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COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1914.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

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, 1914.

(TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COSFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.)

Population (1901) 11618, (1911) 11808, (Males 6035, Females 5773).

Area 48,572 acres. Number of persons per acre, 0.2.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,814. Number of Persons per Inhabited House, 4.1.

I. BIRTHS. There were 219 births registered in the District during the year (103 males and 116 females), making a birth-rate of 18.5 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates for the past five years were as follows:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Births	263	269	224	217	219
Birth-rates	22.6	22.7	18.9	18.4	18.5

Nett births belonging to the District were 217, or 18.3 per thousand.

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes, at all ages, belonging to the District was 168 (90 males and 78 females), making a death-rate of 14.2 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past five years were:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Deaths	144	151	154	147	168
Death-rates ...	12.3	12.7	13.0	12.4	14.2

Infantile Mortality. The infantile mortality was higher in 1914 than it had been for the past five years. There were 20 deaths amongst infants under one year of age, making a rate of 91.3 on the registered births. One of these was due to whooping cough, two to bronchitis, one to enteritis, and ten to debility or premature birth. The proportion of deaths under one year to births in the last five years was:—

	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
	79.8	74.3	58.0	55.0	91.3

The Notification of Births Act (1907) has not been adopted in the District.

Infectious Diseases. There were 17 deaths from infectious diseases, including all forms of tuberculosis, during the year, making a rate of 1.4 per thousand. The deaths and death-rates from infectious diseases during the past five years were as follows:—

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph. Fever.	Puerperal Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Epidemic Influenza.	Erysipelas.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1910	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	5	2	20	1.7
1911	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	14	3	24	2.0
1912	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	8	4	14	1.1
1913	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	8	4	15	1.3
1914	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	4	3	—	6	1	17	1.4

Deaths from all other causes were 151, or 12.7 per thousand of the population. The deaths in this District caused by the principal diseases, and death-rates during the past five years were:—

	Bronchitis.	Pleurisy.	Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Cancer.	Other Diseases.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1910.....	16	—	—	14	5	11	80	131	11.2
1911.....	11	—	—	15	2	12	91	144	12.1
1912.....	10	—	—	13	8	14	99	144	12.1
1913.....	15	—	—	2	9	14	91	131	11.0
1914.....	21	—	—	11	9	12	98	151	12.7

III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. The total number of infectious diseases notified in this District under the Act during 1914 was 12, or 1.0 per thousand of the population. Seventeen cases were notified under the Tuberculosis regulations. The cases during the past five years were:—

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Continued Fever.	Diphtheria & Memb. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Tuberculosis.	Total.	Per Thousand of Population.
1910 ...	—	1	—	9	2	—	—	—	12	1.0
1911 ...	—	8	—	1	1	—	1	—	11	.9
1912 ...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	13	16	1.3
1913 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	18	21	1.7
1914 ...	—	8	—	3	—	—	1	17	29	2.4

Smallpox. There were no cases of smallpox during the year. The number of unvaccinated children in the District is however rapidly on the increase, and sooner or later we shall have to pay the penalty. In my experience the "conscientious objector" is simply one who objects to the child being made fretful for a few nights.

Scarlet Fever. There were 8 cases during the year—two at Nedging, two at Boxford, two at Elmsett, one at Kersey and one at Milden. One at Elmsett proved fatal. The others were mostly of a mild character, and occurred at different times of the year, in different parts of the District. There was no

epidemic. Two of the cases, one at Boxford and one at Milden, came into the District with the disease upon them; one from Colchester, and the other from Ipswich. The fatal case at Elmsett contracted the disease from a previous case in the village, in which there had been carelessness as to isolation during the period of convalescence. In spite of verbal warnings and printed notices as to the penalties incurred by such carelessness, it is often impossible to make those responsible take proper precautions in the isolation of children recovering from infectious diseases. The Council has decided to prosecute, in future, anyone rendering themselves liable under the Act.

Diphtheria. There were 3 cases of diphtheria, one fatal. Two were in one house at Monks Eleigh, in February, and one at Hitcham, in March. Careful investigation of the drainage, and the water and milk supply, failed to discover the source of infection. In all cases of diphtheria amongst the poorer class in the District, the Council supplies free anti-toxin serum, on application by the Medical attendant to the M.O.H.

Typhoid Fever. None.

Erysipelas. There was 1 notified, at Bildeston.

