

[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Beeston U.D.C.

Contributors

Beeston (Nottinghamshire, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1919

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/qb4vyfq9>

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>

Beeston Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1919.



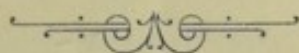
NOTTINGHAM:

E. H. LEE, 71 Upper Parliament Street.



BEESTON

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Members of the Council.

MR. W. THOMAS, J.P. (*Chairman*).

MR. C. P. WALKER (*Vice-Chairman*).

MRS. B. H. HART.

MR. W. IRELAND.

„ E. LITTLEWOOD.

„ A. E. NEVETT.

MR. J. R. ANDERSON.

„ H. PARRY.

„ W. BOSTOCK.

„ I. THORNHILL.

„ G. BURROWS.

„ W. THUMS,

„ W. H. GEORGE.

„ O. D. TITCOMBE.

„ J. HEARD.

Officers.

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

W. H. PARKINSON, M.D., D.P.H. (*Medical Officer of Health*).

MR. WALTER F. BICKFORD (*Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector*).

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

NURSE R. E. STANNARD (*Health Visitor*).

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1919.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. HART, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my first Annual Report, which deals with the vital statistics and sanitary condition of your District for the year 1919.

I took up my duties on the resignation of my predecessor, Dr. Geo. Chalmers, at the beginning of February, 1919, and have continued to serve in this capacity since that date.

During the year under review, the new Ministry of Health has come into existence and replaces the old Local Government Board. Much in the direction of unification of health services with the abolition of many examples of overlapping and multiple control, is expected of the new Ministry, and although the latter is still in its infancy, there is evidence that such expectations are likely to be realised. It will be possible to write with fuller knowledge on this matter when the time arrives to prepare my report for 1920.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health is showing considerable activity especially in the matter of Housing and much pressure is being brought to bear on local authorities in this direction.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

According to the Census of 1911, the population of Beeston was 11,341, there were 2,728 families and separate occupiers of houses and the average number of persons per house was $4\frac{1}{8}$.

For the year 1919 the Registrar General has again supplied two figures of population; one for determining the Birth Rate and the other for the Death Rate. These figures which are 12,649 and 12,143 respectively, have been used in the calculation of the vital statistics which appear later in this Report.

There are now 3,020 separate families or occupiers of houses, and an average of 4.22 persons per house.

The official figures of population supplied by the Registrar-General can hardly be considered entirely satisfactory, and probably under estimate the actual facts; but it is recognised that there are great difficulties at the present time, in arriving at any reliable figures of population for the following reasons:—

1. The year in question is one of the last of the inter-censal years when errors of estimation are always greater than in the years immediately following a Census.

2. This difficulty has been enormously increased by the war, which has taken many of the male population from the District for active service, and has also brought large numbers of persons of both sexes from other districts, for the purpose of working at the neighbouring Munition Works. These works have now closed down, and this has resulted in a further change of numbers of population, the extent of which it is almost impossible to determine.

For these reasons the new Census, which is due in 1921 is eagerly awaited by all Health Authorities, and the figures, when available, will conduce to more accurate and consequently more instructive vital statistics than are possible at present.

Underlying the town of Beeston is sandstone rock, upon which is a layer of gravel and gravel grit which has been brought down by the River Trent.

There is a gentle slope in the direction of North to South, which extends from 212 feet above the sea level at the top of Wollaton Road, to 80 feet at the level of the Trent, which forms the southern boundary of the District.

As a result of this slope and the nature of the subsoil, ready drainage to the river takes place.

The town is free from liability to flooding except at the south of Queen's Road where flooding very occasionally occurs, as the result of heavy and continuous rain.

The total area of the district is 1,536 acres, giving a population of 8.2 per acre.

The principal occupations of the district are the manufacture of lace in its various processes, telephone works, a foundry, horticultural builders and other engineering works.

None of these industries are likely to affect, adversely, the health of the District, which compares favourably with that of other towns.

The vital statistics for 1919 are given in tabular form on a subsequent page, but may be summarised here:—

Birth Rate: 17.55; Infant Mortality Rate: 99.1; Crude Death Rate, 10.36; Corrected Death Rate, 11.77 per thousand.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

Beeston is in the fortunate position of having a wholesome water supply in all parts of the town.

This is derived from the mains of the Nottingham Corporation; it is a constant supply and of excellent quality.

I know of no houses in the district which depend upon wells for their domestic supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only streams are the River Trent, which forms the southern boundary of the District, and the canal belonging to the Trent Navigation Company, which adjoins the river. There is no evidence of serious pollution in either of these.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The whole town is adequately sewered with drains and sewers of modern design, with the exception of Dovecote Lane, which is low lying, and liable at times to flooding, and twelve houses in Silver Hill which empty into two cesspools, which are emptied at regular intervals by the Council.

The whole of the sewage from the town flows by gravitation underneath the Midland Railway to the new Sewage Works, situated in the southern part of the district between the Railway and the River Trent. These works were constructed in 1915. They are of modern design and of ample capacity to deal effectively with the present requirements of the town, and with any reasonable extension that may be expected for a number of years.

They consist of three Dortmund Tanks, four filter beds, culvert, engine house, pumps and destructor. They were completed during 1916, and were first used in August of that year, since when they have operated uninterruptedly.

The effluent is good, but would be even better if the last filter bed were filled with media and put into operation. This would have the effect of relieving to some extent the volume of work per filter. Those at present in use are occasionally overtaxed and show evidence of "ponding" at times. This matter certainly requires taking in hand as soon as possible.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

At the present time there are in the Parish 1,050 Water Closets, 2,336 Pail Closets, 15 Privy Middens and 25 Ashpits separate from privies.

An undertaking was given to the Local Government Board in 1913 by the Council, gradually to convert the whole of the Dry Closets into Water Closets as soon as the new Sewage Works were completed.

The war, however, rendered impossible the redemption of this promise as early as was anticipated. This matter has not escaped the notice of the Council; it has recently (March, 1920) been discussed by the Health Committee, who resolved to proceed with the conversions as soon as possible, at the rate of 500 per annum.

