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BISHOP AUCKLAND

Urban District Council

. REPORT .

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,


T. A. MCCULLAGH,

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health.

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

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BISHOP AUCKLAND
Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

T. A. McCULLAGH,

*Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers
of Health,*

FOR THE YEAR 1911.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

During 1911 there were 257 deaths registered in the District. Forty-six of these were deaths of non-residents which occurred in Public Institutions in the town receiving inmates from outside the Urban District, namely: the Lady Eden Hospital, the Workhouse, and St. Monica's Rescue Home. Seven deaths of former residents took place outside the District. The nett deaths which have therefore to be considered in calculating averages number 218. The population at the census of 1911 was 13886. The death-rate is 15·6, rather greater than in 1910 which was the lowest of which I have any record, but less than the County Rate for 1911, which is 16·1

Fifty children died under one year of age and as usual this number includes some who did not belong to the District. The causes of death are fully analysed in Table IV., which is appended to this Report. The most fatal were—

Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	11
Bronchitis	7

Premature Birth	...	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	...	6
Convulsions	...	...	5

I regret that 5 of these deaths were uncertified, and the causes given are consequently of no value. The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births registered is 130·8, an increase on the previous year, but considerably lower than the County Rate for 1911, which is 158.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases at all ages were as follows :

Enteric Fever	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	11
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	2
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	...	...	10
			—
			28

This is a considerable increase on the previous year, when these diseases caused only 11 deaths. The excess is due to an epidemic of Whooping Cough, which caused 11 deaths, and to the presence of Epidemic Diarrhœa which was directly due I believe to the long continued drought. The death rate is 2·01, which again is considerably below that for the County, 3·01.

The Phthisis Death-rate is 0·9, practically the same as that for the County 0·88. From other Tuberculous Diseases there were 13 deaths, making a total of 26 deaths from Tuberculosis, including Pulmonary Cases. Seventeen deaths were attributed to Bronchitis, and 10 to various forms of Pneumonia. I regret to note that there is a large increase in the deaths from Cancer. In 1910 there were 7, in 1911 there were 18. Notwithstanding the enormous amount of research, and money spent in the investigation of this dreaded disease, no effect has yet been produced on the death-rate from it.

Five deaths occurred from accident, and there were four Suicides. One death was certified as due to Alcoholism, but this I fear does not represent the true state of affairs. Death Certificates are to some extent public documents, and medical men consider the feelings of the near relatives of the deceased. The same remark applies to deaths from Syphilis, a disease rarely certified, though not uncommon.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notifications received during 1911 numbered 82, and were as follows :

Diphtheria ...	...	31
Erysipelas ...	...	18
Scarlet Fever	...	9
Enteric Fever	...	4
Phthisis ...	...	20

It is very gratifying that the number of Enteric cases continues to be so small. One case in Peel Street was a man who worked at Bowden Close, and he probably became infected there. The house was clean, had a Water Closet, and had no sanitary defects. Another case was at 36, South Church Lane. Here there was an open ash-pit and privy. The ash-pit was full of wet filth. I reported to the Council and recommended that an ash-closet or water-closet should be provided. A case occurred at 32, Southgate Street. The house and yard were perfectly clean, and I could find no sanitary defects. The fourth case notified was removed to the Hospital, and ultimately it became clear that it was not Enteric.

I received 20 notifications of suspected Phthisis under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908. All these were persons coming under the Poor Law. Except in the case of inmates of the Workhouse they were all visited by Mr. Sanderson, and instructions given for the prevention of any spread of infection. There are shelters for the open-air treatment of

patients to the number of 26 at the Workhouse Infirmary, and except very advanced and hopeless cases, many have received great benefit.

THE INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

Eight cases of Infectious Diseases were treated in the Hospital during the year, as follows :

Diphtheria	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	..	...	4
Enteric	...	...	2

All recovered except one of the Enteric cases. The Hospital has been kept in a good state of repair and efficiency, and the Wards and bedding have always been scrupulously clean. I have been very pleased with the Nursing, and the attention and kindness shown to the patients by the Matron. Some of the cases treated were of exceptional severity and needed ceaseless watching and care. Those who are suffering from Diphtheria or Enteric have a considerably better chance of recovery in the Hospital than in an ordinary house where there is no accommodation for a skilled resident Nurse who can give attention to the all important details of treatment. The Urban Council now supplies Antitoxin Serum for the treatment of attacks of Diphtheria.

BIRTHS.

