

[Report 1907] / Medical Officer of Health, Cosford (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

Cosford (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1907

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COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1907,

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Cosford Rural District of the Cosford Union,
during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1907.

(THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COSFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.)

Population (1891) 12354, (1901) 11618, (Males 5809, Females 5809).

Area 48572 acres. Number of Persons per acre, 0.2.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2703. Number of Persons per Inhabited House, 4.2.

I. BIRTHS. There were 267 births registered during the year (130 males and 137 females), making a birth-rate of 22.9 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates during the past five years were as follows:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Births.....	282	281	283	284	267
Birth-rates...	24.2	24.1	24.3	24.4	22.9

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes was 183 (95 males and 88 females), making a death-rate of 15.7 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates for the past five years were:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Deaths	169	169	138	171	183
Death-rates..	14.5	14.5	11.8	14.7	15.7

Infantile Mortality. There were 29 deaths among infants under 1 year of age, being 108.6 per thousand on the registered births. Of these 7 occurred in the Hadleigh Division of the District, and 22 in the Lavenham Division. The proportion of deaths under 1 year of age to births in the last five years were:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	108.5	106.7	63.6	95.0	108.6

Zymotic Diseases. There were 13 deaths during the year due to zymotic diseases. They were—Measles 1, Whooping Cough 6, Epidemic Influenza 4, Enteric 1, Erysipelas 1. The zymotic deaths and death-rates in the past five years were as follows:—

	Small pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Diarrhoea. Dysentery.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Epidemic Influenza.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Death- rates.
1903	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	2	5	—	10	.8
1904	—	1	5	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	9	.7
1905	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	5	.4
1906	—	—	2	—	1	—	2	6	1	—	12	1.03
1907	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	4	1	13	1.1

Deaths from all other causes were 170, or 14.6 per thousand of the population. The deaths in this district caused by the principal diseases, and death-rates during the past five years were:—

	Phthisis.	Bronchitis. Pleurisy. Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Other Diseases.	Totals.	Death- rates.
1903...	9	14	21	3	112	159	13.6
1904...	9	18	19	4	110	160	13.7
1905...	10	13	15	3	93	133	11.1
1906...	8	24	24	6	97	159	13.6
1907...	14	21	25	4	106	170	14.6

III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. The total number of cases of infectious disease notified in this district during 1907 was 18, or 1.5 per thousand of the population. The cases notified during the past five years were:—

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Continued Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membr. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.	Per Thousand of Population.
1903	—	66	—	2	—	5	—	2	75	6.5
1904	—	33	—	17	1	1	—	4	56	4.8
1905	—	51	—	6	—	4	1	7	69	5.9
1906	—	4	—	10	—	—	—	2	16	1.3
1907	—	13	—	1	—	1	—	3	18	1.5

Small Pox. There were no cases of Small Pox in the district during the year.

Scarlet Fever. There were 13 cases in all (none fatal) during the year. Five were at Boxford, seven at Hitcham and one at Lindsey. The outbreak at Boxford was of a very virulent character, and was illustrative of the great difficulties that may be experienced in dealing with an epidemic where no Isolation Hospital is provided. The first case was that of a barmaid who was sent home ill from her situation with what was supposed to be a septic throat. Four days later her sister went down with scarlet fever of a severe type. The only other inmate of the house was the invalid mother, who was quite incapable of doing either housework or nursing, and as it was impossible to get anyone in the place to look after them, another sister came home and promptly went down with the fever. It then became necessary to send to Bury Nursing Home for two fever nurses, and to make arrangements to provide the whole household with food and other necessities from outside. Before many days the invalid mother took the fever, and also one of the nurses, and another nurse had to be sent for. The house, a very small one, was now overcrowded, but I was fortunately able to hire an empty one close by and put in sufficient furniture to accommodate some of the cases. The greatest difficulty of all was to get the most necessary washing done, as there was a panic in the neighbourhood from fear of infection, and in the end it had to be done by volunteers from my own household. I may say here that the first case of "septic throat," although there was no rash visible, was undoubtedly a case of scarlet fever, as she afterwards peeled freely. Although this outbreak was confined to one family it cost the Sanitary Authority over £46, and the expense would have been considerably more if it had not been for the fortunate chance of being able to hire the empty house close by.

The outbreak at Hitcham was almost entirely amongst school children, and was of a mild type. It was introduced into the village by a girl who had been discharged from a Fever Hospital.

