fatal disease, and somewhat difficult to diagnose. Fortunately no case of either of these diseases has been notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year under review, 14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Consumption have been notified to me, and 5 cases of Tuberculosis of other organs. Of the 14 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, no less than 12 were males, which is a much larger proportion than usually happens. The total number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, is eight, while four deaths from other Tuberculous diseases have taken place. The following table shows our record of deaths for the past 10 years :

		Phthisis.	Other Tuberculous diseases.
1914	..	8	4
1913	..	11	3
1912	..	11	3
1911	..	9	6
1910	..	10	4
1909	..	5	2
1908	..	7	8
1907	..	9	4
1906	..	6	2
1905	..	14	8
		—	—
		9.0	4.4

A mortality of .66 per 1000 per annum for Phthisis alone, and of 1.0 for all Tuberculous diseases, though slightly better than the previous years, is still far too high for a disease which if taken in hand early is fairly amenable to treatment, and which is largely due to our artificial mode of living.

Since January 1st, 1913, all cases of Tuberculosis, whether of the lungs or other organs have become compulsorily notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health, whose business it is to keep accurate records of such cases, and to give suitable advice as to the best methods of preventing the spread of the disease to others. This is done by personal visits, and by printed information being left dealing with the precautions to be adopted in the interest of the patient, and, more particularly, the other inmates of the house. Any defects in the patient's surroundings, such as damp walls, insufficient ventilation, or other sanitary defects are noted, and if possible removed. Subsequent visits are paid at intervals, and the progress of the case noted. I have in many previous Reports described the nature and causation of Tuberculosis, more particularly as effecting the lungs, and cannot add anything to what I have previously said, except to express disappointment that more has not yet been done by the County Authorities under the National Insurance Act. Much was anticipated, and I suppose, time is required to organise new work of that description. At present, the only means at our disposal are :

1. The Ransom Sanatorium, with 42 beds. This is altogether inadequate to deal with even the early cases which are most benefited by Sanatorium treatment.

2.—One dispensary in Goldsmith Street, where consumptives can be examined and treated by one of the two Tuberculosis Doctors appointed by the County Council.

3.—The Domiciliary visits of one of the two trained nurses, who are empowered to order milk, eggs, etc. where they think it desirable and needful.

Roughly speaking, consumption may be divided into three classes: (1) early cases, with good general health, and whose condition is curable; (2) More advanced cases, who will improve to a certain extent under suitable conditions, but who will probably relapse after their discharge from a Sanatorium; (3) Advanced cases, who will not recover under any circumstances, and who will steadily get worse. The use of a Sanatorium to the first class of patients is as a curative institution, but unfortunately, the class is a small one, as it is seldom that patients are aware of their condition until advancing towards the second class, and may not even seek advice until they have drifted into the second class. This is where the Tuberculosis Officer comes in, and his services as an expert can be called in by the private practitioner, to help in the diagnosis.

The second class, as a rule, derive no lasting personal benefit from residence in a sanatorium. A few cases may recover, and many will improve, but so soon as they are removed from their healthy surroundings, they relapse. Still, from an educational point of view, they have benefited, in so far as they have been taught to live non-infectious lives, and to realize the importance of fresh air, sunshine and good suitable food.

As regards the third class, any institutional treatment is of little avail, yet it is these cases that are such a source of danger to those brought into close contact with them, either in their own houses, or the workshop. The only rational method of dealing with this class, seems to me to be to segregate them in farm colonies, where they can live the open air life, and do work according to their capabilities. Such colonies might not be self-supporting, but any expense incurred would be more than counter-balanced by removing the patients from unhealthy, to healthy surroundings, by safeguarding their relatives and friends, and by giving them suitable and light employment under the best possible conditions.

Meantime, much might be done by the people themselves, if they could be taught to lead rational, healthy, and open air lives. Man was never intended to be cooped up in houses, and congregated in large towns. Nature always resents contraventions of her laws, and if people will sleep in rooms with tightly closed windows, chimneys blocked up, and doors shut, then they must expect to suffer in health, even if they do not develop the more serious trouble we have been considering.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES.