The Births registered were 382 ; fewer than in any year of which I have a record. The Birth-rate is 27·4. The County-rate for the year is 31·7, and the average for the last 10 years, 34·5.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply has continued good in quality, and ample in quantity. During the dry summer we always had enough and to spare. The supply was constant. Great

care is always exercised to keep the filter beds efficient, and it is most important that this should be done as the river is necessarily liable to contamination above our intake. Samples were sent in October to the Royal Institute of Public Health, for both Chemical and Bacteriological Examination, and in each instance the results were quite satisfactory, the Principal of the Institute certifying that no objection could be taken to the use of the water for domestic purposes.

MILK SUPPLY.

The greater portion of the Milk used in the town comes from the Rural Districts. The premises where cows are kept within the Urban District are in fair condition and clean. The quality of the milk sold is good, and the vessels in which it is brought to the town have always been clean when I have examined them.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number of Slaughter-Houses in the town is ten. When inspected they have always been found clean. The quality of the meat sold is excellent, and I have known of no tubercular meat prepared or offered for sale. In May the Inspector called my attention to some beef which was being sold late at night in the Covered Market. It was in very bad condition, and was seized by my order. It was condemned, and the vendor was prosecuted and fined at the Police Court. The vendor was not a regular butcher, and did not belong the town. This is the only occasion during the year on which I have seen any diseased meat offered for sale.

LODGING HOUSES.

The Common Lodging Houses have been kept clean and in fair repair. Alterations in one of them which I recommended have been carried out after notice was served on the owner by the Urban Council.

SCAVENGING, ASHPITS, &c.

The Scavenging, and Emptying and Cleaning of Ashpits have been satisfactorily carried out during the year by the Council's own workmen. But no amount of attention will make the old privy-ashpits sanitary. Ash-closets are a great improvement on them, but even they are inferior to Water-Closets. I am glad to say that the number of Water-Closets is steadily increasing, and the privy-ashpits decreasing year by year. The respective numbers for 1911 are as follows :

Water-closets	...	...	1828
Ash-closets	...	...	772
Privy-ashpits	...	...	725

In 1910 the numbers were :

Water-closets	...	...	1713
Ash-closets	...	...	681
Privy-ashpits	...	...	764

With a practically unlimited supply of water there is no good reason, known to me, why all new houses should not have Water-closets. With Privy-ashpits, and even with Ash-closets, in close proximity to houses, it is almost impossible to prevent food being contaminated by the flies which breed in them, and then invade kitchens and pantries, or any room in which food is kept.

It is very difficult to keep some of the back streets clean. Decayed food and refuse of all sorts are thrown out of the houses into them, and I have frequently seen defective doors of ash-closets which allow of the refuse spreading into the streets. Two hardy annuals to which I refer regularly still flourish ; the firing of chimneys, and spitting on the pavements. There is no doubt that the sputum of people with Pulmonary Tuberculosis is one of the means by which infection is spread. That is allowed by all authorities on the subject, and Railway Companies in consequence frequently prosecute people for spitting in carriages and on station

platforms. At Newgate-End, for example, except in the worst weather, there is a congregation of loafers from morning to night who seem to have no object in life but to spit, and this they do till the pavement is covered.

HOUSING and TOWN PLANNING ACT.

A commencement has been made with the necessary house to house inspection of the District which is required under this Act. Most of the inspections have been made by both Mr. Sanderson and myself, and full details of any defects and recommendations made to the Council, have been entered in the book which is kept at the Council's Offices. A beginning has been made with the worst properties in the town, such as Town Head where 25 houses have been dealt with; Dial Stob Hill; Black Boy Yard; South Terrace, every house; Bondgate, &c.

As a result of these inspections—

- 19 Closing Orders have been served.
- 10 houses have been closed and 9 been made habitable.
- 2 Houses have been demolished.
- 14 Tenants displaced.
- 22 Notices served on Tenants to quit after closing order becoming operative.
- 3 Ejectment Orders have been granted by the Magistrates

Beyond these bad areas many parts of the town which do not come under that category have been inspected by me or by Mr. Sanderson. We hope that during the coming year all doubtful parts of the town will have been dealt with.

INSANITARY PROPERTY.

Under the Public Health Acts 26 letters have been written by your Inspector to various owners of property for

the abatement of nuisances, and 81 Formal Notices have been served by order of the Council. In 55 instances the requirements of the Council have already been complied with, and others will be shortly. The details are set out in Mr. Sanderson's summary, which is appended to this Report. They chiefly relate to foul conditions of Dwelling Houses, to Privies and Ashpits, and to Defective Yard Paving.