This resolution was subsequently confirmed by the full Council, it is, therefore anticipated that within four years the town will be practically free from the extremely unhygienic pail closet.

At the present time, the whole town is properly scavenged by the Council, the nightsoil being taken to the Destructor, and there burnt without any nuisance being caused.

The pails are all removed from the houses and carefully cleansed by steam before being used again.

A number of the pails at the present time are constructed of wood—this I regard as extremely undesirable, but I understand that the wooden pails have been adopted merely as a war measure, because it was found entirely impossible to secure metal containers in sufficient numbers.

Substitution of metal pails for those constructed of wood has already commenced, and will doubtless continue until these are entirely abolished.

In the case of the houses provided with pail closets, the pails are used for dry ashes in addition to night-soil, and are scavenged as above described.

Ash Bins are provided at the "Water Closet" houses, and are similarly emptied by the Council. This work is performed quite satisfactorily and with a minimum of nuisance. In nearly every case moveable ash bins with proper covering are already supplied, and the remainder were gradually being converted until 1914, since when, owing to the war, little progress has been made. This matter is now being dealt with, and I hope to be able to report substantial improvement in this direction during the ensuing year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The whole of the District has been systematically inspected by your Sanitary Inspector and myself. Over 300 visits were made by the Inspector in respect of defective drains and other nuisances.

71 informal notices were served in respect of the following nuisances:—

Stopped up or defective drains, sewers, gullies ...	...	18
Accumulations of trade refuse ...	...	2
Unsound Meat ...	...	1
Insufficient Ashpit accommodation ...	...	8
Stagnant water in cellars or under floors ...	...	1
Unwholesome and filthy premises ...	...	1
Defective Closets ...	...	5
Defective fall pipes ...	...	1
Defective roofs and ceilings ...	...	16
Defective fencing ...	...	1
Various ...	...	17
Total ...		71

It was not necessary to issue any statutory notices, and no summonses were taken out during the year.

PREMISES WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

There are no houses let in lodgings, common lodging houses or underground sleeping rooms in the district.

The only case of an offensive trade is that of a skin and hide factory, which is conducted on satisfactory lines and no nuisance caused.

SCHOOLS.

There are two Public Elementary Schools in Beeston, viz., Church Street Council and Nether Street Council Schools. Each consists of three separate departments—Boys', Girls', and Infants'. They are of modern construction, and generally satisfactory for their purpose. All six departments are supplied with water from the town's mains.

Closure on account of epidemic disease was found necessary in the case of the Church Street Infants' Department. This was closed by my advice from November 17th to November 28th, on account of the epidemic of Measles then in progress.

FOOD.**MILK SUPPLY.**

Little change has been effected in the sanitary state of the cowsheds of the District during the year. I find that the late Medical Officer of Health has repeatedly reported during recent years on the unsatisfactory state of these premises. From my inspections, I am in entire agreement with his remarks. They are still far from satisfactory and are in many instances in such a state as to render the cleanly and hygienic production of milk well nigh impossible. Nothing short of demolition and total reconstruction will suffice in some cases.

The Council's control over such premises is seriously handicapped by the non-adoption of regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders. This is a matter which I commend to their notice for immediate consideration; as no factor in the whole of the Public Health is more important than the provision of a wholesome milk supply and no form of sanitary neglect brings in its train more serious results especially to the children of the District.

During the year all have been inspected by myself and your Inspector, and in a number of cases where cowsheds were not clean and required lime washing, the defects were remedied on notice being called to them.

The following is an analysis of work done:—

	Number on		Inspections.		Defects found	
	Register.				and Remedied.	
Cowkeepers	...	7	...	14	...	3
Dairies & Milk Shops	...	21	...	42	...	0

There are in the parish:—

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	7
Cows	...	...	...	...	103
Milk Sellers	...	...	...	...	21
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	15

MILK FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN ORDER, 1919.

The question of taking action under this order was duly considered by the Council, who requested me to report any case in which the provisions might be of value. No such case came to my notice during the year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Frequent inspections have been made by myself and your Inspector during the year, and it is a cause of satisfaction to be able to report that taking into consideration the extremely difficult state of the national food question, the large amount of inferior meat and other foods being sold, and the fact that butchers are no longer able to select meat for themselves, but have to accept whatever is allocated to them; the quality of the meat exhibited for sale has been so good.

One beast suffering from generalised tuberculosis and a hind quarter of beef affected with general decomposition, were brought to my notice during the year, being voluntarily surrendered by the owners.

All slaughtering is done on private premises, these are kept in a cleanly condition and are fairly satisfactory. Some are dark and inconvenient, and the desirability of the provision of a Public Abattoir is a matter which should receive early consideration.

No action has been found necessary during the year under the provisions of Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 276; this figure is 27 less than that of 1918, and 51 more than that in 1917.

During the year the following diseases, which became notifiable for the first time contributed 52 cases:—Pneumonia 47, Malaria 4, Trench Fever 1. To obtain a figure comparable with previous years these 52 notifications should be deducted from the total of 276, leaving 224, which compares well with the 303 of 1918, and the 225 of 1917.

The following table shews the monthly incidence of these diseases:—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Tuberculosis.	Measles.	German Measles.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Pneumonia.	Malaria.	Trench Fever.
January	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
February	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
March	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	41	0	0
April	1	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	1	0
May	1	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
June	1	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
July	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1
August	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
September	4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
October	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
November	22	1	1	0	85	0	0	0	1	0
December	16	2	1	2	34	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	63	9	5	11	128	6	2	47	4	1

The methods of control adopted by my predecessor and described by him in his Reports, have been carried out again this year, either by myself or your Sanitary Inspector.

These include visitation of patients for the purpose of giving instruction as to the proper isolation of the patient and investigations into the sanitary arrangements of the premises; inquiries as to the probable source of infection; disinfection of premises after infection has ceased to exist; free supply of diphtheria antitoxin in necessitous cases, etc.

