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Carlton Urban
District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1908,
TOGETHER WITH
REPORTS OF SURVEYOR AND
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Carlton Urban District Council.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARLTON.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Report for 1908, I need make but few introductory remarks. The Reports of the Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, which accompany this Report, relieve me of the necessity of recording much of the work that has been done in connection with those officials' departments.

I would like, however, briefly to refer to the subject of back-to-back houses, to which the Council has had their especial attention drawn through communications received from the Local Government Board. Back-to-back houses are, on hygienic grounds, not at all desirable ; but a wholesale condemnation of such property in an old parish like that of Carlton, where there are about 50 houses of this description is, I think, rather a "tail order." Four of these back-to-back houses were condemned as unfit for habitation after inspection by the Surveyor, Inspector of Nuisances, and myself.

The two-storied houses of this class are chiefly occupied by 1 or 2 individuals—widows, old maids, and, I believe, also widowers and bachelors—and are confronted with large open spaces ; and in no instance, to my knowledge, is there a semblance of overcrowding. Such houses are occupied by poor people for economy's sake, the rentals being very low. It is not wise, perhaps, to be sentimental in sanitary matters, but one cannot deny that a hardship would be inflicted by suddenly depriving such tenants of their homes. In other respects we found these two-storied back-to-back houses passable.

There are 8 back-to-back three-storied houses on Carlton Hill, called City Terrace ; these are in good repair, stand high above the road, have plenty of air space, good water and drainage. The 28 back-to-back houses constituting the greater part of Windmill Row, at the top of Carlton Hill, are three-storied houses, and these, it must be admitted, are more or less in a dilapidated condition, and an eyesore to the approach to Carlton from that quarter. Some of these houses in front are, at the present time unoccupied, rapidly becoming quite unfit for habitation. I agree with the Surveyor, who refers to this matter in his report, that some steps should be taken to alter the present state of things. As he infers, however, to convert these double into single houses would be making of them huge, ugly mansions, suitable for no class of tenants.

These Annual Reports are written for the information of the Local Government Board, County Council, and Home Office, as well as the District Council, and a fair statement with regard to improvements effected and required is expected, though the latter may appear to some as rather insipid repetitions.

During the year the Council have had all houses numbered, wherever possible, proving a great convenience to sanitary officials, postmen and others. Another great convenience is the arrangement effected with the Basford Rural Council for the reception of patients suffering from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever in their Isolation Hospital, and this has, to a certain extent, been availed of. This, together with the facilities afforded by the Council for procuring at the earliest moment and gratis Antitoxin Serum for poor people, is further alluded to in dealing with notifiable infectious diseases.

At the request of the Council the Public Elementary Schools were thoroughly cleaned and disinfected during the holidays under the direction of the Education Committee.

It would be well if back yards of all houses were properly paved or asphalted where necessary, as the soil is, in many instances, allowed to become sodden and unwholesome, and not rendered porous by cultivation.

As I have more than once intimated, a steam disinfecter is one of the requirements of this district ; at present infected bedding and clothes cannot be thoroughly disinfected. In large populous districts where midwives have the care of maternity cases, it is very necessary that their clothing, after attending a case of puerperal fever, should be immediately and effectually disinfected, so that they may return to their duties as early as possible. The only disinfection that can be thoroughly relied on in such an event is that by means of a steam disinfecter. A prolonged suspension from duty with inadequate disinfection is not satisfactory.

The Nottinghamshire County Council has commenced to carry out the duties devolving upon them as the Education Authority with regard to the medical inspection of children in Public Elementary Schools under Section 13 of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, and, with the hearty co-operation of school teachers, much good will be effected, both in the schools and, indirectly, in the homes of the children.

The Council have not adopted the Notifications of Births Act, 1907, and I certainly think that, for the present, at any rate, the Act can be more efficiently administered by the County Council, the expenses of the execution of the Act being paid as general or special county expenses.

As mentioned by the Inspector of Nuisances in his Report, there have been 3 lots of meat condemned, after inspections, I believe, at the invitation of the slaughterer. In my opinion, proper inspection of meat and detection when diseased cannot be effectually carried out unless private slaughter-houses are abolished.

POPULATION.

I am once more indebted to Mr. Peck, the Rate Collector, for information respecting the number of inhabited houses at Midsummer last. His estimate is as follows: Carlton Ward, 1,447; Netherfield Ward, 1,438; and Porchester Ward, 420. Based on the proportion to each house at the 1901 census, viz., 4·8 and 4·5 for Netherfield and Carlton respectively, and apportioning the same number to Porchester as to Carlton, my estimate is: for Carlton, 6,511; Netherfield, 6,902; and Porchester, 1,890; the total for the whole district being 15,303.

This shows an increase over the previous year of 324. The natural increase caused by excess of births over deaths, including those of residents outside the district, was 266, leaving about 58 to be accounted for by immigration. Birth and death rates are founded on this estimate of population, so that if the latter is erroneous the former must be also. A more frequent census is the only remedy.

BIRTHS.

During the year, 451 births were registered. Of these 242 were males and 209 females. The birth rate was 29·46. These figures compare favourably with those for 1907, when there were 388 births with a birth rate of 25·90. It is to be hoped that the 1907 birth rate will remain the lowest on record, and that henceforth more substantial figures will be presented.