During the year I have examined and reported upon Wilkinson's Yard No. 1 and 2, Chandler's Yard, Dennison's Yard, Bankwell Yard, Kilburn's Yard, Town Head, 6, 7, 8, 9; Newton Cap Bank, white houses, 49 and 47; Finkle Street, 18, 19, 34 and 35; South Terrace, 14 to 24; Black Boy Yard, and 2 houses; Dial Stob Hill, 9; Town Head, 3 houses; Back Bondgate, 12, and house near Bay Horse Inn; Lodging House in Clayton Street; South Terrace, 18 to 24 (again); Dial Stob Hill, 9 (again); Lodging House (again); Town Head, 4 houses (again); Thompson Street, 10 to 14; Victoria Crescent; Back Bondgate, 26; Brewer Street, all the houses; South Church Lane, 36; Southgate Street, 32; Town Head, 12, 9; Newton Cap Bank, 47 (again); Insanitary Vans near houses at Blue Row. In the latter case the occupier was proceeded against before the Magistrates, and an order obtained under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

40 Houses have been disinfected after infectious diseases have been notified, and 3 lots of infected bedding have been treated. At the request of the County Council Medical Officer I have undertaken again to supervise the disinfection of any schools in the Urban District after closure for infectious disease. In all notified cases of Tuberculosis precautions have been taken, and instructions given for the prevention of infection, which largely takes place through promiscuous spitting.

SCHOOLS.

The Sanitary state of the Schools is good on the whole.

FOOD INSPECTION, &c.

The Inspector regularly visits the Public Market and inspects food offered for sale. No case of Tuberculous meat has been met with, but some diseased beef offered for sale was seized and destroyed, and the vendor successfully prosecuted. There is no Public Abatoir. No cases of bad fish or decayed fruit or vegetables, came under the Inspector's notice.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Seventy places are registered under the Act, and 52 of these have been inspected during the year. In 4 instances defects were found, as follows :

Dirty rooms, 2 ; Overcrowding, 1 ; Defective W.C., 1. These were at once remedied when attention was drawn to them. There is only one out-worker.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.
BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year		Births			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District		
	2	3	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	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	
1			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	12803	409		32	286	20.2	42	6	61	149	244	19
1907	12969	400		30.8	285	21.9	38	2	69	172	247	19.1
1908	13136	434		33	265	20	41	..	55	126	224	17
1909	13306	418		31	272	20.4	46	2	49	117	228	17
1910	13478	403		29	231	17.2	53	6	40	99	184	13.6
1911	13886	382	382	27.4	257	18.5	46	7	59	130.8	218	15.6

Total Population at all ages, 13,886
 Number of Inhabited Houses, 3,161
 Average number of Persons per house, 4.3
 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 950.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the
Year 1911.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Diseases	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT								Total Cases removed to Hospital Locality	
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years								
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwar's		
Small-Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	31	..	5	7	9	7	3	..	..	2
Erysipelas ..	18	..	..	1	3	6	6	2	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	9	..	1	7	1	..	..	..	..	4
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	4	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	2
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis—Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	20	..	..	1	6	5	8	..	..	All in Workho'se
Do. do., 1911	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	82	..	6	17	19	21	17	2	..	8

Isolation Hospital—Infectious Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

Total Available Beds, 14.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.
Causes of, and Ages at Death during 1911.
BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death	Nett Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Institutions in the district
	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 upwar's	
All causes	203	45	12	10	7	9	31	46	43	85
Certified	15	5	1	...	...	2	1	2	4	1
Uncertified	188	40	11	10	7	7	30	44	39	84
Enteric Fever	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Small-Pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	11	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria and Croup	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	13	..	..	..	1	3	6	3	..	8
Tuberculous Meningitis	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	11	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	..	14
Rheumatic Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	18	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	8	6
Bronchitis	17	7	2	..	1	..	..	4	3	4
Broncho-Pneumonia	6	2	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	1
Pneumonia (all other forms)	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	10	6	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	17	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	7
Suicides	4	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..
Other Defined Diseases	48	4	..	3	2	1	7	22	9	21
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	37	3	1	..	..	..	3	4	26	15
	218	50	13	10	7	11	32	48	47	86

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY.

