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BRENTWOOD URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

:: OF HEALTH ::

(SAMUEL FRAZER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF

PUBLIC HEALTH)

FOR THE YEAR 1920



BRENTWOOD :

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Brentwood Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(SAMUEL FRAZER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c.),

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition and Administration of the District for the year 1920.

Since my first Report to you in the year 1899, many changes have taken place in the field of preventive medicine. Each decade has seen many additional duties placed upon a Local Medical Officer of Health, and scarcely a year has passed but that some Act or Order has been issued aiming at the improvement of the public health machinery. Experience has shown that all measures which have been promoted for the social betterment of the community at large have invariably been accompanied by improved public health legislation. It is of interest to record here the following statistics which I have culled from my Annual Report for the year 1899, and which are compared with the figures for the year under review:—

	1899.	1920.
Population	5,270	6,277
Birth-rate	15'9	23'9
Death-rate	10'8	13'0
Infant Mortality	154	60'0

At such a distance from the last Census, it is perhaps wiser to refrain from drawing deductions from the above comparative figures, but one must draw attention to the remarkable decrease in the infant mortality, in regard to which further remarks are made in the appropriate section of this Report.

The Report being primarily intended for the information of the Ministry of Health and County Council, the method of compilation will be found to be in accordance with the most recent instructions of the Ministry of Health, and the desired information is arranged under certain headings which have been specified in a memorandum on the preparation of Annual Reports :—

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Urban Authority was constituted in April, 1899, and the District consists of the old Parish of Brentwood with an area of 460 acres.

POPULATION.—The following table shows the population for the years 1901, 1911, and last year .—

	1901.	1911.	1920.
Population, including Institutions ...	4,932	6,923	6,277
„ excluding „ ...	4,014	5,525	5,039
Average number of persons per house including Institutions ...	5·4	4·9	4·7
Average number of persons per house excluding Institutions ...	4·4	4	3·5

The population of the Institutions is made up as follows :—

Hackney Branch Institutions ...	...	...	...	280
High Wood ...	...	...	...	370
St. Charles' School ...	...	...	...	234
Ursuline Schools... ..	...	...	...	130
Convent of Mercy (2 houses) ...	...	...	...	114
Jewish Homes	...	...	...	45
Grammar School (in Brentwood Urban District) ...	...	...	...	49
Convalescent Home	...	...	...	16
Total	...	...	...	1238

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

Brentwood is situated on an elevated position on the main road between London and Colchester, six miles from Romford and eleven from Chelmsford, and is bounded by the parishes of South Weald, Shenfield, and Great Warley. The parts of these parishes which immediately adjoin Brentwood are of an Urban character, and for the purpose of drainage a Special Drainage District has been formed and connected with the Brentwood system.

At the time of the formation of the Urban Authority in 1899, it was contemplated to include in the Urban District the thickly populated parts of the parishes immediately adjoining Brentwood, but the scheme was not

carried out, the result being the present anomaly of having a town practically divided into two parts, one part being administered as an Urban Authority and the other part controlled by two different Rural Authorities located six or seven miles away.

In 1914 the Urban District Council of Brentwood petitioned the Essex County Council for an alteration of the boundaries of their District so as to comprise portions of the parishes of Shenfield, South Weald, and Great Warley, and for the amalgamation of Brentwood and the portions of these parishes referred to, into one Urban District.

In the early part of 1915 the County Council held an inquiry, and without comment rejected the scheme. No reason, as far as I know, has ever been given why the proposal was not entertained, which still remains a matter of speculation and food for reflection. However, Brentwood paid the costs of the Inquiry, and is obliged to put up with the anomalous situation and the unsatisfactory conditions depending thereon. The decision of the County Council was a great disappointment to those who took a keen interest in the welfare of the whole neighbourhood, and while they are still wondering why, they feel chary about proposing improvements which, however much they may (in their opinion) be beneficial to the community, might very possibly result in useless expense and disappointed aspirations.

The nature of the soil is somewhat varied, the Western and Northern parts being principally clay, and the remainder for the most part sand and gravel. The town being situated on the edge of the London Basin, as a result, water appears as springs at some of the most elevated points. The surface water of the District drains into the Ingrebourne Brook. The upper part of High Street is 357 feet above ordnance datum, and the lowest point is near Kavanagh Bridge, where the ground level is 202 feet above ordnance datum. A large number of the residents have their occupations in London and Chelmsford, whilst the remainder are employed chiefly in the different places of business and workshops in and surrounding the District.

There are no large manufactories or works in the District, the principal industries being brewing, manufacture of agricultural implements and brick-making.

There is no trade carried on which can be said to have a deleterious effect upon the Public Health or upon the health of the individual engaged therein.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTH-RATE.—There were 150 children born whose parents belong to the District, 82 being boys and 68 girls. Of these, three boys and four girls were illegitimate. The population (as given by the Registrar-General) being 6,277, the birth-rate per thousand of the population would be 23·9. This is the highest birth-rate recorded since 1911, when the figure was 20·3. The record birth-rate for the District was, however, reached exactly twenty years ago, when the figure was 28·1. It seems hardly credible that such a figure will be reached again, nor is it even likely from the figures already published that the present abnormally high rate will be maintained in 1921.

Birth-rates for the past ten years are shown below, for both the District and England and Wales:—

Year.	Brentwood.			England & Wales.		
1911	...	...	20'3	...	...	24'4
1912	...	...	16'2	...	...	23'8
1913	...	...	17'0	...	...	23'9
1914	...	...	16'7	...	...	23'8
1915	...	...	17'5	...	...	22'0
1916	...	...	18'0	...	...	20'9
1917	...	...	17'5	...	...	17'8
1918	...	...	14'1	...	...	17'7
1919	...	...	17'8	...	...	18'5
1920	...	...	23'9	...	...	25'4

DEATH-RATE.—There were sixty-two deaths registered in the District during the year, but five were persons not belonging to the District. There were, however, twenty-five deaths of persons belonging, but who died outside it. Eighty-two is therefore the correct number for statistical purposes, and is equivalent to a death-rate of 13 per 1,000 persons living. Forty-five were males and thirty-seven females. Apart from the War years, this is the highest death-rate recorded since Brentwood assumed Urban powers. The diseases responsible for this high rate were Tuberculosis, Cancer, Heart Disease, Congenital Debility and Diphtheria, all of which accounted for more deaths than was the case in 1919. The death-rate for England and Wales was 12'4. The death-rates for Brentwood for the last five years were as follows:—

Year.						
1916	...	...	...	...	...	12'3
1917	...	...	...	...	...	16'6
1918	...	...	...	...	...	15'8
1919	...	...	...	...	...	9'6
1920	...	...	...	...	...	13'0

The following Table shows the deaths at different ages:—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	9
1 year and under 2 ...	...	...	...	1
2 " " 5 ...	...	...	...	2
5 " " 15 ...	...	...	...	5
15 " " 25 ...	...	...	...	1
25 " " 45 ...	...	...	...	6
45 " " 65 ...	...	...	...	24
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	34

Total for all ages ... 82

Infant Mortality.