The births were distributed as follows: Carlton, 200 (males 111 and females 89); Netherfield, 204 (males 104 and females 100); and Porchester, 47 (males 27 and females 20). The birth rates being, for Carlton, 30·71; Netherfield, 29·55; and Porchester, 24·86. Carlton, with the largest number of poor people, has the highest birth rate, an example, I suppose, of the conditions generally throughout the country. It is, however, only fair to state that in 1907 Netherfield's birth rate was higher than that of Carlton, viz., 28·33, against 23·98; but this is somewhat misleading when it is borne in mind that the estimate for Carlton included that of Porchester, which latter was only 19·04. After making allowance for this, Netherfield's birth rate for 1907 exceeded that of Carlton, and, to be quite fair to the former, I believe I am correct in saying that previous statistics prove that Netherfield birth rates have always compared favourably with those of other districts. Netherfield, like Carlton, contains a large working-class element, but fewer poor than the latter. Porchester being to a great extent a residential district, its birth rate, viz., 24·86, must be also regarded as satisfactory.

I think that middle-class folk do not marry so early in life, as a rule, as artisans and other work-people, having to wait longer before obtaining what they deem a safe position; so that, amongst such, the child-bearing period is proportionately curtailed. In residential districts the houses are often possessed by people retiring from business, or those who have been engaged in work for years in a town saving money or improving their position, until they are able to take a home in the suburbs, and this cannot be effected, in many instances, before propagation has ceased.

There were 23 illegitimate births: in Carlton, 15; Netherfield, 7; and Porchester, 1. The percentage of

illegitimate births was rather high. Of the births 5·1 per cent. were illegitimate. The morality of Carlton, judging from these figures, is rather unenviable. From Dr. Handford's Report for 1907 for the County of Nottinghamshire, I find that in that year "in the whole county 4·18 per cent. of the births were illegitimate; in the urban districts the percentage was 4·15, and in the rural, 4·24."

The average birth rate in this district for the previous 10 years was 31·59.

The birth rates in 1908 were: for England and Wales, 26·5; for 76 great towns, 27·0; for 142 smaller towns, 26·0; and for England and Wales, less the 218 towns, 26·2.

DEATHS.

There were 167 deaths registered in the district, and 18 deaths of residents in public institutions beyond the district, making a total of 185. The death rate of those registered in the district was 10·91 compared with 9·61 for 1907 and 11·57 the average for the years 1898 to 1907.

The death rate for all belonging to the district, that is, including deaths of residents in institutions outside the district, was 12·08, compared with 10·41 for 1907, and 11·22 the average for the years 1904 to 1907. The increases of causes of deaths were Enteric Fever 1, Influenza 5, Enteritis 5, Phthisis 5, Cancer 7, Bronchitis 11, other diseases of respiratory organs 2, Premature Birth 1, Heart Diseases 1, Senility 4, Convulsions 5, and all other causes 4; and the decreases were Measles 3, Whooping Cough 1, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 1, Puerperal Fever 1, Tubercular diseases other than Phthisis 3, Pneumonia 5, Cirrhosis of Liver 2, Diseases and Accidents of Parturition 1, Suicides 1, and Debility 2.

From this it will be seen that Influenza, Enteritis, Phthisis, Cancer, Bronchitis, Senility and Convulsions contributed most to the increased death rate of 1908. The death rates for each ward were: Carlton, 15·81; Netherfield, 9·41; and Porchester, 8·98. The death rate for Netherfield is practically the same as that for 1907, when it was 9·69. The death rates for Carlton and Porchester in 1907 were 10·98 for the former and only 5·28 for the latter, so that in both these wards a marked increase has taken place in 1908. The proportion of deaths of old persons over 65 years of age, what may be termed unavoidable deaths, has been greater in Carlton and Porchester Wards than in Netherfield.

In Carlton there were 24 deaths of persons over 65 registered in the district, and 4 others belonging to it who died in institutions outside, in Netherfield 7 inside and 2 outside, and in Porchester 5 inside. The totals being for Carlton, 28 or 27·18 per cent. of all deaths in the Ward; Netherfield, 9 or 13·84 per cent.; and Porchester, 5 or 29·41 per cent.; so that with regard to Carlton and Porchester Wards the proportion of deaths of persons over 65 years of age was more than double that of Netherfield. In order to avoid erroneous conclusions it is necessary to be informed of the character of a population, with regard to the number of aged persons living, who, in the natural course of events, must be continually adding to the death roll of a district, as well as the number who have actually died and other circumstances such as the poverty or well-being and occupations of the community; solely relying on mere figures is delusive.

It is indisputable that Carlton contains a large number of old and very poor people. Netherfield, notwithstanding its large working-class population, has very few, if any,

destitute. With regard to Porchester, I believe it contains a good proportion of elderly persons. Concerning this I have no positive proof. On the other hand, I should say that downright poverty is scarcely to be found there.

It is significant that the largest number of deaths registered in the district were in the fortnights ending January 15th with 9, January 13th with 13, February 26th with 11, March 25th with 9, May 6th with 8, October 21st with 12, December 2nd with 11, December 16th with 9, and December 30th with 11. In these 18 weeks there were no less than 93 deaths, considerably more than half the total number of deaths registered in the district during the year, viz., 167. During these 18 weeks 30 of the deaths were of elderly persons over 60, and 48 of children under 2 years (that is of tender age), making a total of 78. About these periods there were great fluctuations of temperature, which most probably accounted in a great measure for the increased death rates.

Dr. Handford, Medical Officer for the County, has, as usual, kindly supplied me with a list of deaths of residents in institutions outside the district.