In June, we had a sharp epidemic of this disease, and three deaths resulted. In the absence of notification of this disease, it is difficult to know exactly when it commences, and by the time it is brought to our attention, an epidemic is in full swing. It usually begins in the Infant Department, and if the teachers would collaborate with us, and notify me of the early cases, the timely closing of an odd class, might prevent further spread, and possibly the necessity of closing the whole school at a later date. As it was, I kept in close touch with the School Attendance Officer—Mr. Freeman—and had bi-weekly returns of the absences reported to me. At no time did the attendance of scholars go below 85%, and therefore I couldn't see the necessity, in spite of outside pressure, of closing the schools.

I can only repeat what I have said in many previous Reports, that this disease, far from being the trivial complaint, most parents consider it, leads to more deaths than all the other infectious diseases put together. This mortality is not due so much to the severity of the disease itself, as to the lung complications which come in its train. For this reason, too much care cannot be given to children starting with measles, to keep them in bed at a uniform temperature, so as to avoid chest troubles as far as possible.

WHOOPING COUGH.

This was at no time prevalent during the year. It is a most distressing complaint, and somewhat fatal in very young children. One death resulted.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA.

This is essentially a "filth disease," and seldom occurs in cleanly or well regulated households. It is a preventible disease, and depends for its origin on insanitary surroundings, and improper care in the preparation and preservation of food, more especially in the case of infants. This is shown by the fact that breast fed babies seldom suffer from it. So long as milk and other foods are left exposed to the attention of the ubiquitous house fly, so long will this disease, given suitable atmospheric conditions, levy its toll of infant victims. The only way we, as a Sanitary Authority can lessen the evil is to see that heaps of manure and other garbage in the vicinity of houses—the natural breeding place of the house fly—are removed weekly, and in the course of time, to convert our present system of dry pails to the water carriage plan. Owing to the comparatively cool summer of 1914, Diarrhœa was at no time very prevalent, yet I find four deaths in infants occurred in September from this disease.

MILK SUPPLY.

The importance of this question must be my excuse for again referring to it, in what, I fear must be in somewhat disparaging terms.

Milk forms such an important part in the dietary of all persons, but more particularly in young children, that all those engaged in its production and distribution cannot be too careful in seeing that it is kept free from outside contamination in every possible way. To ensure this, the sheds should be clean, well ventilated, whitewashed quarterly, and free from dust; the approaches to the sheds should also be well drained and free from manure, which in too many instances is kept in close proximity, the flanks and tails of the cows should be groomed daily, and the udders and teats washed immediately before milking. The milker should wear a clean and washable overall, and his hands should be scrupulously clean. The milk pails and other vessels used for storage, must be recently scalded, and the retailer should be equally careful in protecting the milk from dust and dirt by keeping it in covered pails on his rounds, and by not exposing it in open vessels in his shop or dairy. With these simple precautions, which would entail very little trouble and expense, the public would be insured a clean wholesome supply, and be safeguarded from many ailments, the causation of which may seem to be obscure.

Under the new Milk Bill it is now an offence to sell or dispose of milk which is known to have come from a tuberculous cow, or from a cow suffering from any disease liable to infect or contaminate the milk. I still feel that, without skilled veterinary help, it is difficult for us as a Sanitary Authority, to see that this clause in the Bill is efficiently carried out. During this year, we have on at least two occasions, inspected all the cowsheds, dairies, and milk shops, in the parish, and with a few exceptions, have been satisfied with the results. In one cowshed, the floor was in very bad condition, allowing puddles of liquid manure to accumulate, and in two others, heaps of manure were found too near the sheds to be healthy. All these defects were remedied at our request. I am glad to find that the fear of fresh air ingrained in most farmers is gradually being eradicated. The three animals, most susceptible to tuberculosis, viz. : man, monkeys, and cows, are the ones most unfortunately, which have been ordained to be cooped up in warm, ill-ventilated buildings. Now that the true cause of tuberculosis has been discovered, and the life history of the tubercle bacillus investigated, a more rational method of living, with plenty of fresh air and sunshine has been instituted, with manifest advantage to all three.

The following is an analysis of work done.