There were nine deaths of children belonging to the District under one year of age, all of which occurred and were registered in the District. These deaths occurred in different parts of the District and were not confined to any particular class. The number of births being 150, the Infant Mortality would be therefore at the rate of 60 per 1,000 births. Last year (1919) the rate was 71. For England and Wales the Infant Mortality rate was 80.

The following Table shows the nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age:—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1 to 3 Months.	3 to 6 Months.	6 to 9 Months.
Congenital Debility... ..	4	2	—	—
Bronchitis	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1
Empyema	—	—	1	—
Totals	4	3	1	1

Based on the Registrar-General's returns for the year 1920, the Death, Birth, Pulmonary Tubercle and Infant Mortality Rates are as follows:—

Birth-rate	23'9	Phthisis	'78
Death-rate... ..	13	Infant Mortality... ..	60

There is Mortuary accommodation in cases of necessity for two bodies at the Council's Dépôt. There is no Institution in the District where gratuitous medical relief can be obtained. The amount of Poor Law Out-Door Relief exclusive of Boarded-Out Children was £656 4s. 11½d. as compared with £539 11s. 8¾d. for the year 1919. The average number of persons per occupied dwelling-house is under four, and as there are very few houses with less than four rooms, there cannot be any serious overcrowding.

The adopted Acts are:—

- The Infectious Diseases (Prevention of) Act, 1890.
- The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III.
- The Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Bye-Laws are:—

- Keeping of Animals, Removal of Refuse, &c.
- Lodging-Houses.
- Regulations under "Dairies and Cowsheds Order."
- Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.
- Public Conveniences.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.—The town has a constant supply of water from the South Essex Waterworks Company. Samples are taken periodically and examined at the County Laboratory. Practically in all cases deriving the supply from the Waterworks Company, the water for drinking purposes is taken from the main. Altogether there are fourteen houses in which the water is obtained from other sources. Of these, three are supplied from two springs, the others from six wells. These springs and wells are kept under observation. There are no public wells in use in

the District, and no new wells have been sunk. Two wells have been closed and water from the Waterworks Company laid on. There were samples of water taken from two wells, and from South Essex Waterworks Company's main. The wells were condemned, but the Company's water was satisfactory.

The result of analysis of the sample of water taken from the Company's main was as follows:—

	Grains per Gallon.		
Total dissolved matter	...	...	31'64
Loss on incineration of residue	...	...	2'52
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	3'70
(Equal to chloride of sodium)	...	...	6'10
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	'53
(Equal to Nitric Acid)	...	...	2'03
Free (actual or Saline) Ammonia	...	...	'001
Albuminoid (organic) Ammonia	...	...	'001
Oxygen absorbed by oxidisable organic matter, &c., from a solution of Permanganate of Potash at a temperature of 80° Fahrenheit—			
In 15 minutes	...	...	'008
In 4 hours...	...	...	'017
Phosphoric Acid	...	...	Traces
Appearance in 2 feet tube	...	...	Clear
Total hardness	...	...	20½ degrees
Hardness after boiling	...	...	6½ „

The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory, and it is in exceedingly good bacteriological condition.

There were a few complaints of turbidity due to repairs to mains which were rectified with the least possible delay.

Rivers and Streams.—There are none in the District.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The out-fall sewers and the Sewage Disposal Works are under the absolute control of the Joint Committee, which is composed of Nine Members, six representing Brentwood Urban Council and three representing Billericay Rural District Council. The system is not under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The surface water for the most part is discharged into a small brook which runs between Brentwood and the parishes of South Weald and Shenfield, and which eventually empties in the Ingrebourne Brook. The town sewers are all stoneware pipe and are in a satisfactory condition. As far as drainage and sewerage is concerned the District is adequately served.

Closet Accommodation.—Water-closets with flushing apparatus are supplied in the large majority of the houses in the District. There are 1,296 with proper flushing cisterns, and 354 are hand-flushed, that is, there are about 27 per cent. hand-flushed water-closets in the whole District. Twenty-two flushing cisterns have been repaired or renewed. There have also been twelve new pans or traps put in. There are no water-waste closets in the District. There are four pail-closets for private houses, and one privy in the District. The privy is connected

with a manure pit, well over 100 yards from any dwelling, and is used for the accommodation of occasional workmen. The nine pail-closets remaining of those that were supplied in 1914 for the use of the troops have all been abolished.

Scavenging.—The arrangement for the removal of house refuse worked satisfactorily during the period of the War, but owing to circumstances with which I have nothing to do, some difficulty was experienced lately in the regular removal; but the Council have the matter well in hand, and no doubt all cause for complaint will be removed without delay. A contractor has engaged to remove the refuse once a week and take it clear out of the District, finding his own dumping ground. The Council provide covered vans for the removal, and disinfecting powder for sprinkling in the dust-bins. Twenty dust-bins have been supplied. About thirty tons of refuse have to be removed every week. There are no cesspools in the District.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

General inspection is carried out throughout the year, and the Inspector makes detailed notes of every defect found. It is somewhat to the credit of the Sanitary Inspector that despite the amount of work devolving upon him under the Housing Scheme, he has kept pace with most of his sanitary duties, though naturally the routine inspections (the most important part) have suffered. If the sanitary work is to be maintained at its former level, assistance is absolutely necessary in the interests of all concerned.

The following table prepared by him gives the information desired by the Ministry of Health :—

No. of Inspections made during the year 1920	...	...	355
Nuisances in hand at close of year 1919	...	...	7
" " " " 1920	...	...	9
Nuisances detected or reported to Council during 1920	...	237	
" abated during 1920	...	...	235
Informal notices served	...	...	10
" " complied with	...	...	10
Statutory notices served	...	...	10
" " complied with	...	...	10
No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings	...	...	3

Result of legal proceedings : Order made in each case to abate and pay costs.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

	Number of Inspections.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	9
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	57
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	5
Total	71

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.	
	Found.	Remedied.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>		
Want of Cleanliness	5	5
Other Nuisances	11	11
Sanitary Accommodation—		
Insufficient	2	2
Defective	5	5
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>		
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	2	2
Total	25	25

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS.		
	Lists received from Employers once in the Year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.	
		Contractors.	Workmen
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c. 	2		2

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
There are twelve Factories of which one is a Laundry 	12
There are nine Bakehouses (four are not in use at present, two of which are underground) 	9
There are forty-nine Workshops and seven workplaces (None of the above have forty employees.)	56
Total number of Workshops on Register	77

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	NUMBER.
Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector ...	Nil.
Matters Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	Nil.
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector 	—
Other 	—
Underground Bakehouses... 	None.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District.	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Condition.
Bakehouses	9	9	15	Fair. Four are not used, 2 of which are underground.
Common Lodging- Houses	3	3	6	Clean.
Slaughter-Houses ...	5	5	19	Clean.
Dairies and Milk Shops	5	5	—	Satisfactory.
Factories & Workshops	77	77	—	Do.

