

[Report 1922] / Medical Officer of Health, Belford R.D.C.

Contributors

Belford (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1922

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ngtay4z4>

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>

Belford



ANNUAL REPORT

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

FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1922.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Belford Rural Sanitary District

for the Year ending December 31st, 1922.

1. General Statistics.

Area (acres) 38586.

Population (1921) 4959.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921) 1220.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (1921) 1220.

Rateable Value (1922) £40844.

Sum represented by a penny rate £170.

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Births	Legitimate	74	39	35	} Birth rate 16·73 per 1000.
	Illegitimate	9	7	2	
Deaths		57	25	32	Death rate 11·49 per 1000.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth } From sepsis ... Nil.
 } „ other causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ... 6.

Rate per 1000 births :—72.

Legitimate, 5 ; Illegitimate, 1. Total, 6.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

Specify any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment :—Nil.

3. Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.				Total Cures Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)				0	0	
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	0	0	
Pneumonia	...	...	...	12	0	3
Other Diseases generally notifiable						
(Specify Disease) :—Erysipelas				3	0	0
Other Diseases notifiable locally (Specify disease)				0	0	
Tuberculosis :—						
(a) Pulmonary	...	M.		3	1	2
		F.		2		2
		Total.		5		
(b) Non-Pulmonary		M.		2	2	0
		F.		1		0
		Total.		2		

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cases.		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated at home				
	2	2	2	0	0	0
		In Hospital				
		0				

Analysis of total cases and deaths of notifiable diseases under age groups.

Scarlet Fever :—above 4 and under 5 :—1.

Do. do. above 20 do. 35 :—1.

No deaths.

Pneumonia :—Above 1 and under 2 :—1.

Do. do. 2 do. 3 :—3.

Do. do. 4 do. 5 :—1.

Do. do. 5 do. 10 :—4.

Do. do. 20 do. 35 :—1.

Do. do. 25 do. 45 :—1.

Do. do. 45 do. 65 :—1.

and upwards.

Pneumonia :—Deaths.

Above 5 and under 10 :—1.

„ 25 „ 35 :—1.

„ 35 „ 45 :—1.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—

Above 20 and under 35 :—2.

„ 35 „ 45 :—1.

„ 45 „ 65 :—2.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis : Deaths :—

Above 20 and under 35 :—2.

„ 35 „ 45 :—1.

„ 45 „ 65 :—1.

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is one in four.

The efficiency of notification of tuberculosis in the district is generally well maintained.

4. Causes of Sickness.

In the beginning of the year there were many cases of influenza in the district but they were for the most part mild in type, though it was necessary on account of its prevalence to close the school at Lucker for a period, and it was necessary in March to close the same school on account of an epidemic of whooping cough.

The low summer temperatures were probably the reason of the general sickness ratio being low.

5. Summary (for reference)

of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the home is provided by Local Nursing Associations to their members, and such facilities are of great value to the community.

The Rural District Council does not contribute any financial aid to Nursing Institutions in the district. The Guardians however subscribe to the Newcastle Infirmary and have provisional arrangements with the local Nursing Association in regard to Poor Law cases.

There are no certificated midwives.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—There are no Maternity and Child Welfare Centres nor Day Nurseries. Arrangements are made for the treatment of Venereal Diseases in the Newcastle Infirmary.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.—The District Council has provided an 8 bed Isolation Hospital for cases of smallpox. The County Council now owns it's own Sanatorium for cases of tuberculosis at Wooley, near Corbridge. There is accommodation for 144 cases, 71 males, 26 females, and 47 children. There are also 19 beds at

Stannington Sanatorium which are reserved for children up to the age of 16. Included in this is a small number reserved for surgical cases.

The only institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children is the Poor Law Institution, or where facilities are available for boarding out purposes.

Ambulance facilities for infectious and non-infectious and accident cases :—Arrangements are made for the use when required of ambulances which belong to an adjoining authority.

6. Laboratory Work.

The County Council during the year made bacteriological examinations in reference to Diphtheria (1) and Tubercle (2).

Diphtheria antitoxin is kept in store by the Medical Officer of Health for use when required. Antitetanic serum is also available.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws and Local Regulations relating to the public health, in force in the district with date of adoption.

- (1) Prevention of Nuisances in the Keeping of Animals, 28th Sept., 1893.
- (2) Common Lodging Houses, 18th December, 1884.
- (3) Slaughter Houses, 28th September, 1893.
- (4) Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., 12th January, 1899.
- (5) New Streets and Buildings, 4th July, 1906.

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

Adoptive Acts.

- (1) Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, 11th June, 1891.
- (2) Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, 11th June, 1891.

8. Public Health Staff.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are :—

- (1) The Clerk.
- (2) The Medical Officer of Health.
- (3) The Sanitary Inspector (who also acts as Surveyor).

The Sanitary Inspector is a whole time officer. The Clerk and Medical Officer of Health are part time officers. The latter and the Sanitary Inspector are those to whose salaries contribution is made under the Public Health Acts or by Exchequer grants.