	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Defects found and remedied.
Cowkeepers	5	10	4
Dairies and Milk Shops ..	15	30	0
There are in the Parish :			
Cowkeepers	5		
Cows	98		
Milk Sellers	15		
Cowsheds	10		

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

No instance of poisoning by any article of food was brought to my notice during the year. Your Sanitary Inspector pays frequent visits to butchers and fish shops on Friday and Saturday nights, and every opportunity is taken during our visits to the slaughter houses to examine any carcasses recently killed for evidence of tubercle or other disease. He also keeps an eye on the hawkers of perishable goods who come from outside the district. No meat or other food commodity has been condemned as unfit, though some has been taken down to the farm by the shopkeepers themselves to be destroyed.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

The work under this beneficent Act, is now being carried on much more smoothly than was the case for the first two or three years. The Housing Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Everett Stevens, meet regularly once a month, and take an active interest in the work. After considering our Reports, they personally visit the properties, and satisfy themselves that our recommendations are justified. This is a class of work that cannot be rushed, and the number of houses we have inspected, and reported upon may seem small when compared with the total number in the parish. I presume the Act has been introduced in order to improve the bad class of property, and we have therefore concentrated our attention on the old blocks of buildings which were built prior to the introduction of our building bye-laws, and which therefore present many defects. This entails very careful inspection and measurements of every room of every house, with accurate notes of defects found, the number of occupants, the sleeping accommodation, and condition of back yards and approaches to the house. All this is necessary, not only for our own information, but in case our recommendations are disputed by the owners and litigation ensues.

One of our principal difficulties is in dealing with old property, the occupiers of which are elderly couples, with strictly limited means—the sort of house which lets at from 1/6 to 2/6 a week. If these small, low-rented houses are pulled down, there are no others available for this class of tenant, and they are stranded. The only course open at present is to require the owner to put such property in a reasonable state of repair as the circumstances demand. Some commiseration is due to landlords when they get dirty tenants in their houses. Unfortunately, there are many such in Beeston, and they move from house to house, with the utmost regularity, leaving their traces behind them in the form of dirty, verminous dilapidated dwellings. A black list of such tenants ought to be made, and submitted to the various owners of property, so that they would have an increasing difficulty in obtaining houses, and would from sheer necessity have to amend their ways.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE.

The number of dwelling houses inspected under Section 17 of the Act	206
Number found unfit for habitation	100
Number of representatives made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	100
Closing Orders made	none
Number of houses remedied without making Closing Orders ..	61
Number of houses demolished (from Closing Orders made the previous year)	6
Number of houses now in course of repair	39

I would again wish to emphasise the fact that in the majority of cases the owners meet us in a friendly spirit, and raise little or no objection to our reasonable demands.

As an example of what can be done in connection with this work, I would draw your attention to Victor Terrace, Wollaton Road. Here a number of back to back houses with no sanitary conveniences such as sinks, coppers, or sufficient closet accommodation have now been made "through" houses with every convenience and comfort, W.C's to each house, pantry accommodation, damp course, and well paved approaches to each house. Altogether, they are now model dwellings, and I hope the landlord will be suitably rewarded by securing good tenants.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND OUTWORKERS.

In several previous Reports, I have outlined the difference between factories and workshops, and explained the kind of work that we as a Sanitary Authority have to do in connection with them. Briefly put, it is to see that they are kept clean and wholesome, that the sanitary conveniences are adequate, separate for the sexes, and in proper working order, and that adequate means of escape exist in case of fire. No new factory has been erected during the year, and the subdivision of the Anglo-Scotian and Black's Works into separate tenancies is now completed. During our inspections, we found, on several occasions the approaches to the fire escapes blocked by all kinds of rammel. This should not be allowed, as it defeats the very object of the escape, and might, in an emergency, lead to loss of life. Special attention has been devoted to the 17 bakehouses, and 8 slaughter-houses, and I am glad to say they are conducted on cleanly and sanitary principles. There are no underground bakehouses in the parish. With regard to Outworkers, our chief concern is to see that no work is done in a house where any infectious disease is known to exist. Reference to the Table in the Appendix will show the work we have done under the Factories and Workshops Act.