The majority of nuisances are abated after the service of an informal notice. If not abated, each case is brought before the Sanitary Committee for instructions, which usually are to serve formal notice. If the nuisance is not then abated, the Clerk is requested to write to the agent, owner, or tenant, as the case may be, and this almost invariably produces the desired result. The Sanitary Committee report to the Council, who have always supported the action of the Committee.

The ten statutory notices served involved seventeen houses and premises, as follows:—

P.H. Act, 1875, Sect. 49	1	involving 1 house.
" " " 50	1	" "
" " " 94	5	" 13 houses
Contravention of Bye-Laws	3	" 3 houses

The ten informal notices involved fourteen houses.

There were eleven cases of "Animals improperly kept," namely, four for fowls, four for rabbits, and three for pigs.

There were three summonses taken out: One for over-crowding, one for pigs improperly kept, and one for repairs to property. An order to abate was made in each case and to pay costs.

Schools.—The Schools are visited as a matter of routine during inspection. The water supply is taken from the Waterworks Company and is satisfactory. Some of the Schools are provided with Closets of the trough type, flushed by automatic tanks. The others are the wash-down pedestal type with proper flushing apparatus. Provided the closets are kept clean, the sanitary arrangements and water supply are satisfactory. The medical inspection of the children is undertaken by officials appointed by the County Council. When there is a prevalence of infectious disease in the District, the Schools are visited to ascertain the names of the children who are absent, and suspicious cases are visited and advice tendered. The homes of children suspected of coming from dirty houses are promptly visited when such cases are reported to me. If a School has been closed on account of the prevalence of infectious disorder, the Inspector sees to the thorough disinfection of the premises, &c., directly it is closed, so that they may be well aired before being opened. The arrangement about school closure in this District is that the School Medical Officer closes schools for non-notifiable infectious diseases and the Sanitary Authority for notifiable ones.

Food.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—There are no dairy farms in the District, and the milk is supplied principally from the three Dairies which are regularly inspected. There has been no evidence of dirty milk or of dirty or untidy milkmen. Milk was supplied in eight cases under the provisions of the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

(b) *Meat and Other Foods*.—Inspection of other foods exhibited for sale is made, and when slaughter-houses are visited, any carcass or parts thereof in the slaughter-house or in the shop are examined. Cleaning up after slaughtering and prompt removal of offensive matters are, on the whole, satisfactory. Altogether, slaughter-houses are fairly well maintained and the Bye-Laws complied with. There is no public abattoir in the District. There were 764 lbs. of beef, 394½ lbs. of bacon and 26 oysters surrendered and condemned. The beef and bacon were dealt with under Sect. 117 of the P.H.A. 1875. A sample of the oysters (12) were submitted to the Ministry of Health for examination.

The following table shows the number of slaughter-houses in use in the District at the dates mentioned:—

				1914.	Jan., 1920.	Dec., 1920.
Registered	...	...	...	3	3	2
Licensed	...	...	...	3	3	3

The Bakehouses and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale, are kept in a fairly good condition, and cleansing and whitewashing are regularly and efficiently carried out.

The provisions of the "Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts" are carried out by the County Council, whose Inspector is Mr. Arthur Horsnell, to whom I am indebted for the following particulars:—

There were 42 samples of milk taken for analysis under the Food and Drugs Acts, of which two were found to be adulterated, and caution given in each case. There were also 27 samples taken of other foods, such as butter, lard, margarine, dripping, pepper, egg powder, baking and custard powders. There were no prosecutions.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 61 cases of infectious diseases notified, namely:—Scarlet Fever, 18; Diphtheria, 25; Pulmonary Tubercle, 5; other Tuberculous diseases, 2; Erysipelas, 6; Pneumonia, 3; Malaria, 2.

Of these, nineteen cases of Diphtheria, nine of scarlet fever, and two of the pneumonia cases occurred in Institutions in the District, so that only six of the Diphtheria, nine of the Scarlet Fever and one of the Pneumonia cases occurred in private houses. Twenty-four of the Diphtheria, all the Scarlet Fever, four of the Phthisis cases, and one of other Tuberculous diseases were removed to Hospital.

The following Table shows the sources of infection as far as could be ascertained after every possible enquiry :—

Sources of Infection.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Contacts	7	9
Imported	7	11
Unknown	4	5
Totals	18	25

Bacteriological specimens were sent in practically all the cases by the Medical Attendants for examination. The new arrangement of establishing a County Laboratory, which came into force on the 1st January, has proved a great boon in helping to establish a true diagnosis with the least possible delay.

Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council on application by the Medical Attendant. No cases of Influenza were notified during the year, two deaths registered in the District were attributed to this disease. The Medical Practitioners as a rule notify promptly and give me every assistance.

When a case is notified the house is visited at once by either the Inspector or myself, and should the patient be removed to the Isolation Hospital, the premises are immediately cleansed and disinfected. In the case of a patient remaining under treatment at home, the premises are disinfected on notification from the Medical Attendant of the patient's convalescence.

Disinfection of houses is carried out by means of a spray apparatus and alformant lamps, whilst infected articles are subjected to disinfection by means of Thresh's Portable Disinfector.

There is no Hospital or other provision made in the District for Phthisis cases, but this matter is dealt with by the County Council.

There were no Vaccinations under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, but there is an arrangement with the Billericay Rural Authority whereby Infectious cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Billericay.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Midwives Acts are administered by the County Council. The powers under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act remained in the hands of the Council throughout the year. I understand a scheme was proposed under which it was intended to establish a combined Nursing Service in conjunction with the County Council and the Billericay Rural Authority. In view, however, of an Order issuing from the Ministry of Health transferring such powers to the County Council as and from the 1st April, 1921, the above scheme did not reach fruition.

