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Contributors

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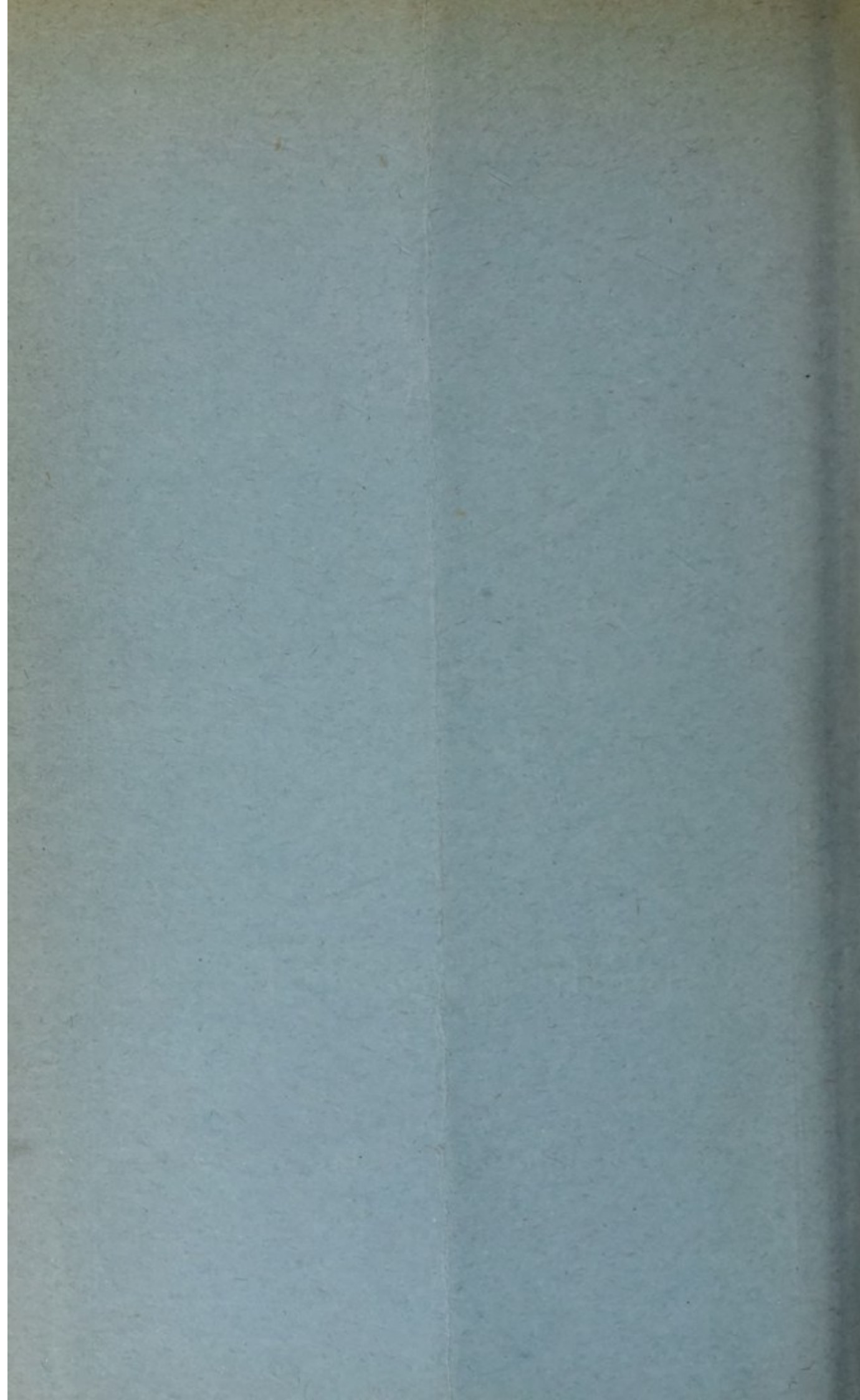
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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE HEALTH
AND SANITARY
CONDITION
OF THE

Belford Rural Sanitary District

For year ending December 31, 1914



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Health and Sanitary Condition of the Belford Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1914.

