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BISHOP AUCKLAND

Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

T. A. McCULLAGH,


M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., ETC.,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

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FOR THE YEAR 1905.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The statistics which I have to present to you relating to the health of the town during the year 1905 in almost every detail show an improvement on the previous year. The total number of deaths registered in the district was 249. Thirty-one of these were deaths of non-residents who were in Public Institutions in the district, which leaves 218 as the number belonging to the town; and to this must be added the death of 1 resident which occurred in Sedgefield Asylum. There were thus 219 nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district.

The population estimated to the middle of 1905 is 12,640, and the death rate is the low one of 17·32. In 1904 there were 310 deaths, with a rate of 21·9. The average for the County for the last 10 years is 18·1.

Perhaps the most satisfactory feature of the statistics is the fall in the Infantile death rate. In 1904, 83 children under 1 year of age died. Last year the number fell to 46, giving a rate per 1,000 births registered of 115·28. This is much the lowest rate of which I have any record, the nearest approach to it being the rate of 140 in 1903. The rate for the whole County for the year is 159, and the average for the last 10 years is 165. As so much attention is being attracted to the heavy infantile mortality in the United Kingdom generally, it is gratifying to find that in 1905 Bishop Auckland had no share in it. The question has become so serious that the Local Government Board has taken special action in the matter, and a new Table has now to be furnished by Medical Officers of Health showing the exact causes of death and the exact ages of all infants dying under 1 year of age. This return is appended to my Report, and it will be seen that very few of the deaths are due to improper feeding, which is generally considered by experts to be the most frequent cause of excessive infant mortality. Eighteen of the 46 deaths were due to "Wasting Diseases," such as Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmas, and 7 to "Diarrhœal Diseases." Four deaths were due to Bronchitis and Pneumonia, a large decrease on the 19 of the previous year.

Forty-three deaths were those of people 65 years of age and upwards.

Zymotic Diseases.

Measles ...	...	4
Whooping Cough ...	...	2
Enteric ...	...	6
Continued	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	1
		—
		14

No deaths occurred from Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Croup, or Erysipelas. The Zymotic death rate is 1.1, very considerably lower than the County rate of 2.37

There were 13 deaths from Consumption (Phthisis), a decrease of 6 on the previous year. The Phthisis death rate is 1.02, which is about the County average. There were 11 deaths from "other Tubercular Diseases."

The deaths from Cancer number 10, a decrease of 3 on the previous year.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia were responsible for 24 deaths, a very large decrease on 1905, when there were 51 deaths.

The deaths from Heart Disease were 17, and this is the largest mortality from any single complaint.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 132 cases of Infectious Diseases notified. They were as follows:—

Diphtheria	...	19
Erysipelas	...	34
Scarlet Fever	...	8
Enteric Fever	...	45
Continued Fever	...	23
Puerperal Fever	...	3
		<hr/>
		132

Diphtheria

There were no deaths from Diphtheria, although 19 cases occurred. Careful disinfection was always carried out, and in only one instance did two cases occur in the same house. In two instances, at the North Eastern Bank, and at West Terrace, there were very serious sanitary defects in connection with the drainage, which have been thoroughly remedied.

Erysipelas.

Thirty-four cases of Erysipelas were notified. There were no deaths. It is absurd that this disease should be retained on the list of notifiable Infectious Diseases. Since the Act has been in force in Bishop Auckland there has only on one occasion been a second case in the same house, and during the whole time I have been in practice I have never seen an instance of infection from Erysipelas. If Phthisis could be substituted for it some benefit would accrue.

Scarle Fevert.

Only 8 cases were notified, and there was no death.

Enteric Fever and Continued Fever.

There were 45 cases of Enteric Fever. They occurred as follows :—

January	...	...	7
February	...	...	6
March ...	...	...	3
April ...	...	...	4
* May ...	...	...	1
June ...	...	...	1
July ...	...	...	2
August	...	...	1
September	...	...	6
October	...	...	4
November	...	...	6
December	...	...	4
			—
			45

Since the outbreak in December, 1904, no month has been without a case, and in the majority of instances the cases occurred in the immediate neighbourhood of previous foci of the disease. The bacillus, which is the cause of Typhoid, is extremely tenacious of life, and when an ashpit, a privy, or the soil of a back yard becomes infected with it,

the germ may remain quiescent for months and then become again active under favouring circumstances. This is why the aftermath of an epidemic of Typhoid is of longer duration in a district where the privy-ashpit system is in use than in a district which is supplied with water-closets. There is no remedy but the most thorough disinfection of privies, ashpits, or earth closets, as soon as the disease is recognised, and the disinfection or destruction of all discharges from the patients. There were 5 cases in Jock's Row, 2 in Dial Stob Hill, and 4 on The Batts. There were 3 in Edward Street, 3 in Surtees Street, 4 in Bridge Street, 5 in Durham Street, and 4, including 2 Continued Fevers, in Fleet Street.