On the whole lying-in women are well attended, and the great majority of mothers suckle their infants. During very hot weather

enquiries are made throughout the District concerning the prevalence of Infantile Diarrhœa; and, if necessary, the danger incident to dry hot weather is made known through the medium of the Press or otherwise, and the importance of clean fresh milk, the prevention of the accumulations of filth and the disease-bearing nature of flies, are especially emphasised. No case of either Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

No action has been taken by any local Association and no Health Visitors are employed.

Housing.

It is no exaggeration to say that since I undertook the duties of Medical Officer of Health in the year 1899, there never has been in any single year so much concentration on the Housing Question as was the case during the year under review. Every local M. O. H. has been inundated with Orders, Memoranda, Pamphlets and Books to the number of about forty-five.

There can be no doubt that there is need for additional houses, as at the present time there is not a single unoccupied dwelling-house available in the District.

Under the new Housing Scheme, the Council have commenced to build the first 33 of the proposed 100 houses, which, it is contemplated, will supply the housing needs of the District.

The following Table gives the information desired by the Ministry of Health:—

Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	6277
General Death-Rate	...	...	...	...	...	13
Death-Rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	78
Infant Mortality...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	...	1403
Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	927
New working-class houses in course of erection	...	...	...	...	...	33
Number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	59
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	49
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action of Local Authority...	...	...	...	...	...	None.
Proceedings under Sect. 28 of Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	None.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued help and support.

I am especially indebted to Mr. Meeson, Sanitary Inspector, who has been a constant source of help, despite the many duties which he is now called upon to perform.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

SAMUEL FRAZER,

Medical Officer of Health,

April, 1921.

U.D.C. Brentwood.



**Rural District Council of
Bridlington.**

SANITARY AUTHORITY.

REPORT
for the Year 1920,

OF

WILLIAM A. WETWAN, M.R.C.S.,

Member of the Sanitary Institute,

Medical Officer of Health for the District.

Bridlington :

F. L. Lee, High Street Printing Works,

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United States Council of

Education

REPORT

for the Year 1920

WILLIAM A. WATSON, Director

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of Education

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REPORT 1920.

BRIDLINGTON,

27th May, 1921.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health of the Rural District of Bridlington during the year 1920.

A notable year from whatever point of view you regard it, productive of many changes in Sanitary administration, and a widely extended popular interest in everything that concerns the health of the community especially so far as affects domestic hygiene, quickened markedly by the entrance of women into practical politics—national and domestic,—we yet are unable to point to any achievement in administration at all commensurate with such epoch-marking legislation as the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1919, which, with its subsidiary Rules and Regulations, would have led us to anticipate. No doubt much of this failure to realize the high ideals of the Ministry of Health must be laid at the door of trade-union restrictions on labour and the high prices of materials, which have in so many instances reduced the efforts of the responsible local authorities to a mere record of good intentions which have yet to materialise.

In this District the modest programme of increased dwelling accommodation has been little more than begun, and for such modicum of achievement we are greatly indebted to private enterprise. The reduction in price of material and the huge amount of unemployment ought, one would anticipate, enable us to show a better result in the near future, to the great comfort of both rate-payers and workers. Our one insanitary area is still occupied by the dwellings which have encumbered it for generations, and until the building trade shows a more amenable attitude, and alternative dwellings are available, there is little likelihood of the cramped, unsatisfactory, unhealthy houses thereon being demolished and the germ-sown ground being exposed to the oxydizing influence of the sun and the purifying effect of our good sea-air.

Several important circulars and memoranda have been issued by the Ministry of Health during the year, notably on the Fly pest, Rat trouble, and various diseases such as Encephalitis Lethargica, and so forth, which when assimilated by local authorities should produce valuable results in the prevention of disease.

The monograph on the House Fly, distributed by the Ministry early this year, enlarging the knowledge conveyed and re-inforcing the instructions and advice contained in War-time circulars of the Local Government Board, is a very readable and lucid description of Flies of several kinds which are to be met with in this part of the world and of the trouble likely to follow in their wake when allowed unrestricted freedom. I have already quoted freely from it, in an interim report, and will only say here that it should be widely read and digested by both Sanitary officials and the "enlightened" part of the general public. This little book emphasises the danger of slovenly and antiquated conservancy methods in dwelling houses and their curtilage; the reckless creation of manure dumps and nightsoil depots without proper safeguards against flies and other vermin, and the vicious and unsightly littering of hedgerows and highways with soiled paper.

In our District we have had no evidence of rat-borne disease during the year and no special measures have been thought necessary against these rodents. Rat-catchers, terriers and other natural enemies appear to keep them within reasonable limits as to numbers and powers for evil.

The important series of papers on Milk Supply, which originated in the Local Government Board and was apparently intended to popularise and increase the consumption of milk by all and sundry as well as to raise its quality, has since been re-issued by the Ministry of Health with modifications and much valuable information and instruction on the administrative methods to be followed in ensuring the purity of this important article of infant feeding. It is in this direction that the regulations more particularly concern us as a Rural Authority and I have further remarks on this question in the section dealing with Dairies and Cowsheds.

The purely social aspect of Child-welfare, Maternity Centres, Baby Welcomes and pre-natal Clinics, with the administrative acting involved, are all in the hands of the East Riding County Council. Our scattered population does not lend itself to any of these lines of welfare work, and no action has been taken by you. I should say that the rather sweeping opinion expressed in the Ministry's circular as to the great value of milk to pregnant women and nursing mothers will undergo considerable modification with

experience. There is no question that Cow's Milk of good quality and purity is of the greatest value to infants and children and to many invalids, *including debilitated* pregnant women and *some* nursing mothers. But it is equally borne out by medical and everyday knowledge and experience that the average healthy pregnant woman and nursing mother does better on a normal decent diet than on Cow's Milk—the present supply is only equal to $\frac{1}{4}$ -pint per head per day—therefor we need not try to increase the demand on the present limited output, but should endeavour to widen the area of production and very much *improve* the quality. Especially should we endeavour to eliminate all trace of Tuberculosis from our herds of Dairy cattle and ensure the absolute cleanliness of the premises where the business of milk supply is carried on. The present high price of milk and dairy products generally is much too great a temptation to permit of clear vision and early recognition of disease in milch cows. The high price is due to limited production, and this, in turn, to the wholesale and reckless break-up of old pasture two or three years ago.

The weather during a good part of the year was neither propitious to husbandry nor holiday-making—and whilst we suffered less in this part of the country than in some others, it looked at one time as if both hay and corn harvests would be a failure, and the usual little crowd of visitors who have of recent years become accustomed to taking their holidays in the rural parts of England close to the sea be forced to stay at home.

There was a good deal of sickness, more or less continuous, amongst school children. Measles was epidemic during the early months of the year, and nearly all the schools were closed for a short time for some complaint or another.