In addition, an important advance has been made during the year by the provision of free hospital treatment for cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, for all persons who are willing to accept it.

The Council have made arrangements with the neighbouring Rural District Council of Basford, whereby cases of such diseases are treated at the Basford Infectious Diseases Hospital. This is a modern institution, adequately equipped for the purpose for which it is intended, and under my administrative control, acting in the capacity of Medical Officer of Health to the Rural District of Basford.

All the doctors have been notified of these arrangements, and have been invited to co-operate with me in securing that full advantage be taken of the facilities offered.

I consider this a very valuable provision which should do much to secure the more effective control of these diseases. I am, nevertheless, of the opinion that the Council should consider carefully the advisability of erecting and maintaining their own Isolation Hospital.

Such a course would offer the following advantages over the present arrangements:—

1. The conveyance of patients for several miles by ambulance with the attendant risk and at considerable expense, would be avoided.
2. Under the present arrangements, patients from Beeston are only admitted conditionally upon there being room available, preference naturally being given by Basford to patients from their own District. The result has been, already, that Beeston patients have already been refused admission on several occasions.

SMALL POX.

I must take the opportunity which the preparation of this Report offers me, of re-echoing the warning so often sounded by my predecessor, the late Dr. Rothera, as to the grave risk of the spread of this disease as a result of the very general neglect of vaccination under the conscientious objection clause of the Vaccination Acts. As a result, a very large percentage of the children of the district and indeed of the country as a whole, are now unprotected, and in the event of the disease being imported into the town, a very extensive and very serious epidemic would almost inevitably follow. Our only hope lies in the immediate detection and isolation of the first case, with supervision, segregation and vaccination of all known contacts. Fortunately, we possess the means to do this by reason of our share in the Rushcliffe Isolation Hospital, Hucknall. It is imperative that we retain our interest in this Institution which should be kept ready at all times for immediate use in case of emergency.

No case of Small Pox has occurred during the year, or indeed, since 1904, when two were notified.

DIPHTHERIA.

Nine cases of this disease were notified during the year, one of which died. Bacteriological diagnosis is available in every instance, and antitoxin is supplied free to all necessitous cases.

ENTERIC FEVER.

It is gratifying to be able to report the complete absence of this disease during the year, especially so as this is the first year since 1910 without one or more cases.

The ordinary sanitary tub, at present so common in Beeston, is a source of great danger in this disease and a cause of great anxiety to your Health Officials, which will only be abated when the complete abolition of the conservancy system in favour of water carriage is completed.

ERYSIPELAS.

Five cases of this disease occurred during the year, all recovered, and no further comment is called for.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

No case of this disease occurred during 1919, and with the exception of one in 1916, there have been none notified for the last ten years. This reflects great credit on the professional attainments and skill of

the medical practitioners and midwives of the town. One case appears as a cause of death during the year, this, however, was a death transferred from another district, and relates to a patient ordinarily resident in Beeston but who died and probably contracted the disease while away from home. This, therefore, reflects no discredit on the Beeston District or its medical services.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 11 cases of this disease have been notified, 10 of the lungs and one of the hip. This is not quite so good as the figures for 1918, when 7 cases were notified, but much better than those of the previous five years, in which, there were 17, 20, 20, 19, and 13 respectively. The total number of deaths from this cause was 13, 11 of which were of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 of tuberculous meningitis. This gives a mortality rate for Phthisis alone of .906, and 1.07 for all forms of tuberculosis.

MEASLES.

No less than 128 of the total of 276 notifications during the year were for this disease; which assumed epidemic proportions in the last two months of the year. As only the first case in each family was notifiable, the figure quoted above gives no idea of the extent of the epidemic. This was at its height during the month of November, when 85 cases were notified, and was definitely on the wane during December, when only 34 notifications were received. It is known that it continued into the new year, but with the cessation of notification of the disease on December 31st, 1919, it was more difficult to gauge accurately its extent. No deaths were certified during the year as being due to this cause; this is probably due to the following facts:—Measles itself is rarely a fatal disease, but it frequently prepares the way for fatal complications, such as tuberculosis, broncho-pneumonia, etc. which appear in the Death Certificates without any reference being made to Measles as the primary cause. In this way many deaths which are really the remote results of Measles are ascribed to other causes. Moreover, the epidemic occurred late in the year, with the result that some cases would still be in progress at the end of the period under review, and will probably re-appear in the Death Returns for 1920.

GERMAN MEASLES.

Only six cases of this disease were notified during the year, all recovered, and no special comment is needed.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

This disease, a specific inflammation of the eyes in the new-born child, is one of the effects of venereal disease. Two cases occurred during 1919, one of which was of an illegitimate child. They were treated promptly by medical practitioners, and made good recoveries.

PNEUMONIA.

This disease, which only became notifiable on March 1st, 1919, was very prevalent during the month of March, when 41 cases were notified. It was connected with the epidemic of Influenza then in progress. Only six other cases were notified during the year, giving a total of 47 for the ten months during which the disease was notifiable. 16 deaths were ascribed to this cause, many of which cases commenced as Influenza, the pneumonia being a complication.

MALARIA.

This disease, like pneumonia, dysentery and trench fever, was made notifiable on March 1st, 1919. Four cases were reported: one each in April, July, August, and November. All occurred in patients of military age and of the male sex, and the disease, in every case was probably contracted while on active service overseas.

TRENCH FEVER.

One case was notified in July in a man of military age, and contracted while on active service.

OTHER DISEASES.

There was a complete absence of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Encephalitis Lethargica, and Acute Polio-encephalitis. No case of Whooping Cough was notified during the year, although one death was returned as being due to this cause. Epidemic Diarrhoea was somewhat prevalent during the year, and three deaths occurred from this cause. This is a preventible disease which depends for its origin on insanitary surroundings and want of sufficient cleanliness in the preparation of food, especially of infants during hot weather. The common house fly is a very important factor in its spread, and as these breed very largely in house refuse, the need for the prompt removal of such material from the immediate neighbourhood of dwelling houses becomes obvious and affords an additional and important reason for the speedy conversion of the pail closets into water closets.