THIS Report relates to the Twelve months ending December 31st, 1914, and also gives the various statistics relating to the last six years. These figures should be carefully noted, for in small country districts statistics are apt to mislead if the details of one year are given without reference to former years.

It is necessary also to ascertain the exact causes of death in the district, and in those cases where they may be attributed to insanitary conditions to inquire into the exact localities in which they occur.

Other details of importance to be noted are the relative numbers of the inhabitants of certain ages, for a preponderance of the very young or the very old will increase the mortality. The character of the climate and seasons, and the prevalence of certain epidemics, such as influenza, must not be neglected.

This Report contains an important table dealing with the deaths of all children under one year of age. It also records the necessary inspections made under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

Under a General Order (Medical Officers of Health and Inspectors of Nuisances), dated Dec. 13th, 1910, the Local Government Board now desire information in reference to (1) Milk; (2) Food for human consumption; (3) Water Supplies; (4) Sufficiency of arrangements for the sewerage of the District; (5) A Statement as to the privy water-closet, and other closet accommodation; (6) The character of arrangements for the removal of house refuse and the cleansing of ashpits.

These details are dealt with either in my Report or in that of the Inspector of Nuisances.

The Board also direct that the Medical Officer of Health shall now obtain from the Inspector of Nuisances an account of the work performed by him during the year, and forward a copy of it in his Annual Report to them.

STATISTICS OF THE SIZE AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Acreage—38,586.	Inhabited Houses—1,227
Population	1881—5,688
.. ..	1891—5,139
.. ..	1901—5,207
.. ..	1911—5,006

The population of the entire district estimated to the middle of 1914, equals 4,941.

General Mortality. During the year 1914, the deaths of 50 persons at all ages and from all causes were registered in the district of Belford. There are also to be added 2 deaths of residents which occurred outside the district

The rate is 10.52 per 1,000, while that for the year 1913, was 11.84. The rate for the combined rural districts of the whole county in 1913 was 13.02.

Of the total number, 5 were in children under 1 year of age, and 29 in persons of 65 years and upwards.

Infant Mortality. Much importance is attached to the number of deaths which occur each year under 1 year. Table IV. shows the number, exact ages, and causes of deaths in infants. I am glad to say there have only been 5 such deaths in the Belford District in 1914.

The rate per 1,000 births was 52 which compares with that of 94 for the rural district of the county for 1913, and an average of 108 for the last ten years in the same parts of the county. A high rate apart from epidemics, is usually due to faulty methods of infant feeding a want of care in keeping milk clean, and want of attention in making houses and their surroundings, as far as may be, free from insanitary conditions. In July last the Local Government Board issued a circular to all sanitary authorities reminding them of the importance of taking all practicable measures for the prevention of Epidemic Diarrhoea and of promoting hygienic conditions in the feeding of infants. These recommendations should be printed and given to the head of each house in which a birth has occurred; they are most valuable and will be especially so in those cases where diseases in infants are produced through ignorance rather than carelessness. At a Conference held in

Liverpool, in the same month, one speaker attributed the fall in the infant mortality rate in the east-end of London to have been mainly secured by the spread of a knowledge of mother-craft, while another very rightly urged the necessity of teaching infant care in public elementary schools, because of the impossibility of persuading the great majority of working class girls from 14 to 20 years of age to attend voluntary courses of instruction. There is an interesting connection between the birth-rate and the rate of infant mortality for wherever the birth-rate falls, that fall is invariably followed by a fall in the rate of infant mortality.

MORTALITY AS TO AGE.