Tuberculosis. The number of cases of tuberculosis was 17, as compared with 18 in 1913: but the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis was 12 as against 6. There were fewer deaths. There being 7 in 1914, and 12 in 1913.

Anthrax. None.

Plague. None. A campaign against rats was started on 20th October, 1913, and carried on to the 31st of March, 1914. The number of rats destroyed was 24,999 as against 20,620 in the previous campaign, and the cost was £104 3s. 3d.

Scabies. There was a troublesome outbreak of scabies at Cockfield.

In all cases of infectious diseases notified the houses are visited at once, and the patients isolated as far as is possible. At the end of the illness a thorough disinfection is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances. An additional precaution is now taken by issuing a printed notice to the head of the house in each case, drawing attention to the penalties incurred by exposure of infected persons or articles.

IV. WATER SUPPLY. The villages in the District mainly dependent on ponds for their water supply are:—Aldham, Brettenham, Kettlebaston, Milden, Naughton, Nedging, Thorpe Morieux, Preston and Wattisham. Those villages possessing public wells are:—Bildeston, Cockfield, Elmsett, Groton, Hitcham, Lavenham, Lindsey, Monks Eleigh, Polstead, Whatfield and Wattisham.

Hitcham. The new wind-driven plant at Hitcham has been working satisfactorily throughout the year. It is inspected every fortnight by the Sanitary Inspector, who makes his report monthly to the Council. During the dry season last summer water from this well was carted to Wattisham. All the standpipes are now being encased in hair fabric, as a protection against frost. The hand pump to the Public Well near the "White Horse" having proved defective, a larger pump has been fixed, which has greatly improved the supply.

Kettlebaston. It was found in March that the pond used as a public supply was being polluted by drainage from a manure heap in the vicinity. Notice was served immediately, and the pond was cleaned out, and the manure heap removed.

Whatfield. In my last report I mentioned that a scheme for the improvement of the Water Supply at Whatfield had been accepted by the Council. Since then a Local Government Board Enquiry has been held by W. M. Cross, Esq., and a loan of £575 has been sanctioned for carrying out the proposed scheme, which will probably be completed by next spring.

Wattisham. The pit which was mentioned in last year's report as having been dug close to the Public Well, has now been filled in. The Parish Council approached the District Council with a view to improving the output of water from the present Public Well; but as it was found that this would involve a deep boring, and that the present output is, in ordinary seasons, satisfactory, it was decided to take no steps in the matter at present.

Bildeston. No steps have been taken to improve the character of the water in the Public Well at Bildeston, which, as previously reported, is unsatisfactory.

Owing to the very long drought experienced in 1914, it was necessary to cart water to the following parishes at the cost stated. Aldham 15/-, Cockfield £8 13s. 3d., Hitcham (Brettenham End) £3 13s. 6d., Naughton £4 18s. 6d., Wattisham £25 14s. 0d.—Total £43 14s. 3d.

Water Analysis. I have analysed 4 samples of water during the year—three of which were satisfactory.

V. SEWERAGE. There has been no alteration in the sewerage of the District during the year. There are only three villages that possess public sewers, namely, Boxford, Bildeston, and Lavenham, and these all discharge into the neighbouring streams. It was found necessary to relay a sewer in Duke Street, Bildeston. This has now been replaced by a new six-inch sewer which connects up two new portions. The outlet to the sewer near Chelsworth Road has been reconstructed, and cased in cement, to prevent its being washed away by the stream. Ditches which act as sewers have been cleaned out at Monks Eleigh and Semer. The Lavenham Parish Council has cleaned out the river at the back of the Sugar Factory, and also the cistern in High Street.

Scavenging. Public Scavenging is still only carried out at Lavenham, at a cost of about £38 per annum and is very satisfactorily done. It would be a great advantage if the same system could be adopted in the other large villages in the District, particularly in Bildeston and Boxford.

Closest Accommodation. The approximate numbers are—W.C.'s 62, P.C.'s 678, Privies 1860. Thirty-five privies have been converted into P.C.'s during the year, and three new privies built.