INFLUENZA.

This disease, which accounted for 23 deaths, was very prevalent during the month of March, when it assumed epidemic proportions. Although it is not a notifiable disease, the word "Influenza" appeared in no less than 40 of the 47 cases of pneumonia notified during the year. It is certain that there were also many cases of this disease uncomplicated by pneumonia and not fatal, and of which, therefore, I have received no record.

With reference to the question of "Return Cases" of Scarlet Fever; there were in all, four families with multiple cases of this disease, of which the following are particulars:—

Family 1.—Three children in all. The second case occurred 8 days after the first, and was probably infected therefrom; the third did not occur until the lapse of ten weeks, and very possibly was an independent infection.

Family 2.—Three children in all. All taken ill on the same day, and were probably exposed to a common source of infection.

Family 3.—Two children in all. Second case occurred 8 days after the first.

Family 4.—Two cases in all. Second case occurred 15 days after the first.

These cases are certain to occur from time to time, especially when the children are nursed at home, as it is impossible to convince a certain class of parent of the need for carrying out in detail the advice given as to isolation, and indeed, in some cottages, it is difficult to see how isolation can possibly be secured, however anxious and willing the mother may be.

Now that treatment is being provided by the Council at an Isolation Hospital, it may reasonably be hoped that such accidents will be less frequent in future, the risk will be materially reduced now that it is possible to remove the source of infection at once, and to disinfect the premises immediately instead of having to wait for six weeks or so until the patient is free from infection.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Beeston Council undertook the work of Maternity and Child Welfare in its district for the first time in the month of April, 1916, but so far its scheme is incomplete. A more complete one was suggested by myself on September 11th, 1919, in which I expressed the following views as to the duties of the Health Visitor:—

1. To visit as soon as possible and revisit at frequent intervals all infants and children up to the age of five years.
2. To visit all cases of still births, ophthalmia neonatorum, and puerperal fever.
3. To attend and assist at any Infant Welfare or Ante-natal Centre to be opened by the Council.
4. Generally to carry out the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health as far as relates to Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Council considered these recommendations at their October Meeting, and agreed therewith in all particulars with the important exception that the Health Visitor's attention should be confined to children not above two years of age. They have at present the part time services of a Health Visitor, who also practices as a Midwife in the town, she is carrying out the modified scheme outlined above with the exception that owing to the requirements of the Central Midwives' Board she cannot undertake any work of visiting cases of Puerperal Fever. As no cases of this disease have been notified during the year, this difficulty has not so far been a severe one. The Council have not, as yet, a Centre either for Infant Welfare or Ante-natal work, but the matter is under consideration, and now that conditions are getting more normal, a Centre may materialise before next year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of infants under the age of one year was low, being only 22, the figure cannot be considered entirely satisfactory because there was at the same time a considerable reduction in the number of births, viz., 222 as against 257 in 1915, 312 in 1914, and 323 in 1913. This is shown by the fact that the Infantile Mortality Rate keeps up in the neighbourhood of 100 deaths under one year per 1,000 children born. This rate for 1919 is 99.1, while in the years referred to above it was 73.9; 96.1 and 102.1 respectively.

Tabulated below are the causes of death of these infants:—

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	8
Diarrhœa	2
Acute Meningitis	1
Natural Causes—Shock from Scalds	1
Whooping Cough	1
Immaturity	9
Total	22

During the year the Health Visitor has paid 503 visits to infants and young children.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. H. Parkinson, M.D., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR—G. F. Grimwood, C.R.S.I. (resigned December, 1919).

HEALTH VISITOR—Miss R. E. Stannard, C.M.B., cert. 3 years' general training.

ASSISTANT IN HEALTH DEPARTMENT—Miss E. M. Thornhill.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part time official, who devotes his whole time to Public Health, holding the position of Medical Officer of Health to a neighbouring authority. The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Surveyor and Engineer and the Health Visitor practices as a Midwife in addition to her duties for the Council.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The provision for the treatment of infectious diseases has already been dealt with on a previous page; reference has also been made to the Council's share in the Rushcliffe Small Pox Hospital at Hucknall, which it shares with several other authorities. This is kept in constant readiness, but has not been used during the year. The provision is hardly sufficient and would be severely taxed in the event of a widespread epidemic. It has already been stated that the arrangements with the Basford Rural District Council for the treatment of infectious diseases is unsatisfactory, and the reasons for this given. The agreement as to the use of this was only entered into in October, 1919, since when seven cases—all of scarlet fever—were removed during the year.

The following Acts or parts of Acts have been adopted by the Beeston Urban District Council:—

- 1.—Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- 2.—The Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890.
- 3.—The Baths and Wash Houses Acts.
- 4.—The Private Street Works Act, 1892.
- 5.—The Notification of Births Act, 1907.
- 6.—The following parts of the Public Health Act, Amendment Act, 1907.

Parts 2, 3, Sections 52—66 inclusive, Section 68 of Part 4, Parts 5, 6, and 10.

Advantage is taken of the arrangement recently made by the Notts. County Council whereby facilities are offered to all medical practitioners of the County for the free bacteriological and pathological examination of specimens of various kinds. This facility is utilised extensively, especially as regards sputum from Tuberculosis patients and swabs of Diphtheria. Information as to the extent of such use is not yet at my disposal, but will doubtless be published by the County Medical Officer in his Annual Report.

HOUSING.

I.—GENERAL CONDITIONS OF HOUSING IN THE DISTRICT.

The total number of houses in the District is 3,024, this being the same as last year. All building has been at a standstill owing to the prohibitive cost of materials and shortage of labour. No houses for the working classes were erected during the year, and none were in course of construction.

The population of the District is given by the Registrar-General as 12,649, no important changes in population are anticipated in the near future except that of the natural increase of the district. There is a very definite shortage of houses in the district, which was estimated by me at 300 at the end of October, 1919. If anything, the need was rather more acute at the end of the year.