A Memorandum from the Ministry of Health directs the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health to conform to a particular plan, closely resembling, but more amplified than that customary in pre-war days, and varying in detail and volume according to the size and circumstance of the District to which it refers.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.

I need not particularise the geographical position of the District, beyond saying that it forms a hinterland to Flamborough Head as the centre with Filey Bay to the North and Bridlington Bay to the South. The superficial contour is a gentle slope inclining from North to South from the Chalk ridge of the Wolds which runs from West to East and ends at Flamborough Head. The highest point is about 400 ft. above sea-level. The upper chalk is close to the surface all over the northern part of the District, with the usual faults and flaws, and is a good average water-bearing stratum. In Hunmanby parish there is a long linear fault running almost due North and South coinciding with the main street of the village, close up to which comes a thick bed of Kimmeridge and Speeton clay; the whole having a very deleterious effect on the water-supply. The southern lower-lying part of the District shows more tertiary and post-tertiary deposits, and is covered generally with a thick layer of clay. Above this is a sub-soil of sand and gravel and a good layer of loam. The thickness and density of the chalk beneath some of the villages makes their water supply a matter of difficulty, and the nearness of others to the sea, and height above sea-level, add to the problem. We have no rivers; there is only one water-course sufficiently important to be designated a stream—"The Gypsy Race." It rises in the Dales and runs eastwards for 17 or 18 miles through a fine-loamy valley and empties itself into Bridlington Harbour. After a dry year or two the stream disappears in parts, but when favoured with a plentiful supply of rain, or when there has been much snow in the winter, this little rivulet comes gaily to the surface and flows merrily along until its gathering volume becomes too large for its channel, and patches of low ground are turned into temporary lakes. Water-mill Beck, Barmston Drain and Earl's Dyke are all more or less artificial water-courses made for or adapted to drainage purposes. The general aspect of the District, though somewhat bare to the North, is distinctly rural, and quite sylvan in the Southern low-lying country towards Holderness.

Its area is 60,000 acres, or something like a hundred square miles. The District is divided for Registration purposes into three Sub-Districts: Rural Bridlington, Hunmanby and Skipsea, all of much the same area but unequal population, the details of which are shown on the annexed table. Each Sub-District has in it one large village and several smaller ones and scattered units of population.

Name of Parish.	Population at Census in 1891.	Population at Census in 1901.	Population at Census in 1911.
Bessingby	87	170	228
Carnaby	200	192	189
Boynton	126	161	147
Easton	32	38	38
Sewerby and Marton...	331	330	306
Buckton	141	158	165
Flamborough	1288	1189	1158
Bempton & Newsome	310	284	296
Hilderthorpe			
Rural Bridlington ...	2556	2602	2527
Hunmanby	1309	1289	1370
Speeton	151	146	150
Grindale	157	154	183
Argham	40	40	32
Rudston	578	552	566
Thwing and Octon ...	367	326	339
Wold Newton	292	274	298
North Burton	425	422	440
Reighton	252	219	183
Fordon... ..	38	38	39
Hunmanby Sub-Dist.	3609	3460	3600
Burton Agnes	321	326	340
Haisthorpe	121	118	112
Thornholme	115	84	77
Gransmoor	68	69	85
Lissett	105	98	97
Ulrome	198	187	157
Dringhoe, Upton, and Brough	156	136	113
Skipsea	341	288	326
Barmston	213	210	198
Fraisthorpe, Auburn, and Wilsthorpe ...	124	111	100
Skipsea Sub-District	1762	1627	1605
Rural District ...	8927	7689	7732

HOUSING AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The Table of Dwelling-Houses taken at the Census of 1911 hereunder, shows a very much easier condition of living than at present. Small houses to let have something the matter with them.

Sub-District.	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.
Rural Bridlington ...	570	47	3
Hunmanby ...	766	56	1
Skipsea ..	345	20	—
Total ...	1681	123	4

The social condition of the population of the District is decidedly good. The poor we have always with us, but there is in this District none of the grinding poverty and *overcrowding* to be found in many other parts—private charity and a humanely administered Poor Law bring the necessary relief.

The occupation of the Rural District may be described as agricultural, for except in the village of Flamborough where half the population is engaged in sea-faring and fishing, the daily work of the inhabitants is concerned with tilling the soil and carrying on the various subsidiary occupations necessary thereto. Brick works at Hunmanby and Flamborough certainly supply the neighbouring towns, and at Hunmanby is a small engineering plant, mostly concerned with agricultural machinery repairs. A good many residents "take in" visitors during the holiday season, especially at Flamborough, Bampton, Reighton and Hunmanby and the intervening hamlets. I believe cliff-climbing for sea-birds' eggs at Bampton, Speeton and Flamborough, has been responsible for a couple of accidents during the last ten years, but this practice of cliff-climbing can scarcely be held to have any influence on public health within the meaning of the Memorandum.

POOR-LAW RELIEF.

Out-door Cases	...	...	...	...	79
In-door	"	...	...	...	21
Inmates of Mental Deficiency Institutions					1
"	"			of Lunatic Asylums	2
Total					103

which gives a rate of 1.32 per cent. of the estimated population.

Cases of the more important Zymotic diseases are sent to the Bridlington Borough Sanatorium.

Non-infective acute medical and surgical cases are dealt with in the Lloyd Hospital at Bridlington, which is a small general hospital. The following figures are taken from the Annual Report for the year ending 30th June, 1920:—

In-patients	...	...	..	...	...	272
Out-patients	..	...	...	...	...	88
Operations	...	...	...	...	...	130

An odd case or two may be sent to one of the larger Institutions in the neighbourhood, such as the Leeds and Hull Infirmaries and the York County Hospital.

Tuberculosis goes to Withernsea and Raywell Sanatoria—when there is room.

Birth-Rate, Death-Rate and Analysis of Mortality during the year 1920.

(Provisional figures. Provisional populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purpose 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).

ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION.																
Birth-Rate per 1,000 Total Population.	All Causes.									Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.*				
	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years.	Total deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2
96 Great Towns, including London (Census Populations exceeding 50,000	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7
148 Smaller Towns (Census Populations 20,000-50,000) ..	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5
London	26.5	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	46.8	91.2	8.6	0.2

POPULATION.

The enumerated population of 1911 was 7,732, showing a decline of 1,195 during the previous twenty years. The average per occupied house was 4·6, and the proportional distribution of the sexes as follows :—

Skipsea Sub-District	...	...	53·7	...	46·3	per cent of whole
Hunmanby	„	...	51·0	...	49·0	„
Bridlington	„	...	52·3	...	47·7	„
The District ..	...	...	52·2	...	47·8	„

The estimated population for 1920, as supplied by the Registrar-General for the Birth and Death-rates, is 7761.