The death rates for 1908 were: England and Wales, 14·7; 76 great towns, 15·8; 142 smaller towns, 14·7; and England and Wales, less the 218 towns, 13·8.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

I regret to report an increase in the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age during the year 1908 over that of 1907, when the number and rate were the lowest on record. In 1907 there were only 37 such deaths, but in 1908 the number was 52, the rate per 1,000 registered births being in the former 95 and in the latter 115.

The increases in causes of these deaths in 1908 over 1907 were Enteritis 1, Gastritis 4, Congenital Defects 2, Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus 15, other Tuberculous Diseases 2, Meningitis 2, Bronchitis 3; and the decreases were Measles 2, Premature Birth 2, Tuberculous Peritonitis 1, Convulsions 1, Pneumonia 2, Suffocation 1, and other causes 5.

In 1908, of the 52 deaths, 23 were of infants who had not reached the age of 1 month; and of these 23, there were 8, as sole cause, placed under the heading of Premature Birth; 7 Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus; and 4 were attributed to Congenital Defects. Of the total number of deaths of children under 1 year of age, viz., 52, under the general heading of Wasting Diseases 15 were accounted for. How far such deaths are preventable it is difficult to say, but here again the character and surroundings of the people appear to regulate statistics of Infantile Mortality; for instance, in Carlton there were 26 deaths with a rate of 130 per 1,000 registered births; in Netherfield, 22 deaths and 108 rate; and in Porchester, 4 deaths and 85 rate.

The Notification of Births Act will probably be in force before long, and it will be interesting to watch its effects. It is doubtful whether mothers in many instances are prepared for the responsibilities connected with child-rearing, and, to such, helpful advice should be of the greatest use. Above all things, it is essential that the food on which the life of the little ones depends should be of a suitable character. In manufacturing districts where females are largely employed in factories, etc., children do not get the maternal care which is their due, and the mothers themselves often suffer in health and bring forth weakly babies.

There must have been some special cause, however, for the increased infant mortality in 1908, and I am inclined to think such was probably climatic; rapid variations of temperature, in the absence of extra precautions, having a detrimental effect, especially on weak children.

One of the blots on our civilisation is the possibility, even probability, of children, who cannot be supplied with breast milk, being fed on tuberculous milk, which also frequently, through lack of proper care, becomes rancid and contains filthy matter.

The deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births were: in England and Wales, 121; in 76 great towns, 128; in 142 smaller towns, 124; and in England and Wales, less the 218 towns, 110. So that the mortality rate in this district, viz., 115, was less than the first three rates mentioned and greater than that of the fourth.

There were 47 deaths of legitimate children to 428 legitimate births, and 5 deaths of illegitimate to 23 illegitimate births; a striking contrast, only about one-ninth of the legitimates dying to over one-fourth of the illegitimates, and a state of things from which at least one regrettable inference must be drawn with regard to their avoidability or otherwise. Apathy and neglect, which are difficult to prove and punish, fall, I fear, too frequently to the lot of the illegitimate and not-wanted child.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

From Zymotic diseases, including Influenza and Diarrhœa, there were 21 deaths, exactly the same number as in 1907. The increase of population reduces slightly the death rate from these causes. In 1906 the zymotic death rate was 1·90; in 1907, 1·40; and in 1908, 1·37.

There were 14 of such deaths in Carlton, 7 in Netherfield, and none in Porchester. Influenza caused by far the largest number of these deaths.

The death rates of the principal epidemic diseases in 1908 were : in England and Wales, 1·29 ; in 76 great towns, 1·59 ; in 142 smaller towns, 1·26 ; and in England and Wales, less the 218 towns, 0·99.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

This year I am pleased to report that, by arrangement with the Basford Rural District Council, we are provided with means for isolating, away from home, when necessary, cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and 6 cases of the former disease have been sent to the Basford Isolation Hospital. At the invitation of Dr. Wray, Medical Officer for Basford, I visited the Isolation Hospital in March, and, from what I saw, was of opinion that everything connected with it was extremely satisfactory.

Typhoid Fever cases are admitted into a special ward at the Nottingham General Hospital.

The arrangement about the middle of the year with the Basford Council appears to be satisfactory, and, at any rate, tides us over a difficulty for the present. I need hardly mention that all cases are removed in a special ambulance.

We have still also available, in case of necessity, the Small Pox Hospital at Hucknall Torkard, which is maintained at the expense of 5 District Councils, including our own.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been a marked increase in the number of infectious diseases notified in 1908 over 1907, but less than the year 1906. In 1906 there were 171 notifications, in 1907 only 67, and 121 in 1908.

The increases of infectious diseases notified in 1908 over 1907 were: Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 12, Erysipelas 1, Scarlet Fever 33, and Enteric Fever 9; and the only decrease, Puerperal Fever 1. Of the total, 80 related to Carlton, 34 to Netherfield, and 7 to Porchester.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Small Pox.—Another year has passed without a case of this disease, and I refer again to it because it has so often almost unexpectedly appeared in pretty regular cycles in the past, and most probably will reappear from time to time in the future. Another reason for my doing so is that I have observed that in the absence of present danger the vaccination laws are set at naught, notwithstanding the privilege of exemption allowed up to 4 months from date of child's birth. The panic during the last visitation, when immense numbers, which must have included many indifferent ones and professed unbelievers, rushed to the vaccinator, resulted in great expense being suddenly incurred.