Under 1 year	..	..	..	5
1 and under 2 years	..	..	..	0
2 „ „ 5 „	..	..	..	1
5 „ „ 15 „	..	..	..	0
15 „ „ 25 „	..	..	..	3
25 „ „ 45 „	..	..	..	7
45 „ „ 65 „	..	..	..	7
65 and upwards	..	..	..	29

General Mortality. The deaths numbered in the

1st Quarter	..	14	2nd Quarter	..	32
3rd Quarter	..	9	4th Quarter	..	14

and 2 deaths of residents who died outside the district.

East District	..	..	22
West District	..	..	28
Males	..	..	18
Females	..	..	32

In the more populous parts of the District the following number of deaths occurred :—

Belford	..	..	13	Bamburgh	..	..	5
North Sunderland	..	..	10	Beadnell	..	..	0

The births in above places during 1914 were :—

Belford	..	..	13	Bamburgh	..	..	5
North Sunderland	..	..	21	Beadnell	..	..	7

Causes of Mortality.—

Phthisis	..	..	4	Cancer	..	..	7
Bronchitis	..	..	1	Pneumonia	..	..	2
Heart Disease	..	..	8	Other Causes	..	..	29

21 deaths were in persons over 70 years and 8 in persons over 80 years of age.

Zymotic or Infectious Diseases. During the year 1914 27 of these diseases have been notified. The different diseases were as follows :—

Diphtheria	..	..	2	Scarlet Fever	..	..	9
Tuberculosis	..	..	9	Erysipelas	..	..	6
Typhoid Fever	..	..	0	Ante Poliomyelitis	..	..	1

Diphtheria. Only 2 cases have been notified, and neither was fatal. During recent years the mortality has declined, but it is difficult to say how far this is due to improved sanitary conditions, because the introduction of anti-toxin serum injections has done much to lessen the number of deaths and also to no doubt prevent the development of cases. In our district the sanitary authority is prepared to obtain supplies of serum free whenever suitable cases arise.

As I have said in my report for 1913, the disease is more common in towns, but it is found in sparsely populated districts, and the virulence increases the longer the epidemic lasts. Parents and teachers should be very suspicious when so called "sore throats" are prevalent. Many of these cases are of a diphtheritic nature, and if an examination of a swab from the throat reveals the Klebs-Loeffler bacillus the diagnosis is absolute. Dampness in houses appears to predispose to the disease; so, too, do the inhalation of gases from foul drains or ashpits, but in the light of the most recent researches, it must be understood that neither dampness nor noxious odours are in themselves capable of producing the disease. They do, however, predispose to it and make persons more liable to suffer severely from it. Every effort should therefore be made to make houses clean in a sanitary sense, both within and without. Drains should be kept cleared and flushed, and ashpits should be kept *dry*, and frequently cleaned out. What should be aimed at is a very small ashpit, which should be cleared by the householder at least once a week, and the contents worked into the garden soil. To make this possible, there should be no ashpit in use for more than one family.

It is very necessary to remember that a person who has apparently recovered from an attack of diphtheria will remain infectious to others so long as the bacilli are present in the throat or nose or both; they are indeed a great source of danger to others, and especially to children in schools. No patient should be declared free from infection until a bacteriological examination has failed to reveal the presence of the diphtheria bacillus.

Phthisis. The number of deaths has been 4. It has been found that the more damp the soil of any district, the more frequent are cases of tuberculosis found. If patients are treated at home the safety of others should be secured by the free ventilation of rooms, and by healthy persons being forbidden to occupy the same room as the patient; in many small houses this cannot be done, and the result is that infection is very apt to spread. Overcrowded rooms, closed windows, absence of sunlight, dampness, and poor food are the chief factors which prevent the disease from being stamped out. The disease is most frequently caused by inhalation, and not by tainted food. Healthy people living constantly with phthisis patients are frequently attacked. The careless disposal of the sputum allows it to become dry, and when it is in this state the organisms, being carried

into the air, are inhaled and set up disease. In all suitable cases treatment should be carried out by skilled persons in sanatoria, but if this cannot be obtained the patient should be kept in one room and the window kept constantly open to admit an abundance of air and light. Rooms that have been occupied by consumptive patients should be most thoroughly disinfected, and the contents similarly dealt with. As the notification of the disease is now compulsory, it will be brought more easily under control.