1911. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various
Ages under 1 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	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes	Certified	11	4	1	1	17	6	9	6	7	45
	Uncertified	1	..	..	..	1	2	2	..	..	5
Small-Pox ..											
Chicken-Pox ..											
Measles ..								1			1
Scarlet Fever ..											
Diphtheria and Croup											
Whooping Cough ..								1	2	3	6
Diarrhœa.. ..								2	1		3
Enteritis								3			3
Tuberculous Meningitis											
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..								1			1
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..										1	1
Congenital Malformation ..											
Premature Birth ..		5				5	1				6
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ..		4	3	1		8	2	1			11
Atelectasis ..											
Injury at Birth ..		1				1					1
Erysipelas ..											
Syphilis							1				1
Rickets											
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..											
Convulsions ..			1		1	2	2	1			5
Gastritis											
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis							2		3	2	7
Pneumonia (all forms)								1		1	2
Suffocation, overlying		1				1					1
Other Causes ..		1				1					1
		12	4	1	1	18	8	11	6	7	50

Nett Births in the year } legitimate, 355
 } illegitimate, 27
 Nett Deaths in the year } legitimate infants, 44
 } illegitimate infants, 6

TABLE V.

Phthisis, Sanatorium and Hospital Accommodation,
BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

Classes for which accommodation is provided.	By whom provided.	Where situated.	Total number of Beds.	How are patients selected?	Are patients under the care of a resident Medical Officer?	What charge, if any, is made for the use of Beds?	Do the Sanitary Authority use— (1) their Isolation Hospital, or (2) their Small-Sanatorium, for cases of Phthisis?	Do the Sanitary Authority reserve Beds in any Phthisis Sanatorium: If so, how many, and in what Sanatorium?	Do the Sanitary Authority provide portable open-air Shelters or Tents?
(a) Early cases ...	The Guardians' Union Workhouse	Bishop Auckland	26	By Medical Officer	Yes	No	No	...	{ Yes, at the Union Infirmary
(b) Intermediate cases	Sanatorium at Stanhope and Wolsingham &c.	Stanhope and Wolsingham	Do not know	From this District by Dr. C. McCullagh ...	Yes	If able to pay	No	No	...

(c) Advanced cases ...	The Union Workhouse	Bishop Auckland	26	By Medical Officer	Yes	No	No	...	{ Yes, at the Union Infirmary

Have the Council, or any Private Body, provided a Dispensary, if so, give particulars : NO.

TABLE VI.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1911,
for the Urban District of Bishop Auckland, on the administration
of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors
or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	52	4	
Workplaces			
Total	52	4	

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	2	2		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding	1	1		
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary Accommodation } insufficient	1	1		
} 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				
Other Offences				
Total	4	4		

3.—**HOMWORK.**

NATURE OF WORK	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107					
	Lists received from Employers					
	Sending twice in the year			Sending once in the year		
	Lists	Outworkers		Lists	Outworkers	
Con-tractors		Work-men	Con-tractors		Work-men.	
3	2	3	4	5	6	7
Wearing Apparel—						
(1) making, &c.	1	...	...	...
(2) cleaning and Washing
TOTAL	1	...	...	...

4.—**REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.**

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year—70.

TABLE VII.

Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the Year, 1911.

BISHOP AUCKLAND URBAN DISTRICT.

1—Public Health Acts.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Twenty-six letters have been written to various Owners for the abatement of Nuisances.	9	5	
{ Foul Conditions ...				
{ Structural Defects ..				
{ Overcrowding ..				
Lodging-houses ...		2	2	
Dairies and Milkshops ...				
Cowsheds ...				
Bakehouses ...				
Slaughter-houses ...				
Ashpits and Privies ...		35	25	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...		1	1	
Waterclosets ..		2		
Defective Yard Paving		19	14	
{ Defective Traps ..		6	5	
{ No Disconnection from				
{ Sewers ..				
{ Other Faults ..		2		
Water Supply ...		1		
Pigsties ...				
Animals Improperly kept				
Offensive Trades				
Smoke Nuisances				
Other Nuisances				
Living Vans	1	1		
Stables ...	1	1		
Ruinous Houses	2	1		
Totals ...		81	55	

Summary—continued.

II—Water, Food, and Drugs.	Number	Remarks
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	2	
" " condemned as unfit for use ...	2	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	1	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	1	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ..		
" " found Adulterated ...		
III—Precautions against Infectious Disease.	Number	Remarks
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	3	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	40	
Schools " " " " ...		
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...		
Convictions " " " " ...		
IV—General.		
Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	69	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	69	
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	31	
" " Water-closets ...	25	
Ash-closets " " ...	5	
Total Number of Water-closets in District ...	1828	
" Ash-closets " ...	772	
" Ashpit-privies " ...	725	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. A. McCULLAGH, M.O.H.

February, 1912.

1800