Appended are the usual Local Government Board Tables.

In concluding this Report, I would again desire to express my gratitude to the Chairman, and to every member of the Council for their unvarying kindness to myself, and for their consideration of any suggestions I may have had to make. I am much indebted to Mr. E. A. Bush—your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—for valuable information and assistance in the production of this Report, and to Mr. A. Kirkland for the estimate of population and other figures necessary in forming my statistics.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK ROTHERA, M.D., etc.,

Medical Officer of Health

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1914 and previous years.

NAME OF DISTRICT—BEESTON (NOTTS.)

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	11286	279		24·7	99	8·7		15	26	91·3	114	10·1
1910	11817	309		26·1	117	9·9		13	32	103·5	130	11·0
1911	11314	299	304	26·8	118	10·4		20	30	98·6	138	12·1
1912	11700	329	331	28·1	117	10·0		16	20	60·7	133	11·3
1913	12042	323	324	26·9	110	9·1	2	15	33	102·1	123	10·2
1914	11991	312	312	26·0	125	10·4	0	20	29	96·1	145	12·0

Area of District in acres
(land and inland
water) } 1,586

Total population at all ages, 11,341
Total families or separate occupiers 2,728
Average number of persons per house, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

} At Census
of 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

Name of District—*BEESTON, (NOTTS.)*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							Total Cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.		65 and Upw'ds
Small Pox ..	0							
Cholera ..	0							
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	6		2	2	1	1		
Erysipelas ..	4				1	2	1	
Scarlet Fever ..	9		2	4	1	2		
Typhus Fever ..	0							
Enteric Fever ..	4					3	1	
Relapsing Fever ..	0							
Continued Fever ..	0							
Puerperal Fever ..	0							
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	0							
Poliomyelitis ..	0							
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	1						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14				7	4	3	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5			1	2	2		
Totals ..	43	1	4	7	12	14	5	

*Nottingham General Hospital—for Enteric Fever.**Nottingham Isolation Hospital, Bagthorpe, Nottingham—for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria (by permission).**Rushcliffe Hospital, Hucknall Torkard—for Small-pox only.**Ransom Sanatorium, Mansfield. for Phthisis only.*

TABLE III. Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1914.

NAME OF DISTRICT—BEESTON (NOTTS.)

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 2 years. 4	2 and under 5 years. 5	5 and under 15 years. 6	15 and under 25 years. 7	25 and under 45 years. 8	45 and under 65 years. 9	65 and upwards. 10	
All causes { Certified ..	144									
{ Uncertified.	1	1								
Enteric Fever ..	0									
Small Pox ..	0									
Measles ..	3		1		2					
Scarlet Fever ..	0									
Whooping Cough ..	1			1						
Diphtheria and Croup ..	0									
Influenza ..	1						1			
Erysipelas ..	0									
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	8					2	5	1		
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	0									
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	4	1			1	1	1			
Cancer, malignant disease	14							8	6	
Rheumatic Fever ..	0									
Meningitis ..	1						1			
Organic Heart Disease	15							6	9	
Bronchitis ..	16	5	4				1		6	
Pneumonia (all forms)	11	4	3	1			1	1	1	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ..	2			1					1	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	4	4								
Appendicitis & Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	4							3	1	
Alcoholism ..	1						1			
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	5				1			3	1	
Puerperal Fever ..	0									
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1						1			
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	12	12								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ..	3					1	1		1	
Suicides ..	3					1		1	1	
Other Defined Diseases	35	2	1	1	1	1	5	8	16	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	0									
	145	29	9	4	5	6	18	31	43	0

TABLE IV

BEESTON (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT. Infant Mortality.