During the year 96 births have taken place in the district, and there have been 85 successful vaccinations. The birth-rate is 19.3 per 1,000 which compares with that of 16.9 for 1913.

Milk Supplies, &c. In order to secure a supply of clean milk a high standard of cleanliness must extend to the dairy or cowshed, the milker, and the cow. Drainage and floors must be good, limewashing frequent, a sufficiency of light and floor space, but what is most important of all, very free ventilation. An abundance of pure air should be gently passing through the cowshed all the time that cows are in it.

The milk of cows suffering from cattle plague, pleuro-pneumonia, foot and mouth disease, or tubercular deposits in the udder, must not be mixed with other milk or sold as human food. All vessels used for storage of milk must be cleansed with steam or boiling water.

The cream in milk should average 10 per cent. The fat should not fall below 3.0 per cent., and the total solids should average 12.5 per cent.

Milk may be the means of conveying certain infectious diseases such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever. It has also been proved that the milk of tubercular cows may convey the disease, even though no trace of the disease is to be found upon the udders. In the final report of the Royal Commissioners on tuberculosis published in June, 1911, it is said that "in the interests of infants and children, the members of the population whom we have proved to be especially endangered, and for the reasonable safeguarding of the public health generally, we would urge that existing regulations and supervisions of milk production and meat preparation be not relaxed." They urge this in order to avert or minimise the present danger arising from the consumption of infected milk.

A recent order of the Board of Agriculture, which came into operation on May 1st, 1913, provides for the compulsory notification of suspected tuberculosis of the udder, and for the payment of compensation in the case of slaughter. This is followed by a Milk and Dairies Act which will improve the condition under which milk is now produced.

All cowsheds and dairies have been inspected, and no case of infectious disease has occurred on premises from which milk is supplied. I periodically inspect all the Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses in the District, and these I find to be kept in good condition. The character of food supplies is noted.

The Slaughter-houses, 7 in number, have been inspected, and found to be clean and satisfactory. We have no Inspector with a special certificate in meat inspection.

There is only one common lodging-house in the district. It is situated in Belford. Periodical inspections of it are made, when it has always been found to be in a clean, well-kept condition. It has accommodation for 13 persons. No contraventions of bye-laws have been met with.

SANITARY MEASURES.

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 the dwelling houses. Defective conditions have been reported to the District Council, and notices sent to the occupiers or owners.

Cowsheds. In some instances orders have been given to lime-wash, and these have been complied with. Speaking generally they are kept fairly well, but attention to the cleanliness of the cows themselves would be of great advantage.

The regulations in reference to Cow-sheds are too vague; there is room for great improvement in this respect, and those of the Scottish Local Government Board might well be adopted instead, as they are quite definite in relation to light, ventilation, air space, floor space, and construction of floors.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board I detail generally, the water supply of the district. During the autumn there was a very diminished supply in many places, and in Beadnell, Swinhoe, and North Sunderland, much care had to be taken to see that no waste occurred.

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

Several farm places and villages on the line of the North Sunderland and Bamburgh water mains are supplied from them. It would be of great advantage if the former supplied West Fleetham.

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. It is proposed to bring a new and much improved supply very soon.

Privy Accommodation, &c. 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 Terrace, 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 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.

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.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Most of the houses in BELFORD are drained into sewer conduits, and a large number of the drains are formed with sanitary pipes. Complaints have been made in regard to the nuisance caused by effluvia coming from gratings over sewer conduits.