II.—OVERCROWDING.

This is very prevalent in the District, and is due to various causes, among which may be mentioned the following:—There has been an almost complete cessation of building during the war, a considerable number of marriages have taken place, with a corresponding demand for separate houses; the industries of the District have become very prosperous, and have attracted a large number of workpeople from other parts of the country; and lastly, owing to the overcrowding prevailing in the neighbouring city of Nottingham a considerable overflow into Beeston has taken place.

The Council have a housing scheme well in hand, they have purchased 44 acres of land, on which it is intended to build over 400 houses, 100 of which will be started during the next few months.

Little was possible during the year to mitigate the overcrowding, but the preliminary steps were taken to proceed with the Housing Scheme which is now making excellent progress.

III.—FITNESS OF HOUSES.

Speaking generally, Beeston is a town built on modern lines, and the houses are for the most part in good condition, the defects which are found to exist are of a minor nature, and can be dealt with as they are discovered by means of the Public Health Acts. No special difficulties are anticipated in effecting the repair of defective houses now that labour is getting more plentiful, but the high cost of labour and materials render such work much more difficult than would otherwise be the case.

There is an abundant water supply of excellent quality, and the facilities offered by the Council's new Sewage Works and Destructor are such that there will be no difficulties in this direction to extensive development when the need for it has been proved to exist.

All new properties built either by the Council, or by private enterprise will be provided with Water Closets, there is no intention to permit any further increase of the pail closet system, which is now being abolished in such houses where it exists.

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

No such areas have been discovered in Beeston, the defective houses occur either singly or in groups of six or eight, which have been dealt with singly.

V.—BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

There are no houses let in lodgings in the town and no bye-laws exist in relation to such premises. The Council have not adopted any bye-laws relating to tents, vans, or sheds, and since I have held the appointment of Medical Officer of Health there has been no need for them.

STATISTICS.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints that same were unfit for human habitation	Nil.
Number of dwelling houses inspected under Section 17, of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909	107
Number found unfit for human habitation.	25
Number of houses represented to the Local Authority with a view of Closing Orders	25
Number of dwelling houses, the defects of which were remedied without Closing Orders	Nil.
Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by Local Authority	Nil.
Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed by owners which could not be made fit without reconstruction	Nil.
Number of Closing Orders made	25
Number of Closing Orders determined by Local Authority after being made fit for human habitation	Nil.
Number of Demolition Orders made	Nil.
Number of houses demolished voluntarily	Nil.
There are no obstructive buildings.	

STAFF ENGAGED ON HOUSING WORK.

No special officials have been reserved for this branch of work, which has fallen on the Surveyor and Medical Officer of Health.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND OUTWORKERS.

The number of factories has increased by one, and now stands at 47. These have not received as much attention as I should have desired, owing to shortage of staff and extreme pressure of work in other directions, such as housing. All, have, however, been inspected at least once during the year. No serious defects have been discovered, the sanitary conveniences are adequate, but in some cases they appear to be abused by the employees, and there is room for considerable improvement in the habits of those who use them.

I append herewith the usual tables required by the Ministry of Health.

In conclusion, I desire to express my thanks for the cordial support which I have received from the members of the Council and my fellow officials, during the portion of the year that I have acted as your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. PARKINSON, M.D., D.P.H., etc.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

BEESTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1919.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICTS.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 13
1919	{ 12649* 12143† }	222	222	17.55	126	10.36	5	22	22	99.1	143 11.77

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)

1,586.

Total population at all ages ...

11,341

* Number of inhabited houses ...

2,728

Average number of persons per house ...

4 1/6

At Census, 1911.

* For Birth Rate.

† For Death Rate.

TABLE II. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the
Year 1919.

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								
Pneumonia ..	47		6	6	5	23	4	3	
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	9		1	6	1	1			
Erysipelas ..	5				1	3	1		
Scarlet Fever ..	63		10	43	9	1			7
Typhus Fever ..	0								
Enteric Fever ..	0								
Measles ..	128	3	31	93	1				
Malaria ..	4				1	3			
Puerperal Fever ..	0								
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis)	0								
German Measles ..	6		2	1	3				
Poliomyelitis ..	0								
Trench Fever ..	1					1			
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	10				4	4	2		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	1			1					
Totals ..	276	5	50	150	25	36	7	3	

*Basford Sanatorium for Enteric Fever, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria (by agreement).
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 1919.

Name of District - BEESTON (NOTTS.)

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Causes { Certified ..									
Uncertified ..									
Enteric Fever	0								
Small-pox	0								
Measles	0								
Scarlet Fever	1				1				
Whooping Cough	1	1							
Diphtheria and Croup	1				1				
Influenza	23		1	1	2	1	10	5	3
Erysipelas	0								
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	11					2	7	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	2		1	1					
Other Tuberculous Diseases	0								
Cancer, Malignant Disease	16						2	5	9
Rheumatic Fever	0								
Meningitis	1	1							
Organic Heart Disease	6							2	4
Bronchitis	14	1	1				1	1	10
Pneumonia (all forms)	16	7		1	1		2		5
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	0								
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3	3							
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	0								
Cirrhosis of Liver	1								1
Alcoholism	0								
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	0								
Puerperal Fever	1						1		
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	8	8							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	1			1		2	1	
Suicide	0								
Other Defined Diseases	29								
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2								
	143								

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY. 1919.