A great authority recently said in an address: "One hears constantly in cultivated society talk about the part that sanitation has played in diminishing the prevalence of small pox. That, I venture to say, is utter and unmitigated twaddle. Sanitation has done splendid work. It has been an inestimable boon, but the finest sanitation

will not make a man proof against a sufficient dose of trychnine, nor will the highest hygienic conditions make him secure against a sufficient dose of the virulent poison of variola" (i.e., small pox.)

Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup.—There were 26 cases notified as against 14 in 1907 and 55 in 1906. There were 16 notifications relating to Carlton, 6 to Netherfield, and 4 to Porchester. There were 3 deaths, 2 in Carlton and 1 in Netherfield. The percentage of deaths to cases, or, in other words, the fatality per 100 cases, was 11·5. Of the cases 12 (or nearly half) were of children between 5 and 15 years—that is, of school age. In 1907 the case fatality was 35·7. Of course, this disease may perhaps be much milder in character at one period than another, but the increased use of Antitoxin is, in my opinion, the chief factor in reducing the fatality.

There is now every facility afforded for the very poorest sufferer to be promptly treated with Antitoxin Serum, owing to the action of the Council in resolving to supply it free where needed. The earlier the Serum treatment is adopted in cases of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup the better the chance of recovery. Children who have suffered from Diphtheria should not be allowed to return to school until quite free from infection, but this can only be determined by bacteriological examination of the secretions of the throat.

Apropos of Antitoxin Serum treatment, the following recently appeared in a medical paper called "The Medical Officer": "In the provinces of Bosnia and Herzegovnia during the ten years period 1898 to 1907 inclusive, 10,051 cases of diphtheria were notified, of which 2,646 (or 26·3 per cent.) terminated fatally. Of the total notified cases

5,699 were treated by Antitoxin, and of these 645 (or 11·3 per cent.) died ; while in 4,348 cases not treated by Antitoxin there were 2,001 deaths—a case mortality of no less than 46·0 per cent.”

Unfortunately, children may have the disease so slightly or perhaps even be carriers of the germs without themselves suffering in any way, without discovery ; but at the same time be dangerous by infecting others to a serious extent. The medical inspection of school children may, in time, be the means of eradicating in a great measure this source of danger, as a bacteriological examination would probably be, as a matter of routine, thoroughly carried out of all children attending a class in which an outbreak may have occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 61 notifications of Scarlet Fever as against 28 in 1907 and 76 in 1906. There were 40 cases in Carlton, 19 in Netherfield, and 2 in Porchester. There were cases more or less in every month except April, and only 1 case in March and May. The largest numbers were 25 in November and 13 in December, and of these, 7 occurred in one house after the return of a member of the family from the Isolation Hospital after an attack of Scarlet Fever. Of this rather large number of cases, there was no fatality, showing how mild the disease was ; and, as you are all well aware, it is this extreme mildness which causes the non-discovery of cases until infection has spread. Six of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and all precautions in the way of disinfection, examination of children at schools and exclusion therefrom, and isolation at home or elsewhere were taken. Homework connected with the lace or hosiery trades was at once stopped in infected houses. We, however, cannot be fully

equipped to grapple with this disease until a steam disinfectant is procured. It was not at any time considered necessary to close the schools on account of this disease.

Enteric Fever.—There were 15 cases, 12 in Carlton and 3 in Netherfield. Of these, 3 were fatal, giving a case fatality of 20 per cent. As a result of investigations, I am inclined to think that at least 10 of the Carlton cases were directly or indirectly traceable to a colliery. It is known that sanitary observances are not strictly adhered to in collieries, defecation and urination taking place indiscriminately in the most convenient but not most suitable places, and such a condition is undoubtedly productive at times of contagion. It is not difficult to conceive that particles of faecal matter mixed with coal dust may very easily come in contact with food and be ingested by employees. Other patients worked outside the district and the source of illness was difficult to trace; these were scattered cases and certainly not due to any particular local cause. The fact that typhoid bacilli may be carried in the system for a long time after apparent recovery from the disease, accounts for the obscurity of the source of some outbreaks. A person, regarded as quite well after an attack of Typhoid Fever, may, for some considerable time, be the carrier of germs which will infect others. The fly has for a long time been convicted as a Typhoid poisoner of the human race, by conveying the germs of the disease to food, and it is now suggested that the flea is possessed by means of its bites of the ability to inoculate an individual. But what is most extraordinary, it is stated on excellent authority, as ascertained by bacteriological examination of faeces, that perfectly healthy persons may ingest the bacilli, and excrete them without themselves suffering in

the least, although causing the infection of others. The rooms occupied by Typhoid patients have been disinfected, together with the drains, and special closed pails have been supplied to receive the excrement and urine after disinfection thereof. Eight of the persons suffering from this complaint were removed to the Nottingham General Hospital for treatment.

Erysipelas.—There were 19 notifications against 18 in 1907 and 36 in 1906. Fourteen of that number were of people aged between 25 and 65 years of age. Of the notifications, 12 related to Carlton, 6 to Netherfield, and 1 to Porchester.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.—An outbreak occurred in Netherfield in October, and, in consequence, the infant schools were closed for three weeks in November. This appeared to have the desired effect, for the epidemic very soon ceased. There was 1 death of a child under 5 years of age from this disease.

Chicken Pox.—There were a very few cases in the spring, a repetition of what occurred in the early part of 1907.