MARRIAGES.

The marriages registered in the Rural District were 48, and at the rate of 10·23 persons married to 1,000 of the population living—being slightly below that of the preceding year, but higher than in 1914, the last year of which I have any marriage records.

The Births registered were 164, against 160, 151, and 132 in the three immediately preceding years. The birth-rate was 21·13 per 1000 living as compared with 20·57, 18·57, and 16·59 in 1919, 1918, and 1917 respectively. Children born out of wedlock numbered 11, and give an illegitimate birth-rate of 1·41 per 1,000 population. The per centage of illegitimate total births—6·70, being 3·7 below that of 1919.

The total Deaths belonging to the District at all ages and from all causes were 99, being one in excess of those recorded in the previous year. The mortality for 1919, 1918, and 1917 was 98, 148, and 98 respectively. The death-rate for the year was 12·75 per 1,000 living, and compares favourably with that of the three previous years, which were 13·12, 20·39, and 19·33 respectively, and with that for England and Wales for 1920, which was 12·4 per 1,000. There were 23 deaths of children under one year registered during 1920, being in the proportion of 164·7 infantile deaths to each 1,000 registered births. The deaths of illegitimate children were 21·7 per centum of the total infantile deaths. This shows a considerable improvement on the previous year's per centage of illegitimate infantile deaths, which was 42·8 per cent. of the total infant mortality. In 1920, also, there was a much heavier infantile mortality from all causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH

IN BRIDLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT, 1920.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only).						Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	52	47
Measles	...	...	...	...	...		2
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...		1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...		2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea, &c., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	...		1
Congenital Debility, &c	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	20	19
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Deaths of infants under one year of age							
Total	...	...	...	...	...	16	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	5	
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	93	71
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	85	68
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
Population (for births and deaths)	...	...	...	...	...	7,761	

There were 2 deaths due to Measles and 1 to Diphtheria, giving a low Zymotic death-rate of 0·32 per 1,000, and 2 deaths were described to Influenza. Five deaths were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Consumption, and 6 to other forms of Tuberculosis (including 2 due to Tubercular Meningitis), being one more than in the preceding year.

Cancer proved fatal in 11 cases, as against 10 in the previous year.

There were 7 deaths due to organic Heart Disease, and 9 to disease of the Respiratory System.

Congenital Debility was the cause of 8 infantile deaths, being 2 in excess of the previous year.

There was one death due to Kidney Disease.

There was no death due to Puerperal Fever, nor to the accidents of Parturition.

Violence, apart from suicide, was responsible for three fatal cases only, against 6 in 1919.

INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.—During the year I had notified to me by medical practioners 236 cases of Infectious Sickness, namely, Measles 213, Diphtheria 13, Scarlet Fever 6, Enteric Fever 2, and 1 each of Erysipelas and Ophthalmia Neonotorum. Of these 12 were removed to the Bridlington Borough Sanatorium, whilst the remainder were isolated and treated at home. In addition to these I received from School authorities information of 56 cases of Chicken Pox, 9 of Whooping Cough, 5 of Scabies, 14 of Impetigo, and 1 of Mumps, in addition to cross-notification of many cases of Measles; all of which militated very considerably against the work of Education during the first seven months of the year and caused most of the schools to be temporarily closed for some period during that time. Such a loss of school-time, with the damage to the health of the children, might, I think, be considerably reduced by improved ablutionary arrangements, a more liberal supply of clean towels, anti-septic soap, and a thorough overhauling of the sanitary equipment of all the schools. The conservancy and drainage of nearly all the schools leave something to be desired, and the drinking water should be more efficiently sterilised than is the case. Adenitis, sore throats, bad eyes, are a frequent cause of ill-health in children, and are easily transferred to other children. Scabies, ring-worm, impetigo, and ophthalmia are all easily transferred by indiscriminate use of the same washing materials, and ordinary cleanliness is not easily maintained with the scanty supply of warm water available. Miss Florence Nightingale used to say she could get better results with a tumblerful of hot water than a bucketful of cold.

The services of a District School Nurse in the latter group of cases would be of real service. She could deal with the children at a school, or follow them to their homes, and help the parents to carry out remedial measures as well as give good advice—which is apt to become wearisome to a tired mother blessed with a number of young children.

No Small Pox was notified last year, nor for a good many years past, which is fortunate; for your vaccination records show the proportion of unprotected children steadily grows year by year, and these would be in the position of a lot of loose gun-powder exposed to a shower of sparks if the infection was once fairly set going amongst the school-children and young people of the District. No vaccination, nor re-vaccination, has been done by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. What vaccination is carried out is done by private practitioners and the public vaccinators of their respective areas. You have no place for the segregation of Small Pox—neither have you any modern means of conveyance—but in this matter are at the mercy of the cab-proprietor of whom you might seek to hire a vehicle, and your arrangement with the Bridlington Corporation is open to much the same objection.

TUBERCULOSIS.—During the year 8 cases of Pulmonary and 1 of Meningeal Tuberculosis have been notified to me on Form A. Two of the Pulmonary cases were admitted to Sanatoria, from which one of them discharged himself the day after admission on the grounds that he was homesick. I heard some time ago that he was doing well, but I am unable to vouch for it. The other unfortunate died a couple of months later from a secondary lesion in the hip-joint and Septiæmia. One case treated privately has made a good recovery, and three others, I am informed, are doing well. Deaths which have occurred away bring up the total of cases which have come to my knowledge to 15, with 11 deaths. I have received two certificates on Form C and one on Form D. The Sanatoria to which cases are sent are the Withernsea Consumption Hospital and the County Council Sanatorium at Raywell, near Beverley.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—Specimens were sent to the Clinical Research Association for examination and report in 4 suspected cases of Enteric Fever, 14 of Phthisis, and 43 of Diphtheria, with a positive result in 20 and negative in 41.

VACCINATION.—The Vaccination Acts are administered by the Poor Law Authority for the whole area of Bridlington Union, which includes the Borough of Bridlington. For the purpose of Vaccination, the Union is divided into three districts which coincide with the Registration in the Districts. The details for 1920 are shown in the subjoined table:—

	Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated	Statutory Declaration.	Insusceptible.	Died Un- vaccinated.	Postponed.	Removed and unaccounted for
Bridlington (including Borough)...	401	104	233	1	29	2	32
Hunmanby	79	44	30	1	3	1	—
Skipsea	32	20	7	—	2	—	3
Totals	512	168	270	2	34	3	35

That people can deliberately refuse their off-spring the immense protection against a horrible death-dealing disease to the extent shown in this Table is no doubt partly the result of indifferent education, which leaves parents open to be deceived by the pernicious trash on medical subjects printed in many newspapers, and spouted by the glib tongues of numerous agitators who are willing by so doing to earn a living at the cost of health and strength and life to many.