The Medical Officer of Health holds a Diploma in Public Health granted to him by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. The Sanitary Inspector is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. This information is now by the Ministry of Health required to be stated.

9. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| (a) | Total | 12. |
| (b) | As part of a municipal housing scheme | Nil. |
1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*
 Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 61.
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 61.
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... Nil.
 (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 6.
 2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*
 Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 6.
 3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*
 A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.
 (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil.
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:—
 (a) by owners Nil.
 (b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil.
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close Nil.
 B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
 (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil.
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—
 (a) by owners Nil.
 (b) by Local Authority in default of owners Nil.
 - C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.
 (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders Nil.
 (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
 (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house having been made fit Nil.
 (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
 (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

B.—There have been during the year no noteworthy condition prejudicial to the health of the area, nor any important measures affecting the public health taken. I have recommended strongly that in regard to the provision of hospital accommodation for small-pox cases this should be secured by one conjoint hospital for a group of districts. At the present time when transport by motor ambulance is so easily obtained, this is a measure which seems eminently suitable for rural areas, but so far no action has been taken by the District Council.

C.—There has been no noteworthy occurrence affecting the public health during the year which concerns the sanitary authority or its sanitary staff, nor any important developments of public health administration.

The Housing Schemes are in abeyance but there are signs of private enterprise creating activity in this direction in Belford and North Sunderland. There is a very distinct need for houses which are suitable for the working classes.

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, etc. 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 into the sea, and is untreated before doing so. In Belford town most of the houses are drained into sewer conduits and by them into the Belford stream; this should be abandoned and a modern drainage scheme installed. 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. Septic tanks are in use in a few instances.

Closet Accommodation.—The ashpit and privy system is generally in use in farm places, and most of the villages also.

Public scavengers are appointed to remove house refuse in Belford, North Sunderland and Sea Houses, in other places this duty is carried out by the occupiers. An increasing number of houses are now provided with movable ashbins as water closet accommodation is more 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 owner. 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 24 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, four 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	...	11	Bakers	...	...	4
Bootmakers	...	7	Blacksmiths	...	...	8
Tailors	...	2	Saddlers	...	...	1
Joiners	...	9	Painters	...	...	4
Cycle Agents & Garages	6		Herring Curers	...	...	5
Gas Works	...	2	Plumbers	...	...	3
Sawmills	...	2	Millwrights	...	...	1
	Sculptors	...				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 working hours.

The general cleanliness and drainage have been found satisfactory.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1922.

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 1922	...	...	66

Causes of Death in Belford Rural District, 1922.

Civilians only.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes	25	32
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	2
Cancer, malignant disease	5	3
Cerebral hemorrhage, etc.	1	1
Heart Disease	2	8
Bronchitis	4	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	
Acute and Chronic Nephritis		1
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, premature birth	3	1
Suicide		1
Other Deaths from Violence	1	
Other Defined Diseases	3	9
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total 4 Illegiti- mate 1	1
Total Births	46	37
Legitimate	39	35
Illegitimate	7	2
Population	...	4,959

General Register Office,
Somerset House,
London, W.C. 2.

April, 1923.

Schools.—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.

Number of Slaughter Houses in 1914—5. January 1921—5. December 1921—5.

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.

No cases of Malaria, Dysentery, Trench Fever or Enteric Fever were notified.

In cases of Diphtheria anti-toxin is promptly resorted to, and in all suspicious throat cases swabs are taken and sent off for immediate examination at Newcastle.

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. In May, 1920, I reported to the District Council upon the Small-Pox Hospital, and recommended one central Hospital for all the Northern Districts in the County. This would lead to efficiency as patients can be readily and safely removed considerable distances by motor ambulances.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The County Council provides lady inspectors who visit mothers and give useful advice in child welfare.

The physical welfare of the child is of paramount importance to the Nation. It is well-known that many of the deaths in children under one year are due to improper care and feeding which lead to atrophy (or wasting) so that when these children are attacked by disease their chances of recovery are small indeed. Excessive diarrhoeal mortality occurs during the summer months especially if the weather is unusually hot, and the close connection between the disease and bottle feeding is too well-known to need comment.

Under the Local Government Board Order in reference to Child Welfare the County Council have appointed Health Visitors for all the districts under the Order. The County Health Committee encourages the formation of child welfare centres and have asked their Health Visitors to give whatever information and help they can in connection with the above, and have impressed upon them the absolute necessity of carrying with them the co-operation of the local medical officer of health and all other medical practitioners, district nurses and midwives. When consulted about any infant they have been warned

to ascertain first whether any medical man is in attendance and if so to give no advice as to food or other treatment ; and in any acute case such as inflamed eyes in new born children (which often leads to blindness) to impress upon the parents the necessity of calling in a doctor at once, and to ask the doctor if he approves of the Health Visitor acting in conjunction with the district nurse in carrying out the treatment.

Jas. G. Macaskie, D.P.H.,

1923.

Medical Officer of Health



Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

1922.