Whooping Cough caused 2 deaths of children under 5 years of age in Netherfield. Luckily, this affection only attacked comparatively few children, or the fatality would, in all probability, have been much greater.

Influenza.—There were 9 deaths attributed to this disease, which, I believe, is the largest number on record for this district. In 1907 there were 4 deaths, and in 1906 there were 2 deaths registered. It is fair to suppose that

marked fluctuations of temperature such as have occurred during the past year have had a depressing effect on many people, rendering them very susceptible to such an infectious disease as Influenza. Two of the fatal cases were of children under 5, and of adults 3 were between 25 and 65, and 4 over 65 years of age. Seven of the deaths were in Carlton and 2 in Netherfield.

Diarrhœa.—There were 3 deaths of children under 5 years of age, all in Carlton; but under the heading of Enteritis, which embraces other inflammatory conditions of the bowels, there were 5 deaths of children under 1 year of age, of which 3 were in Carlton, 1 in Netherfield, and 1 in Porchester. The two last summers have not been favourable for epidemics of Diarrhœa, there having been an absence of long periods of great heat.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

There were 15 deaths from Phthisis, or consumption, with a death rate of 0·98 compared with 10 deaths and a death rate of 0·66 in 1907. Seven of the deaths were of Carlton residents, 6 Netherfield, and 2 Porchester. The majority of deaths, viz., 11, were of persons between 25 and 65 years of age, a very important period of life, especially for wage-earners, who then make the best use of their time and experience. Every effort should consequently be made to stamp out this dreadful scourge, and much can be done towards prevention by instruction with regard to mode of living, disposal and disinfection of sputa, and the thorough cleaning and disinfecting of houses which have been occupied by sufferers. Leaflets have been issued by the Nottinghamshire Association for the Prevention of Consumption containing instructions to consumptives,

and have been distributed. Regulations from the Local Government Board came into force on January 1st of this year (1909) with regard to the notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (i.e., Phthisis) affecting poor people who are inmates of Poor Law Institutions or under the care of District Medical Officers, and for the taking of measures in such cases. This will enable the Council to act as in the case of some other infectious diseases. Disinfection of the home after the death or removal of a patient should be insisted upon and no house should be re-let after being occupied by a consumptive unless thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Bedding and clothing should also be thoroughly disinfected in a steam disinfectant. Printed instructions, for the guidance of consumptives and their friends, might be issued.

There were 5 deaths from other tuberculous diseases, 3 in Carlton and 2 in Netherfield. The death rate of all tuberculous diseases in the district, that is, Phthisis and other tuberculous diseases combined, was 1.30. The danger arising from the large percentage of tuberculous milking beast in the country is well recognised, and no doubt, ere long, practical means of coping with this evil will be adopted.

SOME OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer.—In view of the interest taken in this disease, and the amount of attention paid to it, as displayed by scientific research and correspondence respecting it in medical papers, I feel more than justified in giving this disease some prominence in my Annual Reports. During the past year there were 14 fatalities, exactly double the number in 1907. The periods of life in which the deaths

occurred were 2 between 15 and 25, 10 between 25 and 65, and 2 over 65 years of age. Of the Carlton residents there were 8 deaths, Netherfield 4, and Porchester 2. The death rate was 0.91. Up to the present, early operation, as far as treatment is concerned, is most effective.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy and other diseases of Respiratory Organs caused 35 deaths as against 21 in 1907. This increase, I presume, has been due in a great measure to the fickle climate.

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION, AND OVER-CROWDING.

Four houses were condemned after inspection by the Surveyor, Inspector of Nuisances and myself. These houses were situated between Main Street in front and Church Street behind. They were quite unfit for habitation and consisted of very old property and, I should say, beyond repair.

There were 2 cases of overcrowding, which were remedied without proceedings being taken beyond formal notice.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

These have, as usual, been inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. Comparatively speaking, I think the cowsheds are kept in about as good order as they are elsewhere—a rather primitive state of things, perhaps—and, to my mind, a general improvement might certainly be accomplished by a stricter adherence to hygienic principles.

There has been no fault to be found with the dairies and slaughter-houses. All these premises are registered.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

There are 6 Factories and 57 Workshops registered, and these have been inspected. One outer door of a factory was found to open inwards ; this was immediately rectified by the manager on his attention being called to it. Some of the Workshops were not quite as clean as desirable, and limewashing was carried out where requested. The bakehouses, with a few exceptions, were satisfactory, fresh limewashing in some instances being required ; this the owners undertook to effect when requested. Outworkers were debarred in 2 cases from doing home-work in infected houses. These, with other particulars, can be ascertained by a glance at the table at the end of this Report pertaining to the Factory and Workshop Act.

Mr. Avis, of Stoke Bardolph, has kindly furnished me with a record of the rainfall at Stoke Farm, immediately adjoining this district. I also include the Nottingham weather record as reported in the " Nottingham Evening Post." As you are well aware, Nottingham is on our West boundary and Stoke Bardolph on the East.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Council and my fellow-officers for the unvarying courtesy and assistance, which I have always received and which have greatly facilitated the work of my office.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. T. KNIGHT,

February, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

CARLTON, JANUARY, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

New Buildings.—During the year ending December 31st, 1908, plans have been approved for the erection of 243 Dwelling-houses (as compared with 151 last year) in your district ; of these 140 were in Carlton Ward, 103 in Netherfield Ward, and 27 in Porchester Ward. Twenty of those in the Netherfield Ward have not been erected, and 40 of those in the Carlton Ward are not yet erected, but are in hand. In addition, plans have also been approved for 1 County Council School, 1 Alterations and Additions to School, 6 Shops, 5 Stables, 1 Farm, 3 Workshops and 5 Alterations to Dwelling-houses. From this it will be seen that the work of inspection of new buildings is no light matter, but I am pleased to say that since the new By-laws adopted by the Council have been put into operation, generally the builders are giving more attention to the requirements of the Council than seems unfortunately to have been the case previously.

