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BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1905.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. CALVERLEY, AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,608 acres, an estimated population of 11,820 and about 2,900 houses, averaging 4·1 inmates.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—In 1905, there were 267 births registered, 147 in East and 120 in West Brixworth.

In 1904, 271 were registered, as against 267 in 1905, showing a decrease for 1905 of 4, or a birth-rate of 22·50 per 1,000, against 22·90 per 1,000 for 1904.

This is the lowest rate for the last ten years and I think that has ever been recorded.

DEATHS.—Total Deaths registered in the District in 1905 were 152, of which 6 occurred in the Borough Hospital, and were non-residents; therefore the nett Deaths in the District were 146, as against 183 for 1904, showing a decrease of 37, and a death-rate of 12·3 per 1,000.

This is the lowest death-rate for the last ten years.

The natural increase of Births over Deaths was 125, as against 80 for 1904.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of Deaths under one year was 23, as against 34 for the two preceding years respectively.

The death-rate being 85·9 per 1,000 births registered, as against 125 for 1904.

Here again is the lowest death-rate recorded for at least ten years.

PHTHISIS.—The Deaths registered as caused by this disease were 12, as against 17 for 1904, or a death-rate of 1·01 per 1,000, as against 1·43 for 1904.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—Deaths registered 16, as against 31 for 1904, or a death-rate of 1·60 per 1,000, as against 2·62 for 1904.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—Six deaths occurred in the Borough Hospital and were of non-residents. The District proper being responsible for only three deaths, two from Whooping Cough and one from Epidemic Influenza. The death-rate for the District proper, therefore, works out at ·25, as against 1·00 per 1,000 for 1904.

CANCER.—Deaths registered 13, as against 6 for 1904, or a death-rate of 1·09, as against ·05 per 1,000 for 1904.

The above Statistics show a great improvement on the preceding year.

Amongst the preventable Diseases, the cause of death in Cancer, Phthisis, and Heart Disease head the list.

SEE TABLES ATTACHED.

TABLE A.

EAST BRIXWORTH.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1905.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5 years.	5 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 25 years.	25 years and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*6
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever . { Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other, Continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	7	5	...	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	8	...	1	2	...	2	3	†1
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cancer—Malignant	8	...	...	...	...	3	5	†1
Bronchitis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia ...	6	1	3	...	...	1	1	†2
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Venereal Diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	13	1	...	...	...	7	5	...
Accidents ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Suicides ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
All other Causes ...	30	3	...	...	...	8	19	†3
Total Deaths ...	84	13	4	5	...	26	36	...

* Non-Residents in Borough Hospital (Isolation).

† Residents in Workhouse.

TABLE A.

WEST BRIXWORTH.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5 years.	5 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 25 years.	25 years and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever.	Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other, Continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	4	...	...	2	...	2	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	1
Cancer—Malignant	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	4
Bronchitis	...	...	8	2	...	...	...	1	5
Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	...	...	11	...	...	1	...	3	7
Accidents	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other Causes	...	...	25	6	...	...	...	1	18
Total Deaths	...	...	62	10	2	3	1	10	36

TABLE B.

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY
OCCURRED, AT ALL AGES.

Brixworth	21	Brought forward ...	99
Brixworth Workhouse ...	7	Cottesbrooke	1
Pitsford	7	Hollowell	1
Boughton	5	Creaton	3
Brampton Church	1	Cold Ashby	2
Althorp Park	1	Draughton	1
Harleston	3	Lamport	1
Great Brington	7	Hanging Houghton ...	1
Little Brington	2	Maidwell	2
Spratton	14	Scaldwell	3
Holdenby	4	Old	3
East Haddon	3	Walgrave	8
Ravensthorp	6	Hannington	2
Guildsborough	5	Holcot	4
Thornby	3	Overstone	1
Naseby	4	Moulton	20
Borough Hospital	6		
Forward	99	Total	152

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1905.

	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
Diphtheria	7	...	1	3	...	3	...
Erysipelas	20	...	...	1	2	15	2
Scarlet Fever	49	...	12	26	7	4	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Total	78	...	13	30	11	22	2

TABLE D.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN EACH SEPARATE VILLAGE.

Brixworth	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	7
Pitsford	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Kingsthorpe	...	...	Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Harleston	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Althorp	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Spratton	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	1
			Erysipelas	...	...	2
			Diphtheria	...	...	2
Holdenby	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	2
			Diphtheria	...	...	2
East Haddon	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	1
Ravensthorp	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	1
Guilsborough	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	7
Cottesbrooke	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	2
Hanging Houghton	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Lampport	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	4
Old	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	1
Walgrave...	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	6
			Diphtheria	...	...	1
Scaldwell	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	2
Holcot	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	1
Moulton	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	16
			Puerperal Fever	...	...	1
Naseby	...	...	Scarlatina	...	...	6
			Erysipelas	...	...	1
Little Brington	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	2
Maidwell...	...	...	Erysipelas	...	...	1
Hannington	...	...	Diphtheria	...	...	2
			Enteric	...	...	1
			Erysipelas	...	...	1
			Totals	...	...	78

SANITARY REPORT.