The general sanitary administration during the year 1922 has again been of a routine nature. A very gratifying feature of the year, however, is the revival, to some extent at least, of building operations in the district, notably at Sea Houses. There is certainly a marked improvement on the past few years, and one which it is to be sincerely hoped will be maintained, particularly as regards the smaller type of house, which it is pleasing to note is again under construction by private enterprise. Every possible encouragement should be given to such building. It is also satisfactory to observe that some wash-houses, porches, etc., are being built, adding to the convenience and comfort of occupiers. As stated in previous reports, the position in the district generally is not so much actual shortage of houses (though more new ones are very desirable), as to the quality of the housing. The Ministry of Health has already suggested as a reasonable minimum standard that a fit house should be:—(1) free from serious dampness; (2) satisfactorily lighted and ventilated; (3) properly drained and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, and with a sink and suitable arrangements for disposing of slop water, and (4) in good general repair; and should have—(5) a satisfactory water supply; (6) adequate washing accommodation; (7) adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food; and (8) a well ventilated store for foods. Judging from these items, surely most reasonable, it will readily be appreciated that the general standard of housing is below present day requirements. Dampness is largely prevalent, most of the houses being old, and general household conveniences are lacking in many cases. Sanitary accommodation leaves room for much improvement, although the more objectionable types of privies, etc., are gradually being abolished in the more populous parts of the district. A notable instance is at North Street, Sea Houses, where privies and a particularly open ashpit in a public position have been replaced by w.c's., wash-house, etc. Also at the top of Taylor Street, Sea Houses, two very bad pail closets have been replaced by w.c's. As previously reported, however, until it is made compulsory for one house one sanitary convenience, the question of sanitary accommodation will always be troublesome to deal with. The approximate number of each type of closet are: privy ashpit, with privy for one house, 670; privy ash-pits, with privy for more than one house 97; pail closets 68, w.c's. 248. Since 1911 some 52 w.c's. have been put in, in place of privies. With decreasing costs, it is hoped it will be possible to have more improvements effected in the near future.

During the year, the bakehouses, four in number, three with machinery installed, have been inspected and found to be generally well kept. The slaughter-houses, 5 in number, registered, have been kept under observation, and generally speaking have been found well conducted. There are 24 cowsheds on the register, and they have been found fairly well kept, requests to limewash being complied with.

Disinfection is carried out by means of Formeldehyde¹ (using McDougall's Vap lamps), as required, under the instructions² of the Medical Officer. There is no steam disinfecter provided.

The area is not industrial, and it has not been necessary to take any steps regarding smoke abatement.

The following is the list of plans approved during the year so far as domestic buildings are concerned :—

Tea Room, Bamburgh, for Mr J. McDougal.

Extensive alterations and addition to House at North Sunderland for Mr F. H. Hall.

Bungalow at Bamburgh for Mr Veevers.

Alterations to Sawmill House, Middleton Estate.

Cottage at North Sunderland for Mr Maclaren.

2 Wash-houses, North Sunderland, and 2 Wash-houses, Beadnell.

Bungalow on Golf House Road, Bamburgh.

Extensive alterations and improvements at West Street, Belford for Mr Wm. Young (not yet commenced).

2 Bungalows, Sea Houses, for Mr J. Tully.

House on main road, Sea Houses, for Mr Scott.

2 Bungalows, St. Aidans, Sea Houses, for Mr Gregory (in course of erection).

Alterations and improvements at Beadnell House.

House at Beadnell for Miss Craster (not yet commenced).

2 Houses at Tynely, converted from workshop, for Messrs. Elliott Bros.

2 Houses at St. John Street, Sea Houses, for Mr J. Davidson (not commenced yet).

Additional Room to House at Armstrong Cottages, Bamburgh, for Mr Paton.

2 Cottages at Sea Houses, on main road, for Mr J. Davidson (in course of erection).

2 Cottages at North Sunderland for Mr Maclaren (in course of erection).

Thos. W. Dodd,

A. R. San. I.

Form A.

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the Year 1922.

	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					
	Nil.					
	Nil.					
	Nil.					
Coastwise Total Coastwise	3	139				
	0					
	60					
Total Coastwise	63	139				
Total Foreign and Coastwise	63	139	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 X.

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1922.

*Provisional figures. Provisional Populations estimated to the middle of 1921 have been used for the purposes of this Table.
The Mortality Rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales but only to Civilians as regards London and the groups of Towns.*

	Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	20.6	12.9	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.04	0.16	0.11	0.54	0.44	6.2	25.6	92.7	6.2	1.1
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	21.4	13.0	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.19	0.13	0.56	0.41	7.6	82	92.6	6.7	0.7
155 Smaller Towns (1921 ad. pop. 20,000-50,000)	20.5	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.15	0.09	0.58	0.35	5.6	75	93.6	5.1	1.3
London ...	21.0	13.4	0.01		0.35	0.07	0.25	0.25	0.57	0.45	7.1	74	92.1	7.8	0.1