Diphtheria. There was only one case during the year, at Chelsworth, in a house where there was a defective scullery drain, and the drinking-water, obtained from a shallow well, was also unsatisfactory.

Typhoid Fever. There was one case at Lavenham, which proved fatal. The drinking-water in this case was occasionally obtained from the river, which is not a wholesome supply. There was no necessity to drink the river water, as there was a good supply obtainable from the standpipe in Water Street.

Puerperal Fever. None.

Erysipelas. There were three cases—One at Groton, and two at Lavenham, one of which proved fatal.

Anthrax. There was one case (fatal) during the year. It was that of a workman in Mr. Roper's Horsehair Factory at Lavenham. A special report on the Factory was made at the time, and the question of the prevention of Anthrax has been occupying the attention of the County Council for some time.

The Special Committee appointed to investigate the matter, in their report "recommend the County Council to point out to all District Councils, that in no case should they permit the effluent from Hair Factories to drain into streams or rivers direct."

The present system at Mr. Roper's Factory is to disinfect all hair by immersing it in a one per cent. solution of cyllin for 24 hours.

Tuberculosis. There were 16 cases of Tuberculosis, 14 of which were Pulmonary. I think it very advisable that tuberculosis should be included in the list of notifiable diseases, as a good deal of ignorance still exists as to the precautions that should be taken to prevent infection.

IV. WATER SUPPLY. There is nothing fresh to report with regard to the water supply of the district. The villages provided with public wells, from which they partly derive their supply are:—Cockfield, Elmsett, Groton, Hitcham, Lindsey, Lavenham, Monks Eleigh, Polstead and Whatfield.

Those parishes which depend almost entirely on ponds for their water supply are:—Aldham, Brettenham, Kettlebaston, Milden, Naughton, Nedging, Thorpe Morieux, Preston and Wattisham.

Water Analysis. Eight samples were analysed during the year, and four were found unsatisfactory.

V. SEWERAGE. The sewers in Boxford and Hadleigh Hamlet have been fitted with gully-traps and block-traps, in place of the previously-existing cesspools, which were a nuisance. Forty-seven yards of new sewer have been laid in Hadleigh Hamlet.

VI. HOUSES AND COTTAGES. During the year there have been four cottages repaired and cleaned by order of the Sanitary Authority. Three cases of overcrowding have been abated.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT. The Factories and Bakehouses have all been inspected during the year and found satisfactory with the exception of one small bakehouse at Bildeston, since closed as being insanitary. The Bakehouses are all above ground, and the Factories are all provided with sufficient means of escape in case of fire. There are 66 Outworkers engaged in horse-hair weaving or tailoring. Their premises were all inspected and it was found that they were working under satisfactory conditions.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, has not been adopted by the Council.

VIII. CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. There are no Milkshops, but seven Dairies and Cowsheds registered in the district, two others having been given up during the year. Three are at Lavenham, one at Boxford, one at Bildeston, one at Hitcham, and one at Whatfield. They were all inspected and found satisfactory.

In many of the parishes in the district the supply of milk is not adequate to the demand, which fact is to be deplored, as milk is such a necessary article of diet, especially for children.

IX. SLAUGHTER HOUSES. One was ordered to be cleaned and lime-washed.

X. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. None.

XI. SCHOOLS. All the Elementary Schools in the district have been inspected during the year. In one case the sanitary arrangements were found in a very dirty condition,—since remedied. One School (Hitcham) was closed for a time on account of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, and three were closed on account of Whooping Cough amongst the children.

XII. SANITARY INSPECTION. Report of Mr. Scrivener, Inspector of Nuisances—"A house-to-house inspection of the district was made during the year and 115 notices served for the abatement of nuisances, a list of which in the various parishes is given in the Table at the end of this Report: 113 of these nuisances have been abated. Eleven houses were disinfected, and disinfectants supplied to nine cases. Water analysed, ponds cleaned out, &c., 7."

XIII. SPECIAL REPORTS. There were two special reports made during the year, one on the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, and one on a special inspection of the Horsehair Factory at Lavenham.

The Tabular Statements, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality in the district are appended to this Report. Also a Tabular Statement according to a form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

ALFRED THOMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—Cosford Rural District.

