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Contributors

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CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1913.

STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	49,975.
Population	...	...	...	...	...	12,771.
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	1911 Census	...	2,700.
Average number of persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	4.73.

Year.	Population.	Nett Births.		Nett Deaths belonging to District			
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Number.	Rate.
1908	12,219	273	22.3	21	76.9	130	10.6
1909	12,219	227	18.5	20	88.1	149	12.2
1910	12,219	211	17.2	18	85.3	123	10.06
1911	12,771	199	15.6	10	50.2	122	9.9
1912	12,771	210	16.4	9	42.8	117	9.2
1913	12,771	198	15.5	18	90.8	140	10.9

The points that call for comment in the above figures are the small and diminishing number of births, and the increase, as compared with the last two years, of the number of deaths of infants under 1 year in proportion to the 1,000 births, usually spoken of as the "Infantile Mortality."

Of the 140 deaths which belonged to this district no less than 61 occurred at the age of 65 or upwards.

The cause of death which has figured most during the year is heart disease, which has been responsible for 23, while cancer has been responsible for 17.

From pulmonary consumption there have been 6 deaths, giving a death rate of .47 per 1,000 living, as compared with .41 last year.

The cancer rate is 1.3 against 1.2 for 1912.

The infectious diseases notified have been 44 in number, made up as follows:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3	...	Removed to Hospital.	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2	...		0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	31	...		20
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	8	...		0

The cases of scarlet not removed to Hospital have been in places where the parents have resisted pressure brought to bear, or in isolated cottages miles from any others, as in one family where the children were only discovered to have the disease when peeling was noticed and reported by the School Teacher.

CHALLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1913.

STATISTICS

The following statistics are given for the rural district of Challey for the year 1913, and are compared with the corresponding figures for the year 1912. The figures are given in the following table, and are based on the returns made to the Registrar-General by the Medical Officers of Health of the parishes and townships within the rural district.

Year	Total Deaths		Deaths from		Total Deaths
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
1913	107	107	107	107	214
1912	112	112	112	112	224
1911	104	104	104	104	208
1910	104	104	104	104	208
1909	104	104	104	104	208
1908	104	104	104	104	208
1907	104	104	104	104	208
1906	104	104	104	104	208
1905	104	104	104	104	208
1904	104	104	104	104	208
1903	104	104	104	104	208
1902	104	104	104	104	208
1901	104	104	104	104	208
1900	104	104	104	104	208

The figures show that the total number of deaths in the rural district of Challey for the year 1913 was 214, which is a decrease of 10 from the total number of deaths in the year 1912. The number of deaths from all causes in the year 1913 was 107, which is a decrease of 5 from the number of deaths from all causes in the year 1912.

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Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Measles	Smallpox
1913	0	0	0	0	0
1912	0	0	0	0	0
1911	0	0	0	0	0
1910	0	0	0	0	0
1909	0	0	0	0	0
1908	0	0	0	0	0
1907	0	0	0	0	0
1906	0	0	0	0	0
1905	0	0	0	0	0
1904	0	0	0	0	0
1903	0	0	0	0	0
1902	0	0	0	0	0
1901	0	0	0	0	0
1900	0	0	0	0	0

The figures show that there were no deaths from scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, measles, or smallpox in the rural district of Challey for the year 1913. This is a decrease of 10 from the number of deaths from these diseases in the year 1912.

In addition to our own cases at the Isolation Hospital, seven cases of scarlet fever and one of diphtheria have been taken in from other Sanitary Authorities.

I should like to express my appreciation of the way in which the Matron and Staff have looked after and nursed the various cases during the year.

Of the physical features of the district there is not anything fresh to be said ; it is large and scattered, embracing many varieties of soil and sub-soil, and occupying nearly one-tenth of the Administrative County of East Sussex.

The water supply of the rural parts of the area is, of course, almost entirely by means of wells, but in Ditchling, Wivelsfield, Barcombe, Firle and Glynde there is a common supply, constant and of good quality.

No certificates are given in the case of new houses without full analysis of the water, and for this and other reasons seven samples have been analysed.

The streams and watercourses are on the whole free from pollution, with the possible exception of the Ouse and the stream at Cooksbridge. Lewes Corporation are carrying out works to remedy the former, and of the latter I speak elsewhere in the report.

The systems of drainage provided at Newick, Barcombe, Firle, and Ditchling are working well and have been frequently inspected, though the screening beds at Firle will soon want something doing to them.

The condition of affairs at Plumpton and Cooksbridge will require the attention of the Council, as I think it is time that some method of drainage was adopted in both places.

In Plumpton there is grave danger of the water in the wells getting seriously polluted, and I cannot see that anything short of a general scheme will meet the case.