Roads and Streets.—The total length of County Main Road in this District is 2 miles $1\frac{1}{2}$ furlongs, and the amount paid by the County Council for the maintenance of this length last year was £455, which is an increase of £100 over the amount previously allowed. A further section of this road from Carlton Post Office to the junction of Gedling Road, and also a section from the Midland Railway Crossing to near Conway Road, has been coated with tar-Mac, and is proving satisfactory. It may be of interest to you to say that the first piece of Tar-Mac laid in this district (i.e., the piece near the Windsor Castle Hotel) has now been down nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, and the total repairs on this length have not cost

£1. I hope that during the next year the County Council will make the same allowance as last year, so that another section of this road may be treated in this manner, as I am convinced that, both from a standpoint of economy and health, it is far before the old system of coating with either Granite or Slag and Binding.

The total length of Other Roads and Streets repairable by the Council is approximately 9 miles. During the last three years the total length of streets taken over by the Council has been approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and before the end of the present year this will have a further addition of three-quarters of a mile, so that it will be seen that the responsibility of the Council in this direction is increasing considerably.

Another point which requires consideration is the Streets which were taken over by the Council a few years ago. These streets have not, since being taken over, had any repairs done to them. It would now be advisable to have these taken in hand, or, if allowed to go much longer, they will become a very serious item. The following items of materials used during the year may be of interest: Granite, 450 tons; Slag, 1,270 tons; Tar-Mac, 300 tons; Setts, 70 tons; and Kerb, 400 yards. The Street-Watering Vans were in use on 91 days. During the year 5 Streets have been re-named and 30 new Street Name Plates have been fixed.

Sewers.—The total length of Main Sewers (not including surface-water drains) in your district is approximately 27,400 yards, or nearly $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles. These have all been inspected and flushed, and are in good condition. I am pleased to say that the Council's action in requiring all new houses to be provided with Water Closets has not resulted, as predicted by some, in the wholesale blocking

up of drains. There have been a considerable number fixed in connection with cottage houses, and I have not heard of a single complaint of stoppages or being any trouble.

Street Lighting.—The total number of Street Lamps in your district is 257, of which 140 have incandescent burners. During the year 23 new Street Lamps have been erected, 19 in the Porchester Ward, 3 in Carlton Ward, and 1 in Netherfield Ward. Six Lamps in Carlton Ward have been removed to new positions, and 12 Lamps fitted with incandescent burners.

Nightsoil Scavenging.—During the year the work done in this department has consisted of the emptying of 175,636 Closet Pails and 151 Ashpits, and the number of loads of nightsoil carted has been 3,469. Of this number over 900 loads have been deposited on two tips at the Allotment Gardens for the use of your tenants, and the remainder supplied to Farmers in the locality.

I am pleased to say that no complaints have been received during the year of nuisances caused by the tipping of this nightsoil ; and further, I am not aware of a single load of nightsoil being stored at any tip, it all having been put on the land by the Farmers receiving it.

I am pleased to note that the activity of the Sanitary Inspector has resulted in a great many of the ashpits which were nuisances being removed. We have now only about 50 of these ashpits left in the district, and no doubt the next year will see the end of all of this number which are or may become in any way a nuisance.

Horses.—The Council's Horses (8 in number) are all in good condition ; no serious case of sickness has occurred, and it has not been necessary to purchase any new ones.

Back-to-Back Houses.—I have, along with the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, inspected

all the back-to-back houses in the district. Four of these were condemned at once as unfit for habitation. A further block of this class of property, known as Windmill Row, is largely in a very dilapidated condition. These houses (about 30) being three-storied houses, would, perhaps, if they were made into through houses, be too large for the present class of tenants, but I am of opinion that the owner's attention should be drawn to the matter and, unless improvement is made, that the same steps as in the case of the 4 mentioned should be taken.

Cemetery.—During the past year 129 interments have taken place in the Cemetery.

The Caretaker's Lodge has been pointed and repaired, and part of the walks tar-painted.

Free Library.—The Free Library, as shewn by the large number of persons to be seen at all times in the building and the constant demand for more books and newspapers, has become a very popular institution and is much appreciated.

Fire Brigade.—The Fire Brigade have, during the year, received 9 calls. Six of these were false alarms; 1 was to a slight fire in Main Street; 1 to a serious stack fire at Lambley, where the efforts of the Brigade were successful in saving property valued at £1,000; and 1 at a fire in Netherfield, where property valued at £600 was in danger.

In concluding this Report, I should like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and support I have at all times received from the members of the various Committees of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. CRACROFT HALLER.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

GENTLEMEN,

The past year has been one of the busiest years since my appointment as Inspector of Nuisances. Having been relieved of some of my duties with regard to scavenging, I have been able to pay more attention to other matters and visit more frequently all parts of the district, and many improvements have been effected. The number of ashpits has been considerably reduced, and I hope the remainder will soon be abolished. An improvement is visible with regard to cowsheds, no doubt brought about by the visits paid at unexpected times by myself and the Medical Officer of Health. A few fresh registrations of milk sellers have been made. All the retailers are, I believe, now supplied with Nottingham Corporation Water.