For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1897	12354	338	27.3	23	68.0	173	14.0	12
1898	...	320	25.9	40	125.	200	16.0	18
1899	...	310	25.0	25	89.6	167	13.5	16
1900	...	325	26.3	35	107.6	196	15.8	19
1901	11618	327	28.1	35	107.0	179	15.4	17
1902	...	278	23.9	36	129.4	194	16.6	19
1903	...	282	24.2	34	120.5	169	14.5	10
1904	...	281	24.1	30	106.7	169	14.5	13
1905	...	283	24.3	18	63.6	138	11.8	19
1906	...	284	24.4	27	95.0	171	14.7	14
Averages for years 1897 to 1906	...	302.8	25.3	30.3	100.3	175.6	14.6	15.7
1907	11618	267	22.9	29	108.6	183	15.7	12

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

At Census of 1901—

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	48572
Total Population at all ages	11618
Number of Inhabited Houses	2703
Average Number of Persons per house	4.2

TABLE V.—Cosford Rural District.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	To Under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes :																	
Certified ...	15	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2							1	28
Uncertified ...	1																1
Common Infectious Diseases :																	
Small-pox ...																	
Chicken-pox ...																	
Measles ...																	
Scarlet Fever ...																	
Diphtheria : Croup ...																	
Whooping Cough ...																	
Diarrhoeal Diseases :																	
Diarrhoea, all forms ...																	
Enteritis (not Tuberculous) ...																	
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal ...																	
Catarrh ...																	
Wasting Diseases :																	
Premature Birth ...	10																10
Congenital Defects ...																	
Injury at Birth ...																	
Want of Breast-milk ...																	
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...																	
Tuberculous Diseases :																	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...																	
Tuberculous Peritonitis ...																	
Tuberculous Mesenteric ...																	
Other Tuberculous diseases ...																	
Erysipelas ...																	
Syphilis ...																	
Rickets ...																	
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...																	
Convulsions ...																	
Bronchitis ...																	
Laryngitis ...																	
Pneumonia ...																	
Suffocation, Overlying ...																	
Other causes ...	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							1	12
	16	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2							1	29

District (or Sub-division) of Cosford Rural District.

Births in the year { legitimate... } 267

Deaths from all causes at all ages ... 183

Population, estimated to middle of 1907 ... 11618

TABLE II.—Cosford Rural District.

Names of Localities.	1. WHOLE DISTRICT.				2. HADLEIGH DIVISION.				3. LAVENHAM DIVISION.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under one year.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1897	12354	338	173	23	4483	141	63	10	7871	197	110	13
1898	...	320	200	40	...	124	82	18	...	196	118	22
1899	...	310	167	25	...	103	62	7	...	207	116	18
1900	...	325	195	35	...	134	70	10	...	191	126	25
1901	11618	327	179	35	4737	130	68	11	6881	197	111	24
1902	...	278	194	36	...	103	89	16	...	175	105	20
1903	...	282	169	34	...	115	53	8	...	167	106	26
1904	...	281	169	30	...	103	62	8	...	178	107	22
1905	...	283	138	18	...	108	55	3	...	175	83	16
1906	...	284	171	27	...	109	64	8	...	175	107	19
Averages of years 1897 to 1906	...	302.8	175.6	30.3	...	117.0	66.8	9.9	...	185.8	108.8	20.4
1907	11618	267	183	29	4737	94	65	7	6881	173	118	22

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1907.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Tot'l cases notified in each locality.		
	At all ages.	At ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upw'ds.	1	2	3
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Membranous Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	3	..	..	1	..	1	1	3	1	2
Scarlet Fever ..	13	..	1	6	2	4	..	13	6	7
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	18	..	1	8	2	6	1	18	7	11

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ... NONE.

TABLE IV.—Cosford Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1907.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole district at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Localities. (at all ages.)			Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.				
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	6	3	3	...	...	...	...	6	2	4	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	1	3
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	3	1	...	...	1	1	3	...	3	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	14	...	...	2	11	1	14	...	6	8	...
Other tubercular diseases	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
Cancer, malignant disease	11	...	...	...	6	6	11	4	6	1	...
Bronchitis	15	1	1	...	1	12	15	1	14	...	...
Pneumonia	6	2	...	...	...	6	6	1	5	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism	2	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	2	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Veneral Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	9	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	25	...	...	1	7	17	25	6	16	3	...
Accidents	4	...	...	...	2	2	4	1	2	1	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	1	...	...
All other causes	76	12	4	2	13	45	76	29	40	7	...
All causes	183	29	11	4	43	92	183	63	118	12	...