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 ..	5	2	1	1	9	5	6	1		21
	Uncertified ..									1	1
Small-pox ..											
Chicken-pox ..											
Measles ..											
Scarlet fever ..											
Whooping-cough ..							1				1
Diphtheria and Croup ..											
Erysipelas ..											
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Abdominal Tuberculosis											
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..											
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..								1			1
Convulsions ..											
Laryngitis ..											
Bronchitis ..					1	1					1
Pneumonia (all forms) ..							2	3	1		6
Diarrhœa ..											
Enteritis ..							1	1			2
Gastritis ..											
Syphilis ..											
Rickets ..											
Suffocation, overlaying											
Injury at birth ..											
Atelectasis ..											
Congenital Malformations ..											
Premature birth ..		5	2	1		8	1	1			10
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..											
Other causes ..										1	1
Totals ..		5	2	1	1	9	5	6	1	1	22

Nett Births in the Year { Legitimate 199
 { Illegitimate 23

Nett Deaths in the Year of { Legitimate infants .. 19
 { Illegitimate infants .. 3

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1919, 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		
	Inspection.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	183	11	0
(Including Factory Laundries)			
WORKSHOPS	161	8	0
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
WORKPLACES	4	0	0
(Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)			
Total	348	19	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—				
Want of cleanliness	8	8	0	0
Want of ventilation	0			
Overcrowding	0			
Want of drainage of floors	0			
Other nuisances	0			
Sanitary { Insufficient	0			
Accommodation { Unsuitable or defective	3	3	0	0
	Not separate for sexes			
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	0			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	0			
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	3	3	0	0
Total	14	14	0	0

3.—HOME-WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						Notices served on Occupiers 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, ..	4	3	8				
Lace, lace curtains and							
nets	6		75	17	3	21	50
Total	10	3	83	17	3	21	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 ..	..	..	..	..	..	47
	Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	16
	Slaughter Houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	8
	Tailors ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	Dressmakers ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
	Plumbers ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
	Joiners and Builders ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
	Wheelwrights ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Printers ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	Painters ..	..	..	..	..	..	6
	Various ..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Total number of Workshops on Register ..							58

(Signed) W. H. PARKINSON, M.D., D.P.H., Etc.,

April 16th, 1920.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE HEALTH AND
SANITARY CONDITION OF
THE BELFORD RURAL
SANITARY DISTRICT :: ::

FOR YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition of the Belford Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1919.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Population, (Census 1911), 5006. Population (estimated 1919) 4318.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

THE District is bounded by the sea on the East and moorland on the West. It is, generally speaking, undulating and well cultivated land, excepting the extreme Western portion, which is moorland and more hilly. The district is well watered, well drained and healthy : there are no congested areas nor any industrial works leading to smoke nuisance.

The chief occupations are agriculture and sea fishing, both of which are conducive to health.

Total Number of Births, 68. Birth Rate, 15·11 per 1000. (Illegitimate Births), 7. Number of Vaccinations, 58. Number of Deaths, 55. Death Rate, 12·73 per 1000. Number of Deaths in Children under 1 year, 4. Rate per 1000 Births 58·8.

The amount of Poor Law Relief (Out-Relief) for the Year 1919 was £330 - 9 - 0.

There is no Hospital in the District which has been utilised for gratuitous medical relief except the relief of the sick poor in the Workhouse at Belford.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLIES.—The District generally is, as a rule, well supplied with water. A large number of farm premises have water laid on, and the others obtain water from wells by means of pumps, &c.

BAMBURGH obtains its supply chiefly from a reservoir on Sandyford Moor.

SEA HOUSES and NORTH SUNDERLAND are supplied from a reservoir on Brockdam Moor, and there is a storage reservoir at Sea Houses in connection with this supply, capable of holding 60,000 gallons.

BEADNELL and SWINHOLE are supplied from Brockdam reservoir by means of a connection to the North Sunderland Water Works Company's main at Swinhole Cottage.

Several farm places and villages on the line of the North Sunderland and Bamburgh water mains are supplied from them.

BELFORD.—The main supply is piped from a spring at the Blue Bell farm to a reservoir on the North Bank, and thence piped to various houses on the Main Street. There are 2 supplies in West Street from springs, and one from a spring near the National Schools in High Street. There is now an additional supply of water from Belford Moor, which supplies most of West Street, and also supplements the High Street supply. It has been found to be very satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

All the supplies of the District are constant except in some instances in Seasons of unusual drought.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The Sewage, with few exceptions, passes into streams, ditches, or the sea, and is untreated before doing so. Most of the houses in the town of BELFORD are drained into sewer conduits, and a large number of the drains are formed with sanitary pipes.

What is required is a new drainage system properly laid, and the sewage dealt with according to modern views before being discharged into the Belford stream.

Most of the houses in BEADNELL village are drained into a sewer, which conveys the sewage into the sea. Beadnell Square and Bent Hall are also provided with sewers. Beadnell Stead is drained directly into the sea. Several of the large houses in Beadnell are drained into cesspools, which are periodically emptied.

Isolated houses and farm places throughout the district are in many cases drained in to cesspools; although in some places the sewage is discharged into streams. No complaints, have, however, recently been made as to any nuisance arising from this cause.

At Belford Station and Bellshill farm house the sewage is dealt with by means of septic tanks.

At Shoreston Hall there is a small sewage scheme on modern lines, comprising septic tank and continuous filters.

Closet Accomodation.

The ashpit and privy system is in vogue at all the farm premises, and most of the villages have the same. With a few exceptions BELFORD has the ashpit and privy method in use.

Most of the houses in BAMBURGH are now provided with water closets. Exceptions are at Victoria and South Victoria Terraces, where the privy ashpit system is out of harmony with the property and might well be substituted by W.Cs., as has been previously recommended.

A large number of the houses in SEA HOUSES now have water closets and the privy system is gradually being abolished.

A few of the larger houses in BEADNELL have water closets.

The approximate number of each type of closet are: Privy Ashpit, with privy for one house, 680, Privy ashpit, with privy for more than one house, 100; Pail closets, 60; W.Cs., 220; Since 1911 some 24 W.Cs. have been put in.

SCAVENGING.—Public scavengers are appointed to remove house refuse in BELFORD and NORTH SUNDERLAND.

At Belford the refuse is deposited on agricultural land, and old tins, &c., are removed to a disused claypit at the Brick Sheds.

The refuse from privies and ashpits at North Sunderland is mostly put on agricultural land, and the other refuse is removed to a public rubbish depot at the Old Quarry on the South Links.