In Table A, the deaths returned for all other causes number 55. 37 of these occurred in people over 65 years of age, and were nearly all caused by diseases that generally appear as age advances. Chief amongst them being Arterial disease with Apoplexy.

After deaths from all other causes, Heart Disease heads the list at 24. A great deal of this disease is caused by Rheumatism, which is often brought about by damp houses, of which, unfortunately, there are many in the district.

Cancer again has increased the last year. The mortality from Phthisis has decreased but little.

SCARLET FEVER.

49 cases were notified during the year, as against 101 in 1904, and 78 in 1903; of the 49 cases, Moulton was responsible for 16, Guilsborough for 7, Naseby and Walgrave for 6 each.

Moulton was affected early in the year from the end of Northampton epidemic.

The small number of cases recorded in comparison with the previous two years is, I think, due to the fact that the Northampton epidemic has gradually burnt itself out.

The disease has been of a mild type throughout the year, and there have been no deaths.

In very few of the houses in which the disease appeared could any sanitary defect be found, but almost always evidence of contagion from other cases.

The one notable exception was at Guilsborough, where the drains in the first house affected were found to be in a very bad condition.

The Schools of Moulton, Guilsborough, and Walgrave were closed for disinfection.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

7 cases were notified, as against 14 for 1904; 34 for 1903; and 25 for 1902.

Two cases occurred in January in one yard at Hannington, which was found to be in a very insanitary condition. The privy was large, old, close to and above the line of the dwelling rooms. The analysis of the water showed it to be unfit for drinking.

The privy was filled up, and three closets were made at the back of the garden with covered in ashpits. The well was closed up.

Two more cases were reported from Holdenby in February. By the advice of the County Medical Officer, I inspected the children's throats every fortnight, and kept any with suspicious signs away from School until they were well, this, and frequent attention to flushing, I am glad to say, has kept the village free since then.

One case was reported in Walgrave, probably due to the house drains going down hill to the main sewer and having no disconnecting chamber.

One is to be put in immediately by direction of the Board.

In December, two cases occurred in Spratton, in new houses where I could find no sanitary defect. They were strictly isolated, and there was no spread of the disease.

No case of Membranous Croup was reported for the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case was reported as against six for the previous year.

The case occurred at Hannington. The yard was clean and in good order.

The well was cleaned out, but the people were told not to use it for drinking purposes.

MEASLES.

There was an extensive epidemic in East Haddon, caused by infection from Northampton.

The Schools were closed for three weeks for thorough disinfection.

WHOOPING COUGH

Has been in epidemic form in Spratton, Ravensthorp, Hollowell.

The Schools of Ravensthorp and Hollowell were closed.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case was reported, probably caused by infection from attendant, but who has not attended any case since.

VACCINATION

Has been carried out fairly well, but the Vaccination Officers are not as well supplied with lists from the Registrars of Births as they should be. Each year I have heard of fewer conscientious objectors.

WATER SUPPLY

Is the same as in the previous year. There is still a shortage in summer in New Brixworth.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Five new houses have been built. Five old ones were pulled down in Spratton. I am sorry that no labourers' houses have been put up—more are urgently needed. Eight cases of overcrowding have been dealt with.

House to house inspection has been made in 24 villages. Many nuisances have been reported on and abated.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Church Brampton has been supplied with a system of sewers and a filtration bed at a cost of £650.

Scaldwell village sewers have been laid into a new system of septic tank, filter, and one rood of land, at cost of £160. *

These have been found to work extremely well.

Plans have been prepared for septic tank and filter at Spratton.

It is to be decided within the next month whether Maidwell village is to be sewered, partially into a septic tank or no.

The village of Creaton is now connected with the new sewers.

The villages of Harleston and Chapel Brampton are recommended for an extension of their filtration area.

The recommendations for the sewerage of Hannington are in abeyance.

Part of Walgrave sewer has been taken up and re-laid, and a new manhole has been put in and one ventilator.

Alteration in the filtration area in Holdenby has been recommended.

The filtration area of Overstone has been extended.

There are now 24 distinct filtration beds in the district, which have been reported on by the Inspector monthly.

* Captain Soames has generously defrayed this expense.

In the same way all School closets are reported on monthly.

During the year, the County Medical Officer, together with the Chairman and Sanitary Inspector, visited the effluent from all filtration beds in the district, also from the highway drains.

Flushing is carried out by carts once in ten days, at cost of £100 per year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Are kept up to the required standard. No change has been made during the year.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

68 Dairies and Cowsheds have been visited during the last six months. Many nuisances have been reported, and we hope that these will be abated within the next three months.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE

By notification, and isolating cases as far as possible at their own homes.

Disinfection is done by formalin gas and sulphur fumes.

From my Report you will see that the condition of the district, as far as disease and death go, has been better during the last year than for many previous, I am glad to say. The Sanitary condition of the district is steadily improving.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support in adopting any recommendations made by me for the better sanitation of the district.

I am,

Yours obediently,

EDWARD M. KNOTT.