Twenty-three cases of Continued Fever were notified. In the opinion of many experts this is not a separate disease but a mild form of Enteric, and I notice that Dr. Eustace Hill, in his yearly report to the County Council, condemns the use of the term. But it is possible that danger might arise through cases not being notified at all if there were not the alternative given where there is doubt about the precise form of the Fever. In every instance the same precautions have been taken as for Enteric.

Three cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, one of which proved fatal. I took what steps were necessary to prevent infection being carried to any other parturient women.

The Infectious Hospital.

There were 23 patients treated at the Hospital during the year.

Enteric ...	...	22
Diphtheria	...	1
		—
		23

There were 3 deaths from Enteric. Whenever necessary extra nurses have been engaged.

Births.

The Births numbered 399, giving a birth rate of 31'56.

The Water Supply.

During the whole year the Urban District has had the advantage of an ample supply of water. While many neighbouring districts were suffering from scarcity we had enough and to spare, and it is improbable that the general state of health in the town would have been so good if the inhabitants had not had this great advantage. When a third filter bed has been constructed there should be no possibility of any unfiltered water being supplied. This possibility is the one weak spot in our system, and Dr. Eustace Hill points his unerring finger at it in his Annual Report to the County Council.

Scavenging, Ashpits, etc.

The Scavenging has been satisfactorily performed during the year, and the cleansing and disinfection of privies and ashpits has been systematic. But I cannot say that the disinfection has been successful in all cases where Enteric has existed on the premises. No pains should be spared to make the process as thorough as possible.

Cow Sheds.

The Cow Sheds in the district have been kept in good sanitary condition.

Insanitary Property.

During the year I reported to the Council on the insanitary condition of property in Frederick Street. Eight privies and 4 ashpits were in a very dilapidated and offensive state. Ultimately proceedings were taken in the Police Court, and an order was obtained to compel the provision of ash-closets.

I also reported on the insanitary state of premises in South Church Lane, where the defects have since been remedied.

A report was made by me on the prevalence of Fever in Fleet Street, and an inspection of the property was made. The dwelling-houses, offices, and drainage were all in good condition, but certain defects were found in connection with the water pipes, and these may have been the cause of the illness. The defects have now been remedied.

At the request of the Council I made a careful and detailed examination of the Town Head property, and have reported fully to the Council. Much of the property was in a bad state of repair. At the same time I called attention to the absence of Infectious Disease in this locality.

A detailed statement of the notices served for the removal of insanitary conditions in various parts of the town, and the improvements carried out in consequence, is appended.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

A detailed statement of the work done in connection with this Act is appended. The workshops are all clean and healthy. In one case sanitary accommodation was defective, a notice to remedy was served, and the work is being carried out.

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Thirty-five houses were disinfected after Infectious Diseases. I have referred to the question of disinfection of ash-pits and privies in another part of the Report.

I append a summary of work done under Public Health Acts, and the Forms of Vital Statistics, causes of, and ages at death; particulars of Infant Mortality, and cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905, as now required by the Local Government Board.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	11847	424	35.7	67	158	257	19.3					
1896	12197	379	31	61	148	235	17.1					
1897	12152	344	28.3	63	183	220	17.3					
1898	12700	353	27.8	59	164	208	16.3					
1899	12850	408	31.6	90	220	290	22.5					
1900	12850	372	28.9	72	193	265	20.6	51	20	3	248	19.2
1901	11966	395	32.9	65	164	271	22.6	52	23	7	256	21.3
1902	12162	389	31.9	59	151	219	18	53	24	9	204	16.7
1903	12319	419	34	59	140	246	19.9	70	42	8	212	17.2
1904	12479	387	31	83	214	310	24.8	64	38	2	274	21.9
Averages for years 1895-1904.	12352	387	31.31	67.8	173.5	252.1	19.84	58	29.4	5.8	238.8	19.26
1105	12640	399	31.56	46	115.28	249	19.69	70	31	1	209	17.32

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 11,969

Number of inhabited houses, 2,387

Average number of persons per house, 5.0

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 950.

