

**[Report 1940] / Medical Officer of Health, Belford R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Belford (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1940

**Persistent URL**

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# ANNUAL REPORT.

Upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions  
of the

## BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

for the year ending 31st. December 1940.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2314 of 26th. March, 1941, this report is curtailed owing to war conditions.

### STATISTICS.

1. Area. 39,619 acres.
2. Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population 1940 (mid-year) - 5265.
3. Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1940) according to Rate Books - 1730.
4. Rateable Value - £24,433.
5. Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £98.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births. (Legitimate)	61	33	28	Birth Rate 12.7 per 1000 of estimated resident Population.
(Illegitimate)	6	3	3	
Still Births.	5	2	3	
Deaths.	69	35	34	Death Rate 13.1 per 1000 of estimated resident Population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes - Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age. (Total 3).

All infants per 1000 live births.....44.7

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births....49.1.

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births. Nil

Deaths from Cancer (All ages).....8.

Deaths from Measles (All ages).....Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages).....Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).....Nil.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

#### (a) MEDICAL.

D.T. McDonald, M.D. Ch.B (Edin), South Bank, Belford -  
Medical Officer of Health (part-time). District Medical  
Officer for Belford West District, and Medical Officer for  
the Public Assistance Institution, Belford (appointed  
September 1939) (part-time).

Jas. McDonald, M.D.C.M. (Edin), Belford Villa, Belford -  
Public Vaccinator for Belford West District.

F.B. Macaskie, L.R.C.P. & S (Edin) L.R.F.P.S. (Glas),

Malabar, Seahouses. - District Medical Officer for Belford  
East District. Public Vaccinator for Belford East District  
(Part-time).

#### (b) OTHERS.

In January 1940, the Council appointed Mr. H. Mordue as  
Sanitary Inspector on a temporary basis for six months. Mr.  
Mordue left the authority in July 1940, when Mr. C.A. LAKE



who was joint Surveyor for the Belford and Norham and Islandshires Rural Districts was appointed Sanitary Inspector for the duration of the War.

Mr. C.V.F. Cooke, The Sheiling, Seahouses - Vaccination Officer, Relieving Officer and Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) Water. - The shortage of water in Belford became more acute during the year, due to the number of troops stationed in the village. Some slight improvement was made to the supply by the addition of a small tank above the existing reservoir near Belford North Lodge. This did not by any means provide an adequate supply, and plans and specifications were prepared for the construction of a larger tank within the Belford Hall grounds near the old tank. This new reservoir would hold 20,000 gallons, and the work was in the hands of the Contractor at the end of the year. It is hoped that this new reservoir will solve the Belford water problems for some years to come. No other new water schemes were carried out in the area during the year.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage. - The Belford Sewerage Scheme commenced in 1939 was continued during the year. Progress was slow and very unsatisfactory, especially with the sewer which was laid near the Old School. This part of the sewer was laid through ground in which the spring supplying "Dobbs Well" was situated, and it was found that a great deal of this spring water was entering the sewer through defective joints. At the end of the year the Contractor was endeavouring with little success to remedy this defect in the sewer.

No other sewerage schemes were put in hand during the year. Some temporary repairs of an extensive nature were done at Beadnell, where the sewerage system is not by any means satisfactory.

Complaints are frequently received about the part of the Bamburgh sewer which crosses the links opposite the houses on the Link Road and the Armstrong Cottages. The Council are well aware from reports given by me in the past about the inadequacy of the Bamburgh Sewerage Scheme, and it is hoped that this will be remedied as soon as possible after the War.

#### HOUSING.

The Council Houses at Ellingham were completed and occupied by tenants in January 1940. The sewerage scheme here is of a temporary nature for the duration of the War. It is important that the whole sewerage of Ellingham village be reviewed after the War, and the temporary scheme in force at the Council Houses done away with, and incorporated in a comprehensive scheme for the village on modern lines.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat - After the outbreak of war, no slaughtering was carried out in any of the five private slaughter houses in the district. All meat for the district was then supplied from the Government Controlled Slaughterhouse at Berwick.



PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES.

During the year 189 cases of notifiable disease occurred in the district:-

Measles.....	107	Scarlet Fever..	10	Puerperal Pyrexia...	3
Chickenpox..	49	Tuberculosis...	4	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1
Pneumonia...	11	Diphtheria.....	2	Erysipelas.....	1
		Whooping Cough,	1		

Measles was prevalent throughout the district, and occurred in November and December chiefly, although there was a small number of cases reported in May and June.

Chickenpox appeared in epidemic form among children in the Seahouses area in October and November.

Scarlet Fever occurred in Seahouses, Beadnell and Outchester during the first six months of the year.

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever occurred in Seahouses. The patient was removed to Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne for treatment. After a very prolonged illness the patient died.

Influenza was prevalent in the district during February and March.

German Measles occurred in the district during March and April.

D. T. McDONALD,  
M.D. Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