WATER SUPPLY.—This question is in the same position as in my 1919 Report and should receive your earnest and immediate attention. Flamborough is the only village with a public supply, and the great utility of this reliable and pretty constant service of good water is evidenced day by day. The result of a decent system of sewerage and reliable water supply has greatly enhanced the value of Flamborough as a holiday resort and place of residence, as evidenced on the one hand by the scarcity of houses and the demand for new dwellings of good-class, several of which are being erected by private enterprise. Hunmanby ought by this time to be equally well off so far as water is concerned. A very good well has been sunk; there is a plentiful flow of water, and necessary machinery for pumping and distribution should be provided without any delay. The money you have already spent on the scheme at present lying dead and unproductive and will so remain until storage and distributing works are completed. There are no engineering difficulties in the way. The water is of good quality and is badly wanted in this one of the important centres of population in your District, and I would press upon you the great need for resumption of work on the scheme. Labour is to be had and the price of material is lower, and I am of opinion that you are losing more by delay than you will gain by waiting for a further fall in prices.

The other parts of the District must be taken singly. I don't think it practicable for any scheme to be desired for supplying the whole District with water, but much might be done by judicious

grouping of some scattered hamlets on to larger groups of population. Lone houses should be able to provide for their own supply by bores or other means on their own sites. Of three samples of drinking water submitted to Bacteriological examination, two were found to be excrementally polluted and the third was returned negative.

HOUSING.—As already indicated in the earlier part of this Report, the provision of new houses has not been so complete and numerous as one could have wished and, indeed, anticipated in 1919 and 1920. Wages in the building trade are soaring high and the price of building materials so much in excess of pre-war charges that very few private speculators are prepared to launch out for anything except the very smallest class of house—where you cannot lose a great deal—as in larger undertakings, behind which there is greater capital, of which latter there is only a limited amount unfortunately. New houses have been built at Hunmanby, Burton Agnes, Flamborough, Rudston, and many other parts of the District, but your programme under the Housing and Town Planning Act has not made the progress it should have done.

SANITATION.—Sanitation is a comprehensive term and should, one would think, include such matters as housing and water-supply, but the central authority desire to have these items dealt with separately and details will be found under the respective headings. I have been over much of the District during the year—over some parts very frequently—and am able to record a considerable advance in the standard of domestic sanitation, compared with ten years ago. Every now and then one comes across some insanitary survival, or the brilliant “idea” of some new-comer who has learnt nothing from history, and these are all promptly dealt with in the usual way, as set out in Inspector Robson’s painstaking report. Such antiquated survivals of the unfittest as midden-privies are rapidly becoming things of the past. Whenever one is found instructions are given to convert it into an earth-closet of approved pattern, with movable receptacle of creasoted wood or galvanised iron. In the largest villages the Parish Council is dealing with scavenging, more or less successfully. The appointment of a public scavenger does not always end difficulties, and in Flamborough you have been obliged to buy a horse and cart to deal with this very important problem. I have to advise that the night-soil depots of any considerable group of houses should be placed as far as possible from dwellings and that each addition thereto should be well pressed and flattened on the surface and covered with sods or loam to protect from flies and small vermin. All loose paper should be burnt, and tins and such-like exposed to the action of the fire. The neglect of these precautions is, I am convinced, the cause of much of the sore-throat, swelled glands and so-forth, so common amongst school children in the spring and early summer, when flies are hatched off and manures distributed.

Early in the year I drew your attention to the urgent necessity of providing at the North Landing at Flamborough some latrinal accommodation for the use of the thousands of visitors in the summer and at all times for the convenience of those engaged in the fish trade. The need for this is shown by the huge concourse of vehicles parked day by day during the season around the Thornwick Hotel up to the North Star and Landing, whilst corroborative evidence may be got by casual inspection of neighbouring fields and hedgerows. You referred the question to the Parish Council, who turned it down on the score of expense which, it was said, the village could not face. I am not prepared to accept unreservedly the Parish Council's estimate of the size and cost of the work required, but in the meantime it would be as well to invite the attention of the owners of the Thornwick Hotel and North Star to the matter, and as these places probably derive the greater proportion of benefit from the summer holiday traffic and winter business they might very well be required to provide more adequate accommodation of this kind. Further, the sanitary arrangements of the other licensed houses in the village, which all cater for visitors, is out-of-date and should be improved. Some provision is also wanted on the Lighthouse area at the Head.

The *indiscriminate dumping* of manure near high-roads for purposes of husbandry is an insanitary proceeding. Such collections should be put as far as possible from public highways, and the necessary precautions of flattening down the surface and protecting from germinating flies should always be adopted, as in the case of night-soil. The Bridlington Corporation has been very re-miss in this matter, placing huge heaps of refuse close to your borders, without adequate screening, to the disfigurement of fences with soiled paper and other wind-borne scraps. Towards the end of the year the Borough Authority began carting this refuse to a field within your District and within measurable distance of the Grammar School, and had it not been for your peremptory remonstrance and threat of legal proceedings would probably have continued the nuisance for a much longer time. Such a disregard of the amenities of Sanitary administration, and the well-being of the School, would almost suggest that the Bridlington Corporation does not always pay sufficient attention to the opinion of its professional advisers.

The Slaughter-houses in the District are regularly visited, and are kept in conformity with the Bye-laws.

I do not know of any establishments coming within the definition of offensive trade. The Brick-yards do not burn rubbish, and there are no Knackers' yards, Tripe Dressing, or Tallow Boiling places in the District.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—This branch of Sanitary administration is not of great interest to us. You have in this District no factories in the customary acceptance of the term. Practically all the places where constructive work is carried on come

under the designation of domestic workshops, such as small cabinet-making, dress-making, tailoring, boot-making, and cycle-repairing businesses. An engineering business at Hunmanby and a small motor business at Flamborough about sum up our responsibilities in this matter. They are all kept under surveillance in accordance with Regulations.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS are visited at uncertain times during the year to ascertain that buildings are kept in accordance with the Bye-laws and Regulations. They are all kept in a cleanly, well-repaired condition and the milk generally is stored in clean, well-scrubbed places and the utensils are well-kept. The weak point I noticed is the absence of any means to filter the air before it enters the dairy or milk store on a farm. This apartment in the house is generally close on the fold-yard; half its window is glazed and the other half perforated zinc, with nothing to prevent small flies and animal emanations circulating freely between the window and the widely-open door. In all cases the door of the milk store should be kept shut, or the door-way at least covered by a framed sheet, wet with antiseptic, and the window filled in with gauze. All vessels used should be cleansed with boiling water and allowed to get thoroughly cold in a clean atmosphere before re-use.