In my report for 1912 I noted that a flushing tank had been placed upon the North Bank in order to mitigate this nuisance, and some improvement in this respect has been noticed. I also said and now repeat that in my report of Nov. 9th, 1910, I recommended that a large number of ventilating shafts should be erected, so that the sewers should be constantly and thoroughly flushed out with fresh air but this has not been done yet. What, however, is really 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 into 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 Shorston Hall there is a small sewage scheme laid down on modern lines, comprising septic tank and continuous filters, Farrar's Patent Tipplers being used.

In regard to insanitary open ashpits, action should be taken to remedy such conditions by enforcing Sect. 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

I am glad to say that much needed improvements in this respect are being made in Swinhoe Village.

The sewerage of Chathill is being improved. An account of various improvements which have been effected in 1914 will be found in the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, and Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909. The Inspector of Nuisances and I have inspected 138 dwelling houses. The details of these inspections have been laid before, and considered by, the District Council. In those instances where insanitary conditions were found the owners have been communicated with, with a view to having them remedied.

The Act enables local authorities to provide houses for the working classes in any part of the country where it may be necessary to do so. The acquisition of land for this purpose is now greatly facilitated, and loans can be obtained from the Public Works Loan Commissioners for periods up to 80 years.

Inspections are now to be made from time to time with a view of ascertaining whether any dwelling houses are not in all respects in a reasonably fit state for human habitation, and, when necessary, notices are to be sent to the landlords indicating to them what the Authority considers essential to make their houses reasonably fit for this purpose.

Generally speaking, inspections are made in reference to:—

- (1) Water Supply
- (2) Closet Accommodation
- (3) Drainage
- (4) Light, Ventilation, Cleanliness
- (5) Ashpits and Substitutes
- (6) Structural Defects

It will be noted in the Report of the Inspector of Nuisances that in consequence of these inspections some improvements have been carried out.

In all, we inspected 138 houses in various parts of the district;

informal notices were served respecting 108 dwellings, and affecting 13 owners. We find that owners, as a rule, are willing to carry out the most needed improvements, and in consequence of this much useful work has been carried out; but in a rural area, where many of the cottages are old, naturally much remains to be done.

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, five 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 ..	5
Bootmakers ..	9	Blacksmiths ..	8
Tailors ..	4	Saddlers ..	2
Joiners ..	11	Painters ..	4
Wheelwright ..	1	Herring Curers ..	8
Cycle Agents & Garages	6	Plumbers ..	4
Gas Works ..	2	Milliners ..	3
Sawmill ..	1	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.

The general cleanliness and drainage have been found satisfactory.

SUMMARY OF VARIOUS RETURNS

Population ..	4,941
Births, Legitimate ..	90
„ Illegitimate ..	6
Birth Rate ..	18.4
Deaths (nett) ..	52
Death Rate ..	10.52
Deaths under 1 year ..	5
Rate per 1000 Births ..	52

RAINFALL RECORDED AT BAMBURGH IN 1914,

January ..	1.51	July ..	2.02
February ..	1.08	August ..	2.325
March ..	2.44	September ..	1.12
April ..	.23	October ..	2.6
May ..	.76	November ..	3.75
June ..	2.475	December ..	3.85
Total ..		24.16 inches.	

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1914.

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 ..	83
Written Notices	Nil
Prosecutions	Nil

Workshops on Register (s. 131) at the end of 1914 .. 83

Jas. G. Macaskie,

Medical Officer of Health

February, 1915.



Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances, 1914.

DURING the year 1914, under the provisions of the Housing Regulations, 138 inspections have been made by the Medical Officer of Health and myself. In the case of 108 houses, defects, some very slight, have been recorded, and informal notices have accordingly been sent out to the 13 owners affected.

A summary of the most important work in hand is appended:—

Bamburgh. There are no special repairs of note to report. These are of a general nature and are done as occasion arises. At Victoria and South Victoria Terraces there has been some little improvement in the condition of privies and ashpits, but w.c.'s. at this property would be much more satisfactory.