From 1896 to 1900 the population was over-estimated.

{ at Census of 1901.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	19	..	2	5	6	6	...	1	
Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	34	...	1	5	1	23	4	...	
Scarlet Fever	8	...	5	3	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	45	...	4	17	12	12	...	22	
Relapsing Fever .. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever... ..	23	...	4	11	2	6	...	...
Puerperal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	132	...	16	41	21	50	4	23	

Isolation Hospital—South Church Lane.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ...	6	...	1	2	2	1	...	3
{ Other continued ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	5	...	1	...	...	4	...	2
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	13	...	1	1	3	6	2	2
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	11	1	5	2	1	2	...	5
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	10	...	...	...	...	6	4	1
Bronchitis ...	15	3	5	...	...	6	1	5
Pneumonia ...	9	1	1	...	...	3	4	2
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism {	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver {	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Venereal Diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Premature Birth ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of parturition ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	17	...	...	1	1	9	6	6
Accidents ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
Suicides ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes ...	104	26	2	3	1	29	43	39
All causes ...	219	46	20	9	8	76	60	70

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified ...	10		6	1	17	2	7	3	1	3	1	1	4	2	2	2	45
	Uncertified ...				1	1												1
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox ...																	
	Chicken-pox ...																	
	Measles ...													1		1		2
	Scarlet Fever ...																	
	Diphtheria : Croup ...																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough ...											1						1
	Diarrhoea, all forms ...							1										1
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...							3			1				1			5
Wasting Diseases	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...							1										1
	Premature Birth ...	6																6
	Congenital Defects ...	2																2
	Injury at Birth ...																	
Tuberculous Diseases	Want of Breast Milk ...																	
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	2		4	1		2	2	3	1	1		1	1				18
	Tuberculous Meningitis ...																	
Other Causes	Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica ...																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...													1				1
	Erysipelas ...																	
	Syphilis ...																	
	Rickets ...																	
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...																	
	Convulsions ...			1	1						1						1	4
	Bronchitis ...													1			1	2
	Laryngitis ...																	
	Pneumonia ...														1	1		2
	Suffocation, overlaying ...																	
	Other Causes ...			1														1
		10		6	2	18	2	7	3	1	3	1	1	4	2	2	2	46

Births in the year } legitimate 373.
 } illegitimate 26.

Deaths from all causes at all ages 46.

Population, estimated to middle of 1905, 12,640.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1905 for the
Urban District of Bishop Auckland on the administration of the
Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and
Homework.**

I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	30	1	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces			
Homeworkers' Premises			
Total	30	1	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness				
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	1	Not yet done. Work in hand.		
{ unsuitable or defective				
{ not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses				
Failure as regards lists of outworkers				
Giving out work to be done in { unwholesome				
premises which are { infected				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox				
Other offences				
Total	1			

Total number of Workshops on Register, 37.

Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the Year 1905, in the Urban District of Bishop Auckland.

1. Public Health Acts.		Number of Informal Written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Auth'ity	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Conditions Structural Defects Overcrowding	...	3 4	3 4	
Lodging-houses		...			
Dairies and Milkshops		...			
Cowsheds		...			
Bakehouses		...			
Slaughter-houses		...			
Ashpits and Privies		...	10	6	Privies removed ... 41
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		...	3	3	Ashpits ,, ... 33
Waterclosets		...	1	1	W.C's. provided ... 19
Defective Yard Paving		...	10	9	Ashclosets ,, ... 25
House Drainage	{ Defective Traps No Disconnection from Sewers Other Faults	...	3 4 6	3 4 6	Ashtins substituted in place of Ashpits ... 13
Water Supply		...			New Trapped Gullies inserted ... 14
Pigsties		...			Yard Pavements reconstructed .. 31
Animals Improperly Kept		...			
Offensive Trades		...			
Smoke Nuisances		...			
Other Nuisances		...	7	7	
TOTALS		...	51	46	
					Number. Remarks.
II. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.					
Formal Notices served	...	...	...	2	
Dwellings dealt with	...	...	...	2	
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	...	...	...	1	
Closing Orders applied for	...	...	...
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	...	...	...
Dwellings permanently closed	...	...	...	1	