VI. HOUSES AND COTTAGES. Forty-eight cottages were repaired and cleaned, in addition to the work done under the 'Housing, Town Planning Act.' Eight cottages were erected by private enterprise. Four cottages are in course of erection by the Council at Whatfield. Ten cases of overcrowding were abated. The Council has under consideration the adoption of Building Bye-laws for the whole district.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909. Three additional parishes have been inspected during the year by the Inspector under the Act, namely, Edwardstone, Thorpe Morieux, and Brent Eleigh. During the first three months following the outbreak of the War, Mr. Bright, who is also Sanitary Inspector, by my instructions discontinued the Housing Inspection, and gave all his attention to the Sanitary Condition of the District. The work has now been resumed, Mr. Bright having inspected each house under £8 rental and reported to me. I have visited all those in which he has found serious defects, and afterwards each case has been submitted to a Sub-Committee of the Council. The parishes so far inspected are (1911) Aldham, Elmsett, Milden, Naughton, Nedging and Whatfield; (1912) Semer, Preston, Wattisham, Kettlebaston, Kersey, Lindsey and Chelsworth; (1913) Monks Eleigh and Cockfield; (1914) Edwardstone, Thorpe Morieux and Brent Eleigh. The following parishes have still to be inspected—Boxford, Groton, Lavenham, Bildeston, Hitcham, Polstead, Layham, and Hadleigh Hamlet. The results (1914) are as follows:—

Number of dwelling houses inspected.	Number of dwelling houses, which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders.	Number of closing orders made.	Number of notices served.		Number of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders.	Number of dwelling houses, which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	General character of defects found to exist.
				Section 15.	Section 17.			
170	7	7	7	0	7	5	2	Sealed windows in living & bedrooms. Bedrooms insufficiently lighted and ventilated. Dampness of ground floor. Insufficient bedroom accommodation. Bad condition of roofs.

Defects were found to exist in 90 cottages. Up to the end of the year 145 notices have been issued to remedy defects. (This number includes Cockfield, which was inspected last year, but notices were not sent out.) During the year repairs to 154 cottages have been effected. Seven closing orders were made during the year. In four cases the cottages were unoccupied. Two closing orders have been determined. The parishes in which more housing accommodation is required are—Elmsett (6), Naughton (4), Kettlebaston (10), Brent Eleigh (3). Application is being made to the L.G.B. for the purpose of borrowing the sum of £1,200 for 6 cottages at Elmsett. The land has been provisionally acquired, and is within 200 yards of the public water supply. The plans were prepared by the Inspector under the Act, and comprise 3 pairs of semi-detached buildings. The ground floor accommodation consists of a large living room, small parlour, and washhouse, containing baking oven, copper and sink. There are to be 3 bedrooms, two of them provided with fireplaces.

OVERCROWDING. There are cases of overcrowding at Whatfield which will be dealt with as soon as the cottages, now being built there, are finished. There are also cases at Elmsett, Naughton, Kettlebaston, and Brent Eleigh, which are impossible to deal with until further accommodation is provided under the Housing, Town Planning Act.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT. The factory and workshops were all inspected during the year. The bakehouses (29 in number) are all above ground, and are all inspected half yearly. One dangerous chimney at a blacksmith's shop at Bildeston has been rebuilt, and the premises repaired. The outside iron staircase which Messrs. Laycock's, of Lavenham, were called upon last year to provide, as an additional exit from their workshops in case of fire, has now been erected. Five notices were served for the repair or cleansing of workshops. The outworkers' premises (35 in number) at Lavenham, Boxford and Polstead were all inspected during the year. The work was found to be carried on under satisfactory conditions. Twenty-four outworkers were engaged in horsehair weaving, and the rest in tailoring. Sect. 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act 1890, has not been adopted in the District.

VIII. CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops order. One fresh dairy has been registered at Lavenham, bringing the number in the District up to 17. All have been inspected during the year. The condition of the premises is generally satisfactory, but some are very old, and becoming dilapidated. One notice was served for the cleansing of Cowsheds. Four of the dairies send milk away. The Cows are habitually turned out to graze. There are no Milkshops in the District. The shortage of milk referred to in my previous reports still continues.

IX. SLAUGHTER HOUSES. There are 13 Slaughter Houses in the District, all of which were inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition. Six notices for lime-washing were served.

Knacker's Premises. There is one Knacker's Premises, at Monks Eleigh.

X. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. None.

XI. SCHOOLS. The Public Elementary Schools were all inspected during the year. The principal infectious diseases amongst the children were chickenpox, measles and whooping cough. I did not advise the closing of any school.

XII. SANITARY INSPECTIONS.* Mr. Bright reports that the following notices have been served and nuisances abated: Notices Issued—Formal 14, Informal 225—Total 239.