Belford. The chief improvements effected refer to sanitary accommodation. An old dilapidated privy on the west side of High street has been abolished and two new pail-closets and ashpit provided, one closet for each tenant, the arrangement for cleaning now being such that it can be done without bringing the ashpit contents through the common passage as formerly. Further down the same side of High street the out-houses and back premises generally to another dwelling have been greatly improved and the drainage put in order. On the east side of High street a large, offensive privy-ashpit has been rearranged; the privy has been thoroughly repaired and a proper shoot effected into the ashpit, which has been reduced in size, cemented out, and covered. Further up the same street another bad privy ashpit has been abolished; three new pail-closets and a covered ashpit have been built, one closet for each tenant. In another case a defective pail-closet has been repaired and put in order. Other repairs are of a general nature, such as pointing of walls, roof repairs, spouting, etc. It may be mentioned that the gardener's house, North Bank, has been considerably extended and improved, and is now quite a desirable cottage. At the Salmon Inn and adjoining house, arrangements have been made for the repair and covering-in of the ashpit, as well as for renewing the defective floors in the lower house.

Sea Houses. During the year a commencement was made with the necessary work to abolish the long-standing nuisance at Chapel Row, caused by the privies and large open ashpit. Three new w.c.'s. were built, two for the herring yard and one for a private house. The work was then stopped by the agent, who wrote that the owners could not proceed further on account of the war. A privy and ashpit has been done away with in Mayfield Row and a new w.c. erected. In Messrs. R. and C. W. Dawson's fish yard a new w.c. has been built in place of the one formerly in the workshop, which was objected to. For some years the roadway in front of Dunstan View has been a source of nuisance in wet weather, but, thanks to the public-spirited action of one or two gentlemen in the locality, and the Council's generous treatment of the parties affected, this nuisance has been abated. A sum of money agreed upon was paid to the Council, subject to their repairing the road and footpath and taking over the liability of future maintenance. The result has been satisfactory to all concerned. Complaints having been received as to offensive smells arising from the outlet of the sewer on the South Shore, Sea Houses, it was decided to extend the sewer further across the rocks so as to discharge direct into the sea, about 50 yards of 9in. iron pipe being laid. This work has been the means of obviating all cause of complaint from this source.

Swinhoe. At South Cottages the old unsatisfactory privies and ashpit have been remodelled. The open ashpits have been abolished and the privies converted into ash-closets. A long-standing source of nuisance and complaint at the North Cottages is now in course of abatement, the owner having arranged to abolish the unsatisfactory large open ashpit and two privies, and substitute six self-contained approved privy ashpits, one for each tenant. This very necessary work will undoubtedly effect a great improvement to these cottages.

Chathill. The ditch on the east side of the station became very offensive during the summer, but considerable improvement was effected on having it thoroughly cleared out and cleansed for a distance of 600 yards. It has also been arranged to put larger pipes across the roadway so as not to restrict the flow in any way, and utilise all water, especially at times of flood, for scouring purposes.

Water Supplies. During last exceptionally dry season some difficulty was experienced in various parts of the district owing to the falling off of water supplies, and some inconvenience was necessarily caused on this account. With the advent of the wet season towards the end of the year matters soon improved and supplies became normal. Provision has been made by the Waterworks Company in order that there should not be repetition of the shortage at Beadnell, Swinhoe, North Sunderland and Seahouses, which was fully reported on and dealt with at the time of its occurrence. It may be recorded that the landlord at Belford at present is arranging to bring in a new water supply to the town to supplement the present piped supply, which works when completed should prove a valuable asset to the locality.

Drainage. Defective and choked drains and sewers have been reported, and dealt with as occasion arose, at Beadnell, Belford, Ellingham and Sea Houses.