Cosford Rural District

In the Administrative County of
West Suffolk.

1907.

Twenty-ninth Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BY

ALFRED THOMPSON, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S., Eng.

(Thirtieth Annual Report to the Cosford Rural
District Council.)

Sanitary Statistics of Cosford Rural District, for the Year 1907.

SUBJECTS.	Aldham	Bilderton	Boxford	Brent Eleigh	Brettenham	Chelworth	Cockfield	Edwinstone	Elmsett	Groton	Hadleigh Hamlet	Hitcham	Kersey	Kettlebaston	Lavenham	Layham	Linsley	Milden	Monks Eleigh	Naughton	Nedding	Polstead	Preston	Somer Thorpe	Thorp Morieux	Wattisham	Wharfedale	Workhouse	Total.	
Acreage	1755	1171	1325	1684	1438	877	3626	1891	1992	1660	427	4308	1510	1041	2898	2531	1230	1343	2099	980	856	3414	2006	1242	2497	1272	1599	...	48572	
Population—1901 ...	238	788	612	182	273	199	854	416	361	358	183	755	482	129	2018	464	221	152	553	142	171	669	288	182	370	149	317	92	11618	
" 1891	228	736	682	221	336	227	926	429	434	437	191	874	482	120	1908	542	253	160	547	144	200	745	318	189	385	178	365	116	12354	
I. Births—	6	22	7	5	12	7	25	7	6	4	7	17	9	5	43	8	4	15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	267
1907—Rate per 1000 ...	25.2	27.9	11.4	27.4	43.9	35.1	29.2	16.8	16.6	11.1	38.2	22.5	18.6	38.7	21.3	17.2	18.0	26.3	27.1	14.0	...	25.4	17.3	16.9	13.5	33.6	31.5	43.4	22.9	
1906—Rate per 1000 ...	12.6	21.5	16.3	49.4	36.6	30.1	28.1	21.6	33.2	22.3	27.3	30.4	18.6	15.5	25.7	23.8	27.1	13.1	19.8	28.1	17.5	29.8	20.8	21.9	21.6	13.4	12.6	32.6	24.4	
II. Deaths, Zymotic— ...	1	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rate per 1000	4.2	1.2	...	5.4	3.6	...	1.1	2.4	...	...	...	3.9	...	...	0.9	2.1	...	6.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.1
From other Causes ...	1	5	5	1	4	4	13	6	5	3	2	9	9	2	35	3	4	2	10	1	3	7	6	1	11	3	4	12	170	
Rate per 1000	4.2	6.3	8.1	5.4	14.6	20.1	15.2	14.4	13.8	8.3	10.9	11.9	18.6	16.5	17.3	6.4	18.0	13.1	18.0	7.0	17.5	10.4	20.8	5.4	29.7	20.1	12.6	130.4	14.6	
Total	2	6	5	2	5	4	14	7	5	8	2	12	9	2	37	4	4	3	16	1	3	7	6	1	11	3	4	12	183	
1907—Rate per 1000 ...	8.4	7.7	8.1	10.9	18.3	20.1	16.3	16.8	13.8	8.3	10.9	15.8	18.6	15.5	18.3	8.6	18.0	19.7	18.0	7.0	17.5	10.4	20.8	5.4	29.7	20.1	12.6	130.4	15.7	
1906—Rate per 1000 ...	12.6	10.1	8.1	21.9	18.3	10.0	11.7	12.0	13.8	16.7	5.4	11.9	10.3	...	16.3	21.5	4.5	26.3	16.7	...	11.6	14.9	20.8	16.4	21.6	13.4	3.1	120.6	14.7	
III. Infectious Diseases— (Notification Act.)																														
Cholera
Croup
Diphtheria	1	1
Erysipelas	1	2	3
Puerperal Fever
Scarlet Fever	5	7	1	13
Small Pox
Typhoid Fever	1	1
Typhus and other Fevers
Total	5	1	1	...	7	3	...	1	18
IV. Water Supply* ...	...	1	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	1	...	12	...	...	4	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	31
Sanitary Inspection† ...	2	8	14	2	3	4	10	2	5	8	4	7	7	4	8	1	...	1	3	...	2	7	1	3	2	...	7	...	115	

*Public Supply. †Notices Issued.

‡Excludes population of Workhouse. See column "Workhouse."