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Contributors

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CHAILEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1914.

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.
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
1914	12,771	199	15.6	15	75.4	146	11.5

From the above figures it will be seen that the death rate keeps at a very low level, and if the age and sex distribution of the District be taken into account the death rate becomes 9.76, pointing to the healthy condition of the population.

Against the low death rate the low birth rate has to be considered, and this remains much the same as it has been for the last four years.

Of the 146 deaths exactly one-half took place at the age of 65 years or over.

Cancer has caused 16 deaths this year, as compared with 17 last year, the rate being 1.2 per 1000 living.

The number of deaths from consumption is the same as last year, namely, 6, a rate of .47 per 1000.

Infectious Diseases have been notified as follows:—

								Removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	13
Ophthalmia	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	3

For the first time within my knowledge every case of Scarlet Fever that has been notified has been removed to Hospital, and of the Diphtheria cases the one that was not removed was an adult.

The District is a large and scattered one, embracing chiefly rural parts, but containing several villages and smaller collections of houses, and possessing many varieties of soil.

The water supply is in general good throughout the area, being by wells in the country, but having supply systems giving water facilities in Ditchling, Wivelsfield North, Barcombe, Ringmer and Glynde, in all of which places the supply is constant and of very good quality.

Every new house has an analysis of the water made, unless from a public source, before a certificate is given.

Nine complete analyses have been made, and there has been no case of well pollution reported.

The milk supply of the District has been carefully looked after, and the Sanitary Inspector has paid 200 visits to the 120 cowsheds on the register.

The sewage disposal at Newick, Barcombe, Ringmer, Ditchling, and Firle seems to be efficient, and the plan adopted at Firle of allowing the occupier at the outfall to turn the sewage on to his land does not seem to be of any ill effect.

Local Government Board Inquiries have been held in connection with schemes of drainage at Plumpton and Cooksbridge, and in both cases the Inspector was satisfied, and the applications were granted.

Details of the number of earth closets, water closets, etc., are not yet available, but will be so, I hope, in time for next year's report.

The question of "Disposal of House Refuse" has been under discussion as regards the village of Ditchling, and a public system is shortly to come into force.

There are 14 slaughter-houses registered, and these have been regularly visited by the Inspector, who has paid 54 visits.

There are 10 bakehouses, which have had 19 visits.

The various provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts which come under the jurisdiction of the Sanitary Authority have been attended to, 37 inspections having been made by the Sanitary Inspector, 6 nuisances being found and remedied.

There are no underground bakeries or sleeping rooms.

The sanitation of the schools seems to have been quite satisfactory and no defects have been reported to me.

One school has been closed for a time on account of the prevalence of mumps.

No cases of tuberculous milk have come to my knowledge, and the food for sale has apparently been of good quality, none having to be condemned.

There does not seem to be any overcrowding in this area, the average number of persons per house being 4.73.

The sanitary staff of the District consists of the Medical Officer of Health, the Sanitary Inspector, and an Assistant Sanitary Inspector appointed expressly for the purposes of the Housing and Town Planning inspection. Formal reports are given of the work done under these Acts in tabular form.

The whole area is being gradually inspected, house to house visits being paid, and the results tabulated and kept for further reference. Naturally a very considerable number of defects are coming to light, which are gradually being put right. There has not so far been any necessity to ask the Council to take action in the various cases, as the owners seem inclined to meet the wishes of the Inspector or M.O.H. as much as possible.

In one case representations as to the necessity of a closing order were made, but the house was pulled down without any order being made.

Number of houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909	1075
Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation	73
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders	1
Number of closing orders made	0
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders	36
Number of houses which were after the making of closing orders put into a fit state for human habitation	0

Arrangements have been made by which bacteriological examination can be made in any case in which this may be advisable from a Public Health point of view, and this is at the service of any practitioner without cost to the patient, in suitable cases.

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Houses in which infectious disease is notified are visited by the Sanitary Inspector or myself, and all things that a phthisical patient may require for the protection of others are provided when necessary. The premises affected are disinfected as soon as possible, any infected articles which cannot be readily cleansed or disinfected being destroyed.

I have to express my thanks to the staff at the Hospital and to Mr. Weller and Mr. Beach for the assistance they have rendered to me personally.

Owing to the outbreak of war the Medical Officer of Health on mobilisation had to leave the district, the work being carried on by me. No other changes have taken place in the staff.

No troops have as yet been quartered in the district.

S. L. BENTON, M.R.C.S.,

FOR

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

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Houses Inspected	200
Slaughterhouses Inspected	54
Cowsheds Registered	120
Cowsheds Inspected	200
Samples of Water Analysed	9
Premises connected to Sewers and Drained	6
Cesspools cleaned out, etc.	6
Outfall Inspections	200
New Houses	7
Bakehouses in District	10
Bakehouses Inspected	20

H. WELLER.

27th March, 1915.