The Nuisances dealt with were as follows:—

Privies and cesspools repaired and new sanitary pails provided	25
Privies converted into pails and new pail closets built	35
New privies built	—
Privy cesspools emptied and pails in cleaner state	51
Ditches and bumby holes cleaned out and altered and yards cleaned up	18
Drains and sinks made, repaired and trapped	33
Cottages cleaned	10
Pig styes cleaned out and refuse heaps removed	23
Workshops cleaned and repaired	9
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	2
Ponds cleaned out, wells made, pumps repaired, etc.	16
Water spouts, etc., repaired and provided	20
Overcrowding abated	10
Cottages repaired	38
	290

Number of Disinfections ... 21 Vermineous houses fumigated ... 2

XIII. SPECIAL REPORTS. None.

The Adoptive Acts in force in the District are:—Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. (Applicable Provisions by Section 50.) Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890. Both these were adopted in 1902. Section 160 of the P.H.A. 1875 as incorporate, or relate to the incorporation of provisions of Section 74 of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847, is in force within the parishes of Bildeston, Boxford, Lavenham, and Monks Eleigh.

The tabular statements of sickness and mortality in the District, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, are appended to this Report.

ALFRED THOMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

* Number of inspections made during the year—2030.

TABLE I.—Cosford Rural District.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total deaths registered in the district.		Transferable deaths.		Nett deaths belonging to the district.	
		Uncorrected number.	Nett.	Number.	Rate.	Of non-residents registered in the district.	Of residents not registered in the district.	Under 1 year of age.	At all ages.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
								Number.	Rate per 1,000 net births.
								11	12
								13	14
1909	11808	277	246	154	13.2	...	...	19	69.5
1910	"	263	226	144	12.3	...	...	21	79.8
1911	"	269	227	151	12.7	...	...	20	74.3
1912	"	224	226	146	12.3	...	8	13	58.0
1913	"	218	217	139	11.7	2	10	12	55.0
1914	11808	219	217	165	13.9	3	6	20	91.3

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) ... 48572

At Census in 1911—

Total population at all ages ... 11808
 Number of inhabited houses ... 2814
 Average number of persons per house ... 4.1

TABLE III.—Cosford Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1914.

Cause of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths whether of "Res- idents" or "Non- Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 2 years.	2 & under 5 years.	5 & under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
All causes { Certified Uncertified	163 8	17 3	4 1	5 1	4 2	5 1	14 1	29 4	85 4	13	
Enteric Fever	
Small-pox	
Measles	
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	4	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cancer malignant disease	...	12	...	...	...	...	1	5	6	1
Rheumatic Fever	
Meningitis	
Organic Heart Disease	...	11	...	...	...	1	...	4	6	...
Bronchitis	...	16	2	2	...	...	2	...	10	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	5	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	...
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis & Typhlitis	
Cirrhosis of Liver	
Alcoholism	
Nephritis and Bright's disease	
Puerperal Fever	
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Congenital Debility & Malformation, includ- ing Premature Birth	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, exclud- ing Suicide	...	9	...	...	2	2	1	2	2	2
Suicide	
Other Defined Diseases	...	37	2	1	...	1	2	5	7	19	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	...	49	4	...	...	...	1	2	42	8
Totals	...	168	20	4	5	4	5	15	29	89	
										13	

TABLE II.—Cosford Rural District.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							
	At all ages.	At ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox
Cholera
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)
Erysipelas
Scarlet Fever
Typhus Fever
Enteric Fever
Relapsing Fever
Continued Fever
Puerperal Fever
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis
Polio-myelitis
Pulmonary Tuberculosis
Other forms of Tuberculosis
Totals	...	29	1	2	8	10	4	4

Total cases removed to Hospital ... None.
 Isolation Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c. ... None.

TABLE IV.—Cosford Rural District.

Infant Mortality, 1914.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages under One year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 year.									
	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes:										
Certified	7	2	2	2	13	1	1	...	2	17
Uncertified	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	3
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)
Convulsions
Laryngitis
Bronchitis
Pneumonia (all forms)
Diarrhoea
Enteritis
Gastritis
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlaying
Injury at Birth
Atelectasis
Congenital Malformations
Premature Birth
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus
Other causes
Totals	8	2	2	2	14	2	1	...	3	20

Nett Births in the year { legitimate ... 204
 illegitimate ... 15
 Net Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 19
 illegitimate infants ... 1