Sanitary Accommodation. As already noted, the sanitary conveniences have been remodelled and improved on the conservancy system, w.c.'s. not being practicable, at Belford (8), Swinhoe (6), and six new approved privy ashpits are in course of construction at Swinhoe North Cottages. New w.c.'s have been provided at Sea Houses (5). Though there have been considerable improvements during the last few years in the provision of more satisfactory sanitary accommodation, there still remains much to be done in this direction, both from the owners' and occupiers' points of view. Many of the structures are very unsatisfactory and not constructed according to law. Yet on requests being made for proper construction, such as ashpits being rendered impervious, covered, ventilated, of reasonable size, and so on, one is not infrequently met with the remark that this is surely some new sanitary fad, whereas Section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875, expressly provides for the proper provision and construction of these offices, and also empowers the Council to compel such, a fact which should not be lost sight of. At the same time it seems necessary to point out that a proportion of the public need to be educated to the reasonable and legitimate use of the ashpits, instead of making them the receptacles for waste of every description. Proper uses of these offices would be the means of obviating many unpleasant smells and nuisances in the vicinity of dwellings.

Scavenging. This work is carried out by contract in Belford and North Sunderland (including Sea Houses). With regard to the Belford contractor, considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the work regularly done, and repeated requests had to be made, not always with satisfactory results. Ultimately the Council annulled the contract and employed another contractor to do the work. It has been necessary on some occasions to notify the contractors of undue accumulations, but, with the exception already noted, these requests have received attention. The tenants and farmers do the scavenging themselves in other parts of the district, and it must be recorded that they are disposed to permit of large accumulations, though as a rule requests made for cleansing are complied with without undue delay. It would be an advantage to have bye-laws in force relating to the cleansing of privies, ashpits, etc., in the parts of the district not provided for by public scavenging.

Disinfection. Under the directions of the Medical Officer of Health, visits have been paid in respect of infectious diseases, and disinfection carried out at the following places:—Belford (two houses), Ross (one house), Sea Houses (one house), Swinhoe (two houses), New Shoreston (two houses).

Common Lodging House. This house, in Belford, has been frequently visited and invariably found clean and well kept.

Slaughter Houses. There are no improvements of a structural nature to report concerning these. Visits have been made periodically, occasionally at times of slaughter, and the premises generally found satisfactory so far as cleanliness is concerned.

Cowsheds. Inspections have been made of these and in a number of cases it has been necessary to ask for lime-washing and better cleanliness. There are 24 cowsheds on the register.

Factories and Workshops. Periodical visits have been made to these. Some improvements have been made in the arrangement of privies, and screening of same, in the fish-yards. Attention has been given to reports received from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

New Buildings. During the year new buildings have been completed as follows :—

Bamburgh—6 large houses.

Sea Houses—1 house and shop, 1 bungalow, and 4 semi-detached villas.

Plans have been approved as follows :—

2 semi-detached bungalows near St. Aidan's, Sea Houses.

New conveniences, w.c's, at Harbour View, Sea Houses.

W.C. in fish-yard, Sea Houses.

Extensions to Gardener's Cottage, Belford.

Wash-house at Mrs. Ewing's property, Sea Houses.

Addition to Twizell South Lodge.

New school at Adderstone, Warenford.

4 semi-detached villas at Sea Houses.

Thos. W. Dodd, A. R. San. I.

February, 1915.



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

Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett. Deaths belonging to the District.				
	Un-corrected 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 per 1000 Net Births.	Rate.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	5262	93	93	17.6	57	10.8			6	64		
1910	5269	107	107	20.3	67	12.7			18	168		
1911	5001	97	97	19.3	58	11.5			12	123		
1912	4981	93	93	18.6	59	11.8	3	3	6	64	59	11.8
1913	4961	84	84	16.9	62	11.29	1	4	4	47	65	13.10
1914	4941	96	96	19.3	50	10.11	0	2	5	52	52	10.52
Area of District in acres (land and inland water).		38,586.		Total population at all ages				5006	At Census of 1911.			
				Number of inhabited houses				1227				
				Average number of persons per house				4				

Table II.