However carefully buildings are inspected, dilapidations and defects remedied and the dairy routine brought up to standard, there still remains the important factor of the milk-supplying animal itself, and I would again strongly recommend you to appoint a duly qualified Veterinary Surgeon to complete your chain of inspection and supervision.

I have to apologise for the slight delay in the production of this Report, due in part to personal matters—illness and so-forth—part to a want of clerical assistance skilled in the kind of work required, and in part to inability to get the necessary information from various sources focussed in due time.

I am much indebted to Mr. Hankinson for his kindly help on many occasions, but especially for his valued advice in guiding one's action into the right channel. I have much pleasure in acknowledging the help I have received from Inspector Robson and the Head Mistress of the various schools, and the Sub-Districts Registration Vaccination Officers.

I beg to thank the Rural Council for the careful consideration they have at all times given to my suggestions and their invariable courtesy to myself.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. WETWAN,
M.O.H.

To the R.D.C. and Sanitary Authority
of Bridlington.

BRIDLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Bridlington,
March, 1921.

Sir,

I again give you a report and summary, as Sanitary Inspector, referring to the year 1920.

The District has passed through another normal year, nothing more than the minor incidents which are constantly occurring in connection with sanitary work having been experienced. No circumstances of the year call for particular remarks from me. The principal business relating to the public health has been, and is, the housing scheme with which progress is now being made. That these houses are needed is borne out by the personal enquiries which I receive from people desirous of occupying them. Some of these enquiries were made as soon as it became known where the houses were intended to be built.

During the year 1920 there were completed and certified for occupation 7 new houses in the District, comprising 2 houses of the larger residential type, and 5 cottages, the latter being built with the aid of the subsidy provided under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919. No cottages were vacated, but in one place there was a conversion of three old cottages into one house.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

As befits a rural area, these are numerous in our district, there being at present 74 in occupation by milk producers and sellers. Most of them are good buildings, quite sufficient for their purpose, and are kept in satisfactory condition. A few are not ideal places, and the occupiers have to do the best they can to keep them in order.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

No comment is called for in connection with the Slaughter Houses in the District. I have during the year very frequently visited all of them, and have invariably found them cleanly.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are as in previous reports. One complaint, as to neglect to whitewash the walls of a workshop, was made, and the omission was promptly remedied by the occupiers.

GENERAL.

The public scavenging of the two largest villages in our District was satisfactorily performed during the year, with a little reservation as to Hunmanby, where, for one short period the "default" clause of the contract had to be put into operation against the contractor.

This feature has been most beneficial to Flamborough, where, for the last year, the village has been free from the former illicit dumping upon certain parts of the highways of quantities of refuse.

None of the common nuisances were anywhere of serious magnitude, and were dwelt with easily, chiefly by personal suasion.

The usual tabulated statements are appended.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

F. H. ROBSON,

To

The Medical Officer of Health.

REGULATIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RELATING TO THE DUTIES OF SANITARY INSPECTORS.

See Article XX (16) of the Board's General Order of 13th
December, 1910.

DUTIES OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

ART. XX. (16)—“He shall, as soon as practicable after the thirty-first day of December in each year, furnish the Medical Officer of Health with a tabular statement containing the following particulars :—

- “(a) The number and nature of inspections made by him during the year ;
- “(b) The number of notices served during the year, distinguishing statutory from informal notices ;
- “(c) The result of the service of such notices.”

Dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	49
Dwelling-houses notices served	...	...	...	...	...	—
New Houses built	...	...	...	...	...	7
Have Building Byelaws been adopted ?	...	...	...	...	...	Yes
Date of confirmation	...	...	...	...	25th June, 1914	
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of ordinary						
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary Infectious						
diseases	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dwelling-houses found overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of defective privies inspected	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of defective privies remedied	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of house &c. drains inspected	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of house &c. drains remedied	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of new drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from animals found	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of notices served (informal)	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of nuisances found (general)	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	22

Water Supplies—

Houses newly supplied from water mains	...	...	—
New wells made	...	...	—
New bore wells made	...	...	—
Wells repaired, &c.	...	...	1
Samples of water sent for examination	...	...	3
Water certificates granted for new houses in Rural Districts	...	...	—

Dairies and Cowsheds—

Have Regulations been adopted?	...	...	Yes
Date of adoption	...	...	28th May, 1904
Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on register	...	...	74
Number of cows: varies very considerably according to season	...	...	...
Visits to Cowsheds	...	...	73
Visits to Dairies	...	...	1
Defects found	...	...	—
Defects remedied...	...	...	—

Slaughter Houses—

Number on register	...	...	6
Visits to	...	...	12
Defects found	...	...	—
Defects remedied	...	...	—

Meat inspected on request of Local Food Control Committee—

Beef	...	...	2
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(One carcass and parts of another carcass
of beef voluntarily destroyed.)

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

HOUSING.—“The Board would draw special attention to the section of the memorandum as to the information required on the subject of the housing of the working classes. Where there is a deficiency of accommodation in rural districts the parish or parishes in which the deficiency exists, the number of cottages needed, and the nature of the accommodation required in the cottages, should be stated.”

HOUSING (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910. Art. V.—“The Medical Officer of Health shall include in his Annual Report information and particulars in tabular form in regard to”—

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of section 17 of the Act of 1909	...	...	49
Number of Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	...	...	—
Number of Dwelling-houses made fit for habitation without formal representation			—
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...		—
Number of Closing Orders made	...		—
Number of Dwelling-houses in which the defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	...		—
Number of Dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	...	...	—
Number of houses voluntarily closed by owners	...	...	—
Number of houses voluntarily demolished by owners	...		—
General character of the defects found to exist:—As in previous years, several are deficient and incommodious from various causes. Some houses are noted as not being sufficiently good to continue as dwellings, but these must remain in occupation until new houses are available to accommodate the inhabitants.			

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1920, for the Rural District of Bridlington,
on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Number of Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	...	...	...
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)	35	...	...
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises)			
Total	35	...	...

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, &c.

Defects found.....	1		Remedied	1
(Want of Cleanliness).				

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Agricultural Engineering, Motor and Brick Works	...	...	1
Brick Works	...	...	3
Ropery	...	...	1
Tailors, Blacksmiths, Wheelwrights, &c.	...	...	30
Total Number of Workshops	...	...	35