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Contributors

Belford (England). Rural District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

Upon the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the

BELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

for the year ending 31st. December 1947.

STATISTICS.

1. Area. 39619 acres.
2. Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident Population 1947
(Mid Year) - 1906
3. Number of inhabited Houses (end of 1947) according to Rate
Books - 1755
4. Rateable Value - £25,683.
5. Sum represented by a penny rate - £104. 4. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
<u>Live Births.</u> (Legitimate)	99	44	55	{ <u>Birth Rate</u> 21.8 per 1000 of estimated residen population.
(Illegitimate)	8	3	5	

<u>Still Births.</u>	3	2	1
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<u>Deaths.</u>	63	29	34	{ <u>Death Rate</u> 12.8 per 1000 of estimated resident population.
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England and Wales Birth Rate 20.5 per 1000 Death Rate 12.0 per 1000
Deaths from Puerperal Causes - Nil.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age - Total 4:

All Infants per 1000 live births	37.3
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	30.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegit. live births	125

<u>Deaths from Cancer</u> (all ages)	12
<u>Deaths from Measles</u> (all ages)	Nil.
<u>Deaths from Whooping Cough</u> (all ages)	Nil.
<u>Deaths from Diarrhoea</u> (under 2 years)	Nil.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.(a) MEDICAL.

D.T. Mc.Donald M.D.Ch.B.(Edin) South Bank, Belford.
 Medical Officer of Health (part time) District Medical Officer
 & Public Vaccinator Belford West District (part-time).
 Medical Officer, Public Assistance Institution.

F.B. Macaskie, L.R.C.P. & S (Edin) L.R.F.P.S. (Glas), 'Malabar',
Seahouses. District Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for
 Belford East District (part time)

(b) OTHERS.

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor & Building Surveyor. - W.R. KIRK,
 H.S.I.A., 'Seabank', Seahouses.

Engineer & Surveyor in charge of Water & Sewerage Undertakings
& Town & Country Planning - T.C. Arrandale, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.I.,
 (appointed July 1947)

Vaccination Officer & Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths. -
 Mrs. M.A.C. Thompson, Horsley House, Seahouses.

Relieving Officer - Mr.J. Bell, 7 Narrowgate, Alnwick.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

General.

Promises at 1 High Street, Belford, have been leased for Council Offices so that all the Council staff may be housed together.

The Council have appointed T.C. Arrandale, M.I. Mun. E., M.R.S.I., as Engineer & Surveyor to be responsible for the maintenance of management of the Council's Water Undertakings, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Work and the administration of the Town & Country Planning Acts.

Water Supply.

Owing to the reorganisation which has taken place during the year little progress has been made with the preparation of the District Water Scheme, but the approval of the County Council is expected early next year.

Samples of water have been taken for bacteriological examination and have been found suitable for domestic use.

During the summer months shortages of water have been experienced at the coastal parishes of North Sunderland and Beadnell which have a substantial rise in the number of consumers during the holiday season.

Water is supplied from public mains to houses in the following Parishes.

PARISH.	Pipes into Houses.	By Standpipe.	Total No. of Houses.
North Sunderland.	347	78	425
Belford.	191	7	198
Beadnell.	118	25	143
Chathill.	5	11	16
Ellingham.	15	9	24
Fleetham.	7	5	12
Swinhoe.	4	14	18
TOTALS.	699	149	848

Housing.

New Houses Completed during the Year.

By Local Authority 8 (Permanent)
By Private Enterprise 7 (-do-)

Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 5

Number of defects remedied in consequence of informal action. 101

Action under Statutory Powers. Nil.

(Sanitary Conveniences)

Privies abolished 12
Privy ashpits abolished 10
Water closets provided 18
Water closets repaired 7
Sanitary bins provided 25
Sanitary bins renewed 15

(Drainage)

New drains constructed 15
Drains repaired or reconstructed 11
Additional gullies provided 16
Old Gullies replaced 5
Sewery sinks provided 7
Yards repaired or reconstructed 14

(Water supply)	New Services provided	4
	No. of houses affected	6

Plans Approved relating to dwelling houses.

Provision of W.C. and wash-house, Old Gas House, Belford - R.A.Cuthbert.

Alterations to 'Glenwood', Belford - R.A.Cuthbert.

Provision of Bathroom and W.C., High Street, Belford - J.W.Redpath.

Addition to scullery, Cottage, Adderstone, Belford - J.G.Easton.

Provision of Bath, W.C. and sculleries to 4 houses
Beadnoll Stead - T.B.Gregory & Sons.

New Bungalow, North Sunderland - G.Anderson.

Provision of Bath, W.C. and scullery, Beadnoll Stead - M.Fawcus.

Provision of W.C., 5 High Street, Belford - J.Mole.

Provision of Bath, scullery &c. North Bank, Belford - G.McLaren.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS &
OTHER DISEASES DURING 1947.

During the year 82 cases of Infectious Disease were notified in the Rural District:-

Whooping Cough	-	21.	Pneumonia	-	9
Measles	-	18	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	7
Chickenpox	-	11	Tuberculosis	-	4
Scarlet Fever	-	9	Erysipilus	-	3

No major epidemic of Infectious Disease occurred during the year in the Rural District, although 21 cases of whooping cough occurred amongst children in the Belford & Warenford areas during April, May and June.

The case of Measles and Scarlet Fever occurred sporadically during the year in various parts of the Rural District.

In common with most areas in the County, this Rural District was visited by Acute Poliomyelitis for the first time in over forty years. The cases occurred as follows:-

- (i) Boy (8 yrs) Seahouses. 1st. August.
- (ii) Female (20 yrs) Ross Farm, Belford. 20th. August.
- (iii) Girl 1.10/12 yrs) Seahouses. 20th. August.
- (iv) Girl (7 yrs) Seahouses. 5th. September.
- (v) Male (19 yrs) Easington Grange. 20th. September.
- (vi) Boy (14½ yrs) 14th. September.
- (vii) Boy (14 yrs) Easington Grange. 1st. October.

It is interesting to note that four cases occurred in Seahouses, although investigation did not reveal any contact between the patients. Seahouses is the most thickly populated part of the Rural District, and during August and September the population may easily be doubled due to summer visitors. Ross and Easington Grange are adjoining farms, but no connection between the cases at these two farms could be ascertained. The two cases at Easington Grange occurred in brothers living in the same house. The cases were all removed to Hospital in Newcastle/Tyne for treatment. There were no fatal cases, and in only one case was there severe crippling as a result, viz: the first case of the boy aged 8 yrs. All of the cases occurred in that part of the Rural District adjacent to the sea coast. It is doubtful however if the location of the cases is of much significance.