Belford District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total cases notified in each locality.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Belford.	N. Sunderland.	Bamburgh	Beadnell	Other Places.
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards					
Diphtheria ...	2		1					1				1	1
Erysipelas ...	6					1	3	2		4			2
Scarlet Fever ...	9		1	6	1	1				1			8
Poliomyelitis ...	1				1					1			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	9				2	5	1	1	5	2			2
Totals ...	27	0	1	7	4	7	4	4	5	8	0	1	13

ISOLATION HOSPITAL, BELFORD.—Total available beds, 8, provided by the Belford Rural District Council.
Total cases removed to hospital, 0.

Table III.

Belford District.

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

Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									
Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All Causes	52	5	0	1	0	3	7	7	29
0	0								
Influenza ...	1								1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	4					3	1		
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1						1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	7			1			1	1	4
Organic Heart Disease ...	11						1	2	9
Bronchitis ...	1								1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2								1
Cirrhosis of Liver...	1						1		
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	3						1	1	1
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth	1								
Other Defined Diseases ...	16	1					2	3	8
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	4	3							4
	52	5	0	1	0	3	7	7	29

Table IIIa.

Belford District.

Allocation of Zymotic Deaths to Sub-Districts.

	Allocation of Zymotic Deaths to Sub-Districts.					
	Belford.	North Sunderland.	Bamburgh.	Beadnell.	Rest of District.	Whole District
Enteric Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria and Croup	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Table IV.

Belford District.

Infant Mortality.—1914.

Nett. Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week		1-2 weeks		2-3 weeks		3-4 weeks		Total under 4 weeks		1-3 months		3-6 months		6-9 months		9-12 months		Total Deaths under 1 year	
	All Causes	{ Certified Uncertified	1				1	1			2						1		5	
Pneumonia (all forms)							1	1									1		1	
Gastritis																	1		1	
Rickets																	1		1	
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus																			1	
Other Causes			1					1										1	1	
Totals			1				1	2			2						1		5	

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 90
illegitimate 6

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 3
illegitimate infants 2

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report—1914.

Name of District : BELFORD RURAL. Population : 4941. Name of Inspector : THOS. W. DODD.	Housing Inspections. Structural Defects, Dampness, Sanitary Accommodation, &c.	GENERAL SANITARY WORK.													TOTAL	
		Water Supply.		Drainage		Sanitary Conveniences.			Dairies and Cowsheds.	Slaughter Houses.	Common Lodging Houses.	Bakery uses.	Other Workshops.	Other Nuisances.		Houses Disinfected.
		Insufficient.	Unsatisfactory.	Defective.	Foul and Choked.	Structural Defects.	Insufficient.	Foul.								
Number of Inspections made.	138	3	1	8	7	12	4	80	24	12	6	10	78	30	8	421
Number of cases where defects found to exist and Informal Notices served.	108	3	1	8	7	12	4	40	4	3		3	4	30		227
Number of cases where all or some of defects complain- ed of were remedied.	36	3	1	8	7	12	4	40	4	2		3	4	24		148
Number of Statutory Notices																

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Table X. Belford District.
1914.

Sub-Districts.	Population. (Middle of 1914)	Births (nett).	Deaths (nett).	Infants' Deaths (nett).
BELFORD.	731	13	13	2
NORTH SUNDERLAND.	1099	21	10	1
BAMBURGH.	393	5	5	0
BEADNELL.	320	7	0	0
REST OF DISTRICT.	2398	50	24	2
WHOLE DISTRICT.	4941	96	52	5

Belford District.

Phthisis: Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation

Early Cases - - - - - No provision.

Intermediate Cases - - - - - No provision.

Advanced Cases - - - - - No provision.

Do the Sanitary Authority use (1) their isolation Hospital, or (2) their
Small-pox Hospital, for cases of Phthisis? - - - - - No.

Do the Sanitary Authority reserve beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium? No.

Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable open-air shelters or Tents? No.

Have the Council or any private body, provided a Dispensary? - No.