The bakehouses have been well cleaned and are in a satisfactory condition.

The Workshops might perhaps be kept cleaner, but there are signs of improvement.

The Slaughterhouses are in a clean and satisfactory state.

The houses in which infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected after recovery or removal of patients to Hospital.

The removal of nightsoil from West Dale Lane effected an improvement.

Of overcrowding, 2 cases have been dealt with, the inmates removing to larger houses.

One dairyman has been reported and dealt with.

I have had 3 lots of meat destroyed. There was no need for prosecution, as they were inspected at the instigation of the owners, who had not presented any portion thereof for sale.

The time arranged for complaints to be made to me at the Offices has proved satisfactory.

I find I have made over 400 visits in connection with nuisances and ordinary inspections. I beg to thank the Council and my fellow officials for their courtesy.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

JOHN ED. TRUMAN,

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1908 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No	
		Number.	Rate.*	At all Ages.		Number.	Rate.*				
				Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered			Number.			Rate.*
1898	9,500	299	31.47	42	140	126	13.26	...	...	Nottingham Hospitals.
1899	9,750	304	31.17	43	141	130	13.33	...	...	County Asylum.
1900	10,000	285	28.50	46	161	126	12.60	...	...	Basford Workhouse.
1901	10,580	336	31.75	48	148	156	14.74	...	...	Basford Isolation Hospital.
1902	11,655	362	31.05	55	152	129	11.06	...	...
1903	12,402	369	29.75	44	119	114	9.19	...	...
1904	13,231	405	30.61	56	138	143	10.80	10	153	11.56	
1905	14,078	403	28.62	47	116	156	11.08	9	165	11.72	
1906	14,209	386	27.16	49	126	143	10.06	16	159	11.19	
1907	14,979	388	25.90	37	95	144	9.61	12	156	10.41	
Averages for years 1898-1907	12,038	353	31.59	46	133	136	11.57	Averages for years 1904-1907	158	11.22	
1908	15,303	451	29.46	52	115	167	10.91	18	185	12.08	

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres } 1,400,
(exclusive of area covered by water)

Total population at all ages, 10,041 } At Census of
Number of inhabited houses, 2,159 } 1901,
Average number of persons per house, 4.65 }

TABLE 2.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 and Previous Years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1.—WHOLE DISTRICT.				2.—CARLTON WARD.				3.—NETHERFIELD WARD.				4.—PORCHESTER WARD. <small>Recently taken from Carlton Ward.</small>			
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.																
1898	9,500	299	126	42	5,300	159	86	24	4,200	140	40	18	...	...	...	...
1899	9,750	304	130	43	5,621	172	94	30	4,129	132	36	13	...	...	...	...
1900	10,000	285	126	46	5,680	139	71	23	4,320	146	55	23	...	...	...	...
1901	10,580	336	156	48	5,540	182	102	25	5,040	154	54	23	...	...	...	...
1902	11,655	362	129	55	6,116	199	79	39	5,539	163	50	16	...	...	...	...
1903	12,402	369	114	44	6,489	191	78	30	5,913	178	36	14	...	...	...	...
1904	13,231	405	153	56	7,078	209	96	33	6,153	196	57	23	...	...	...	...
1905	14,078	403	165	47	7,713	207	104	27	6,365	196	61	20	...	...	...	...
1906	14,209	386	159	49	7,821	201	107	31	6,388	185	52	18	...	...	...	...
1907	14,979	388	156	37	8,379	201	92	20	6,600	187	64	17	...	...	...	...
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907.	12,038	353	141	46	6,573	186	90	23	5,464	167	50	18	...	...	...	...
1908	15,303	451	185	52	6,511	200	103	26	6,902	204	65	22	1,890	47	17	4

TABLE 3.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL, FROM EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwds	Carlton	Netherfield	Porchester	Carlton.	Netherfield.	Porchester	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
														Carlton	Netherfield	Porchester	Total
Small-pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cholera ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria (includ Mem. Croup)...	26	0	5	12	5	3	1	16	6	4	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	19	0	2	0	1	14	2	12	6	1	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	61	1	17	39	3	1	0	40	19	2	5	0	0	0	6
Typhus Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	15	0	1	3	4	7	0	12	3	0	7	0	0	0	8
Relapsing Fever...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plague ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	121	1	25	54	13	25	3	80	34	7	12	2	0	14	

Isolation Hospitals... { Basford Isolation Hospital. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated. 2.
 Hucknall Torkard Small-pox Hospital,

TABLE 4.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the district.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to local- ities, whether occurring in or beyond the district.		
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	Carlton.	Nether- field.	Porchestr
Small-pox.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.....	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Scarlet fever.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping-cough...	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup...	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
Croup.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fever { Typhus.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
{ Enteric.....	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	0
{ Other contd.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epidemic influenza	9	0	2	0	0	3	4	7	2	0
Cholera.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plague.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa.....	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Enteritis.....	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1
Puerperal fever....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis (Pulmon- ary Tuberculosis)	15	0	0	1	3	11	0	7	6	2
Other tubercular diseases.....	5	3	1	0	1	0	0	3	2	0
Cancer, malignant disease.....	14	0	0	0	2	10	2	8	4	2
Bronchitis.....	17	3	3	0	0	2	9	14	2	1
Pneumonia.....	15	3	7	0	1	1	3	6	8	1
Pleurisy.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.....	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of liver }	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Venereal diseases..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature birth...	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	0
Diseases and acci- dents of parturi- tion.....	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Heart diseases.....	17	1	0	2	0	7	7	7	7	3
Accidents.....	4	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	3	0
Suicides.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senility.....	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	0	2
Debility.....	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0
Convulsions.....	9	8	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	2
All other causes....	33	8	1	1	3	12	8	19	12	2
All causes.....	185	52	21	6	11	53	42	103	65	17