1914. *Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes { Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
{ Uncertified	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Small-pox										0
Chicken-pox										0
Measles										0
Scarlet Fever										0
Whooping-cough										0
Diphtheria and Croup										0
Erysipelas										0
Tuberculous Meningitis										0
Abdominal Tuberculosis								1		1
Other Tuberculous Diseases										0
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)										0
Convulsions										0
Laryngitis										0
Bronchitis						1	3	1		5
Pneumonia (all forms)							2		2	4
Diarrhœa						3		1		4
Enteritis										0
Gastritis										0
Syphilis										0
Rickets										0
Suffocation, overlying										0
Injury at birth	1				1					1
Atelectasis										0
Congenital Malformations	1		1		2					2
Premature birth	4	1	1	2	8					8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus						2	1			3
Other causes										0
	6	1	2	2	11	6	7	3	2	29

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 298
 { illegitimate 14

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 26
 { illegitimate infants 3

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1914, for the Urban District of Beeston (Notts.),

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	192	15	0
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	190	8	0
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	4	0	0
Total	386	23	0

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—				
Want of cleanliness	12	12	0	0
Want of ventilation	0			
Overcrowding	0			
Want of drainage of floors	0			
Other nuisances	0			
Sanitary accommodation :				
Insufficient	0			
Unsuitable or Defective	6	6		
Not separate for sexes	0			
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	0			
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	0			
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	4	4	Insufficient or obstructed	escapes.
Total	22	22		

3.—Home Work.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						Notices served on Ocu'pi's as to keeping or sending Lists.
	Lists received from Employers.						
	Sending twice in the year.			Sending once in the year.			
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.		
Contr-actors		Work-men.	Contr-actors		Work-men.		
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c., Hosiery Embroidery ..	8	3	7				
Lace, lace curtains & nets ..	10		139	12		16	50
Total ..	18	3	146	12		16	50

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.						Number.
Important classes of Work-shops, such as workshop Bakehouses may be enumerated here:—	Factories .. .. .	..	..	..	..	48
	Bakehouses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	17
	Slaughter Houses ..	..	..	..	..	8
	Tailors .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3
	Dressmakers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	6
	Plumbers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5
	Joiners and Builders ..	..	..	..	..	7
	Wheelwrights .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2
	Printers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2
	Painters .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7
	Various .. .. .	..	..	..	..	8
	Total number of Workshops on Register ..						113

(Signed) **FRANK ROTHERA,**

February 1st, 1915.

Medical Officer of Health.

THE WEATHER OF 1914.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS,

TAKEN AT THE OLD MANOR HOUSE, BEESTON, NOTTS.

104 Feet above Sea Level.

Readings at 9 a.m. Daily.

TEMPERATURE.

RAINFALL.

MONTH.	MEAN.	Above or below Mean.	TOTAL FALL.	Above or below average.	No. of Rainy Days.	Most in 24 Hours	DATE
January ..	38.5	+1.1	1.47	— .51	16	.32	9th
February	43.4	+4.8	1.16	— .61	16	.26	21st
March ..	42.7	+1.7	2.57	+ .68	19	.36	7th
April ..	49.1	+3.4	.89	— .83	9	.25	5th
May ..	51.3	— .7	2.15	— .04	14	.93	22nd
June ..	58.7	+ .9	2.23	+ .16	10	1.06	9th
July ..	61.6	+ .6	2.95	+ .20	20	.55	16th
August ..	61.3	+1.6	2.40	+ .33	14	.68	2nd
September	56.	+ .3	.78	—1.19	12	.30	12th
October ..	50.6	+2.1	2.13	— .73	13	.56	25th
November	48.3	+3.7	3.56	+1.35	20	.68	11th
December	37.7	— .3	5.19	+2.75	25	.67	28th
	49.9		27.48		188		

Mean of 30 years, 47.3.

Total average Fall for 30 years, 26.58.

TEMPERATURE.

The highest reading in Screen at 4 ft. occurred on July 1st, viz., 85° F.

The lowest reading in Screen at 4 ft. occurred on Jan. 1st, viz., 16° F.

The number of readings above 80° F was 6.

The number of readings below 32° F was 61.

RAINFALL.

The total fall for the year, viz.: 27.48 is .90 inches more than the average for the last 30 years. Up to the end of October, we were well below the average, but a wet November, and a very wet December, more than equalized it. Very little snow fell during the year. The most characteristic features of the year were the wonderfully warm and dry April (the last 19 days without rain) and the wet December, when only 6 days were rainless.

FRANK ROTHERA.

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