In the case of other villages and farm places the ashpits, &c., are usually emptied by the occupiers and tenants.

At BAMBURGH the scavenging is largely carried out by the Castle Authorities, and in some instances by the occupiers, no public scavenger having been appointed.

An increasing number of houses are using movable ashbins as water closet accomodation is being introduced.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

During the year visits have been paid by the Inspector of Nuisances, and myself, to various parts of the District, and enquiries made into the general healthiness, the water supply, the drainage, and the condition of dwelling houses. Defective conditions have been reported to the District Council, and notices sent to the occupiers or owners. A detailed table of inspections made by the Inspector of Nuisances is appended to this Report.

The workshops, slaughter houses, bakehouses and cowsheds have been inspected.

Cowsheds. In some instances orders have been given to lime-wash, and these have been complied with. Speaking generally they are kept fairly well.

There are 25 Cowsheds on the Register.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Under the above Act special visits have been paid to the various workshops in the District, and an enquiry made into their sanitary condition in reference to:—

- (1) Cleanliness
- (2) Air Space
- (3) Ventilation
- (4) Drainage and Wet Floors
- (5) Provision of Sanitary Conveniences

Bake Houses, six in number, have received special attention, and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

The names of tenants of all workshops have been placed upon a Register.

In none of the workshops are any out-workers employed.

The following is a list of the occupations carried on in the various workshops:—

Dressmakers ..	14	Bakers ..	6
Bootmakers ..	9	Blacksmiths ..	8
Tailors ..	4	Saddlers..	2
Joiners ..	10	Painters..	4
Cycle Agents & Garages	6	Herring Curers ..	5
Gas Works ..	2	Plumbers ..	3
Sawmill ..	1	Milliners ..	3
Sculptor ..	1		

In the great majority of cases I have found the air space to be ample.

In all cases there has been sufficient air space for the number employed during ordinary working hours. In one of the herring yards the drains were defective and new pipes have been laid.

The general cleanliness and drainage have been found satisfactory.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1919.

For the Rural District of Belford, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Housework.

Workshops and Workplaces:—

Number of Inspections	..	90
Written Notices	..	Nil
Prosecutions	..	Nil
Workshops on Register (s. 131) at the end of 1919	..	78

CAUSES OF DEATH IN BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1919,
CIVILIANS ONLY.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	27	28
Scarlet Fever ..		1
Diphtheria and Croup		1
Influenza ..	1	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2
Cancer malignant disease	4	1
Rheumatic Fever	1	
Organic Heart Disease	5	4
Bronchitis ..	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	3
Cirrhosis of liver	1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..		3
Puerperal Fever		1
Congenital debility, &c.	1	
Violence, apart from suicide ..	1	
Other defined diseases	7	8
Death of infants under 1 year of age	1	2
Total Illegitimate		1
TOTAL BIRTHS ..	37	31
Legitimate ..	33	28
Illegitimate ..	4	3
Population for Birth-rate	4498	
Population for Death-rate	4318	

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.

April, 1920.

Form A.

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year.

	Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected.		Number reported to be defective.	Number of Orders Issued.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Inspector of Nuisances.		
FOREIGN Total Foreign	Nil.					
	Steamers Sailing Fishing					
COASTWISE Total Coastwise	Nil.					
	Steamers Sailing Fishing					
	40					
Total Foreign and Coastwise	40		Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

Form B.

Names of Vessels arriving in the District.		Names of Vessels subjected to measures of rat destruction.			Method employed.	No. of rats killed.
Plague infected.	Plague suspected.	Plague infected.	Plague suspected.	Other vessels.		
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil		Nil.

Table XV.

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1919.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1919 have been used for the purposes of this Table.)

	Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Violence.	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 Years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000) ...	19.0	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8
148 Smaller Towns (cen. pop. 20,000-50,000)	18.3	12.6	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5
London	18.3	13.4	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2

* Non-civilians are included in these figures for England and Wales but not for other areas.

Schools. February 28th. On account of the prevalence of Influenza the schools at Middleton, Lucker, Warenford and the West Street school in Belford were closed for 14 days : and, March 3rd, for the same reason and the same period the schools at Beadnell and Newham were closed. In some cases it was found necessary to extend the period. The C.E. School at Belford was closed on March 4th for 3 weeks on account of influenza.

During the Autumn months many cases of measles occurred. In October it was found necessary to close the School at Newham, and also the School at Beadnell in November. After closure Schools should always be disinfected and an abundant supply of air passed through them. Sanitary conveniences are provided for all the Schools. There are facilities for obtaining drinking water, though in the case of Newham and Ellingham not sufficiently near.

Food. Attention has been paid to milk supplies by inspections made of cowsheds and cows. Speaking generally, the former are airy and well ventilated, the chief faults found are need for more frequent cleaning of the walls, and attention to the cleanliness of the cows themselves. Regulations in reference to light, ventilation, air space, floor area and general construction should be carefully fixed.

A consignment of frozen beef at Sea Houses in June was condemned as it was found unfit for human consumption.

No public abattoir has been established in the district, but opportunities are afforded of inspecting meat at the time of slaughter.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The principal diseases prevalent in the district were influenza and measles. In some cases the schools were closed, and information given by leaflets as to the control and care of those affected. There were 21 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, of which one was fatal, but the majority of them were confined to one farm place.

In cases of DIPHTHERIA prompt use of anti-toxin is resorted to.

Three cases of pneumonia were notified, but none of malaria, dysentery, or trench fever, or enteric fever.

In cases of sore throat which suggest a diphtheritic origin, swabs have been taken and sent off for examination. Bacterological aids to Diagnosis—Diphtheria, 5 ; Tuberculosis, 3 ; Enteric, Nil.

Six deaths were due to INFLUENZA. On Feb. 19th I made a special report upon this disease to the District Council, detailing the steps that the public should take in order to lessen its intensity, and also pointing out the value of inoculations.

Tuberculosis.—There is no institution in the district for the treatment of this disease.