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, 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)	6		
Workshops (Includi'g Worksh'p Laundries)	57		
Total	63		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2		
Sanitary Accommodation, unsuitable or defective	1	1		
Total	3	3		

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS.			Inspection of Outworkers' Premises.	OUTWORK IN INFECTED PREMISES.	
	Lists received from Employers once in the year.	Addresses of Outworkers.			Instances.	Orders made.
		Received from other Councils.	Forward'd to other Councils.			
Wearing Apparel—making, &c.	3	21	10	3	4	4
Lace, lace curtains and nets	0	18	0	0	0	0
Total	3	39	10	3	4	4

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	16
Boilers of Meat	3
Workshops with Machinery	12
Blacksmiths	2
Railway Workshops	2
Other Workshops	22
Total number of workshops on Register	57

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Act ... 5

RAINFALL.

Rain Gauge } Diameter of
Funnel, 8in.

Height of Top above Ground, ... If
" " " " Sea Level, 65-9ft.

1908. DATE.	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
1st	...	...	.120	...	...	.036	...	...	.020	.015	...	.002
2nd	...	...	.043	...	.060	...	...	...	.033	.015	...	...
3rd	...	...	...	.087	.400	.110	...	...	.394	...	...	...
4th	...	...	.090	.120	.016	...	...	...	.018	.015	...	...
5th	.027	...	.102	.174	.093	...	.280	.033	...	...	...	.059
6th	.216	...	.150	.041	.100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7th	.068	...	...	...	.169	...	.137	...	...	.010	...	...
8th	.163	...	.087	...	.065	.035	.361	...	...	.715	...	.101
9th	.010	...	.050	.030	...	...	.435	...	.087	.065	...	.134
10th	...	...	...	...	...	...	.005	.100	.035	...	.076	.010
11th	...	...	...	...	...	.147	...	.027	...	...	.014	...
12th	...	...	.050	...	...	.020	.188	.080	...	.010	...	...
13th	.007	...	...	...	.330	.037	.046	...	...	...	.443	.085
14th	...	...	...	.025	.164	...	.045	...	...	...	.045	.213
15th	.140	...	.100	...	.092	...	.027	...	.105	...	...	.044
16th	.039	...	...	...	...	.261	.511	.005	.130	.052	...	.100
17th	.010	...	...	...	...	.282	.342	...	...	...	...	...
18th	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.028	.100	.080
19th	.010	...	...	.180	...	...	.020	...	...	...	.016	...
20th	.009	...	.015	.138	...	...	...	.609	.238	...	...	...
21st	...	...	...	.007	...	...	...	.260	.010	.362	.107	...
22nd	...	...	.030	.155	.047	...	...	.459	...	.040	.110	...
23rd	...	...	...	.078	...	...	...	.250	...	...	...	...
24th	...	...	.375	.035	...	...	...	.155	.117	...	.125	...
25th	.056	...	.700	.100	.077	...	...	...	.029	.055	.033	...
26th	.011	.013	.020	.060	...	...	...	.605	...	.105	.010	...
27th	.020	.472	.235	.050	...	...	.025	.042	.009	.130	...	...
28th	.207	.099	...	.747	...	...	...	.140	...	.017	...	.170
29th	.004	.090	.070	.240	...	...	...	...	...	...	.021	.070
30th	.018	...	.195	.127	.106	...	...	.142	.007	.005	.031	.120
31st	...	...	.005	...	.070	...	...	.385	...	...	...	.010
	1.015	1.678	2.437	2.394	1.789	.928	2.422	3.292	1.232	1.039	1.131	1.198

WEATHER IN 1908.

THE NOTTINGHAM RECORD.

Mr. Arthur Brown, the City Engineer, and Dr. Philip Boobbyer, the Medical Officer of Health, have just issued their usual return as to the weather in Nottingham during 1908. They state that the rainfall was 22·703 in., which is 2·948 in. less than the rainfall of the year 1907. The average yearly rainfall for the last 42 years is 24·898 in., the rainfall for the year 1908 was 2·195 in. below the average. The principal feature was the comparatively heavy rainfall in July, 3·162 in.; and August, 3·119 in., while in the last three months of the year it was exceedingly small: October, ·992 in., November 1·313 in., and December 1·422 in., making a total of 3·727 in. for the quarter.

The highest reading of the thermometer in the shade was 84·0 on July 2nd, and the lowest 7·4 on December 30th, a range of 76·6 degrees. The highest reading in the sun was 135·7 on July 2nd, and the lowest reading on the grass was 10·8 on December 30th. The principal feature was the temperature in the last few days of September and the early days of October, when for four consecutive days the minimum shade temperature was over 76 degrees. It is over thirteen years since a temperature approaching this was reached in October, when it was 74·5 for one day only. A comparison of the temperature of April with November is interesting, as the average temperature for April was 42·4 and November 45·0, the opposite of what should be expected.—“Evening Post.”