In Cooksbridge there is a collection of houses near the station which have a series of cesspools, and these are not in satisfactory condition, with the result that the soil around is polluted and the safety of the wells endangered. There is reason to think that some of the cesspools have at some time or other been connected up to a surface drain which discharges into the ditch already mentioned. To remedy these defects it seems that some scheme of drainage should be adopted.

A committee has already been appointed to go into these matters.

I am not in a position at present to give the numbers, even approximately, of the various kinds of privies, earth closets, or water closets in the area, but when the town-planning and housing inspection is finished details will be capable of being supplied.

The Council has not seen reason to adopt any public arrangements for collecting refuse or emptying the contents of earth closets or privies or cesspools.

When any nuisance arises from the state of any of these, steps are at once taken to cause the nuisance to be remedied.

As regards the licensing of slaughter-houses, the Council has been given by the Local Government Board "urban powers," and a number of bye-laws have been adopted, and in the course of time it is hoped to have the slaughter-houses of the district brought up to the level of modern requirements. The inspections of these have been regularly carried out, and the Sanitary Inspector has paid 42 visits during the year.

There are 119 cowsheds registered, and these have been visited to the number of 238 visits.

There are 9 bakehouses in the district, which have had 27 inspections. There are no underground bakehouses.

There is no need for regulations for underground sleeping rooms, as there are not any known about here.

The sanitary condition of the schools is quite satisfactory, and the water supply seems adequate in most of them, but at Wivelsfield in dry weather there may be a shortage. This is being kept under observation.

Two schools have been closed on account of an outbreak of infectious disease. The system by which schools notify to the M.O.H. the names of those absent from school on account of infectious illness, and those who may be suspected of infection, is a most useful one.

The milk and general food supply of the district is good, and no cases of unsound food have been dealt with this year. Two cases of tuberculous milk have been reported, and steps were taken to stop the use of the milk from the suspected cows as human food, but after boiling it was allowed to be used for swine.

No steps have been taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and I do not know how many samples have been taken from this district by the County Authorities.

A committee has been appointed by the Council to assist in the working of the Housing and Town Planning Act, with the view of getting the whole area gradually inspected.

As directed by Article V. of the Housing Regulations I give in tabular form the information required.

Number of houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	133
Number of dwelling-houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation ...	None.
Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders	None.
Number of closing orders made	None.
Number of dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	26
Number of houses which were after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	None.

The general conditions which were found to be present were want of drainage and some dampness. In almost all cases it seems to be possible by persuasion to get things done, when once the owner or agent has grasped the fact that repairs or work of some sort have to be done.

Considering the great amount of ground that has to be covered, it will be of great help when the Council can see its way to appoint an Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and have him nominated under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, Section 132.

The formal report is furnished under this Section. There is nothing in it that requires much comment.

This year seven factories and twenty-seven workshops have been inspected as against five and fifteen last year.

Two reports have been received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, one dealing with a bakehouse which had been recently altered, and the other requiring cleansing or whitewashing of a smith's shop, both of which were attended to.

So far as is known there are no outworkers in the district and no registered workshops.

The sanitary staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, and it is a very big district for one Inspector to cover.

Arrangements have been made by which bacteriological or chemical examination can be made for the help or guidance of any doctor practising in the district in cases where such examination is advisable, as in the examination of blood in suspected typhoid, the examination of sputum for tubercle bacilli, etc., and thirteen such examinations have been made.

Antitoxin is also provided for use in diphtheria when asked for, and no charge has been made.

Cases of infectious disease notified are visited by the Sanitary Inspector or myself, or both, and the premises disinfected free of charge when the case has been removed, or when convalescent if not removed.

The ideal at which your sanitary staff aims is to get the patients removed at the earliest possible moment, and I am glad to find that the objections to hospital treatment which used to be so strongly held by parents are gradually disappearing.

The cases of scarlet fever seem to be chiefly sporadic cases cropping up, as they have done all over East Sussex, and do not seem traceable to any distinct source.

Mumps has been fairly general round Lewes, but the epidemic never assumed serious dimensions.

Tuberculosis is not very prevalent in the Chailey Rural District, most of the cases being in institutions in the district. Your Inspector visits in those cases where advice or help may be required, and disinfectants, paper handkerchiefs, spitting flasks, etc., are supplied.

After death of any tubercular patient the rooms which may have been infected, are disinfected, and, if necessary, the bedding is destroyed, and compensation paid.

Four cases have been visited on receipt of primary notification and four subsequent visits paid.

No arrangements have as yet been made for utilizing the services of the Tuberculosis Officer appointed by the County Council, or of any nurse.

Venereal disease is not very conspicuous, though syphilis figures as the cause of death in two cases.

W. A. DOW, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Slaughterhouses Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Cowsheds registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
„ inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	238
Samples of water (full analysis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Premises connected to sewers and tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cesspools cleaned out, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Outfall inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
New houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Bakehouses in District	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Laundries inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

H. WELLER.

6th March, 1914.