Small-Pox.—No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health, (Smallpox Prevention), Regulations, 1917.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council provide inspecting ladies who visit mothers and give useful advice in child welfare.

In November 1917 I drew the attention of the Council to the great danger incurred by not making the use of long tube feeding bottles illegal.

STAFF.—(1) The Clerk, (2) The Medical Officer of Health, (3) The Inspector of Nuisances.

Isolation Hospital for Small-pox situated near the town of Belford. Total available beds, 8, provided by the Belford Rural District Council. The necessity for making use of it has not yet arisen.

Sanitary Administration.

Local Acts, Special Local Orders, or general adoptive Acts in force in the District.

The Bye-laws in force in the District relate to—

- (1) The prevention of nuisances in the keeping of animals :
- (2) Common Lodging Houses.
- (3) Slaughter Houses.
- (4) Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.,
- (5) New Streets and Buildings.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885, were adopted in 1887.

Housing.

The total number of houses in the district is 1246. The number for working classes, 1032.

During the year no additional houses were provided ; there were, however, 2 new houses in course of erection at New Shoreston, where it is also proposed to remodel the existing 6 cottages into 4, leaving the total number at 6 as before.

Committees appointed by the Council were satisfied that there was a shortage of adequate working class accomodation at Belford, Bamburgh, Sea Houses, North Sunderland and Beadnell. So far as the farm districts were concerned, it was more a question of inadequate and unsatisfactory accomodation than of there being an insufficient number of houses.

The Council are proceeding with Housing Schemes as follows: Belford, 12 houses, Bamburgh, 4, Sea Houses, 12, North Sunderland, 5, Beadnell, 6, Total, 39.

OVERCROWDING. According to the last completed housing inspections there were 233 houses with more than 2 occupants per room. Occasionally marked cases of overcrowding arise at farm places where there are 2 roomed cottages, and the occupier has 5 or 6 children; the housing on the farms is a difficult problem with the frequent changes of tenancies among the workers.

The general standard of housing, as in most other rural districts, does not reach a high level. A considerable number of houses are defective in a variety of ways. Some have no damp courses, and the walls are more or less damp, and many are lacking in general accommodation and conveniences.

No necessity has arisen during the year to make closing orders.

Jas. G. Macaskie,

1920.

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, 1919.

During the year 1919, the question of Housing has been chiefly under consideration. Briefly, the position may be stated as follows: Committees were appointed, along with the Medical Officer and myself, to consider the needs of the respective localities. Their conclusions were presented to the Council, arrangements made for Housing Schemes as detailed in the Medical Officer's report, and at the end of the year the stage reached was that sites had been provisionally arranged for, and an architect appointed to carry out the Council's proposals. Special reports have been made to the Council on various aspects of the housing, and with particular reference to suitability of site and water supply. The necessary preliminary work, such as preparation of locality plans, site plans, form of survey of housing needs, &c., has been duly carried out.

Regarding the general sanitary administration, frequent visits have been paid throughout the district, relating to housing conditions, water supplies, sanitary accommodation, slaughter houses, cowsheds, workshops, &c., but hopes of substantial improvements being effected, especially as to housing and sanitary accommodation, have not materialised. With one or two exceptions, it has only been possible to get minor repairs effected. Prevailing conditions of high costs, and apparently, inadequate labour, render the effecting of improvements more difficult than ever. Special mention might be made of the new W.Cs., 12 in number, being erected at Chapel Row, Sea Houses, the work now nearing completion, after which the long standing nuisances of the open and offensive privy ashpits in Chapel Row and the Harbour front will be abolished. At Belford, a special report was made regarding a defective house and sanitary conveniences and these matters have been remedied, two pail closets, with satisfactory ashpit having been substituted for a foul and practically unuseable privy ashpit existing previously.

More disinfecting than usual has been necessary during the year, but the majority of the cases were at Burton, where Scarlet Fever was epidemic.

The scavenging work, which is done in Belford and Sea Houses by contract, has on some occasions been indifferently performed, especially at Belford, and it has been necessary to give the Contractors notice of several cases requiring attention, in one instance formal notice being served under the terms of the contract that another carter would be employed failing compliance with the notice. In other areas, there seems to be a general tendency to large accumulations before cleansing, though farmers and others have complied with requests to do so. The whole question of sanitary accommodation is one that needs serious consideration. There are still in the district many privy ashpits of an objectionable type, and, moreover, it is nearly impossible to obtain satisfactory conditions where one privy has to serve more than one tenant.

A special report regarding the housing conditions at Blackett Row, Bamburgh, was presented to the Council, and the position at the end of the Year was that the owner was forwarded a copy of this Report, with the request that he should inform the Council to what extent he was prepared to effect repairs, otherwise the houses, 5 in number, would need to be closed. Subsequently, this property has been sold, and the new owner has informed the Council that he intends repairing the property as soon as possible. The Council have deferred further action to give the owner opportunity to submit and carry out his proposals.

Referring to the subject of Housing generally, applied to existing accommodation and to the various powers and duties of local authorities, the Housing Act of 1919 adds greatly to the responsibilities of local authorities. These are dealt with fully in the Manuals published by the Ministry of Health, and it is unnecessary to refer to them in detail here. Special emphasis should, however, be laid on the fact that the standard of housing generally in the district is below that stipulated as reasonable in view of present day requirements. It is laid down that a fit house should be free from serious dampness, satisfactorily lighted and ventilated, properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, including proper household sink, be in good general repair, and have a satisfactory water supply, adequate washing accommodation, proper facilities for preparing and cooking food and a well-ventilated food store. It will thus be seen that the question of existing housing accommodation, as well as new housing, is one that demands the serious consideration of the Council.

Regarding new buildings, no new dwelling houses were completed, but there were two in course of erection at New Shoreston, where the existing six cottages are to be remodelled into four. This property has been reported upon on several occasions as being very unsatisfactory, and the work in progress will effect a marked improvement.

Thos. W. Dodd,

MARCH, 1920.

A. R. San. I.

