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DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Rural District Council

For the year ending December, 1915.

ROBERT H. MEIKLE, M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Population estimated at last Census, 1911	...	10,914
Population estimated in 1915		10,000
Area of District in Acres		44,400

SUB-DISTRICTS, WITH POPULATION AT CENSUS OF 1911.

Heighington	...	...	1,455
Whessoe	...	...	1,439
Haughton-le-Skerne	...	...	1,942
Coniscliffe	...	...	1,276
Middleton-St.-George	...	...	1,854
Hurworth	...	...	1,849
			9,815

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Darlington Rural District Council.*
Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my fifteenth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitation of your District for the year ending December 31st, 1915.

By the extension of the Borough of Darlington, Cockerton and the Harrowgate Hill Estate are now included in that area, since March, 1915, under very favourable terms to your Council, thanks to your able Clerk (Mr. Leach).

Those two townships being in close proximity to a large industrial centre like Darlington, and the majority of the inhabitants going daily to and fro to their work in the Borough, would naturally carry infection to their homes, because, in past years, it has been very noticeable that if any infectious disease was epidemic in the Borough, it was generally so in those two particular areas, and incidentally following on that of the Borough; so that your council will be relieved of the heavy Hospital expenditure incurred in those two areas every year.

In the Sanitary department, Mr. Pallister, your late Sanitary Inspector, who did excellent work and did his utmost to raise the sanitary standard of your district, has been appointed to the Highway Department, but still retains the office of Sanitary Surveyor. He is replaced by Mr. Geo. L. Bowron, who obtained the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and since his appointment has proved himself an energetic and intelligent official, one who has spared no effort to maintain the high sanitary standard of your District.

The estimated population of your District at the census of 1911 was 10,914, but since then there has been an appreciable increase and even after the Cockerton and Harrowgate Hill Estate portion of Haughton-le-Skerne have been included in the Borough the estimated population is 10,000, from which figures I have taken my estimates for the year,

The death-rate for the year of deaths registered in the District is 134, a decrease of one on the previous year.

The birth-rate for the year is 210, a decrease of 36 on the previous year.

Seventy-six cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified during the year, showing an increase of 13 on the previous year—Tuberculosis being responsible for the increase.

The Infant Mortality still shows a slight decrease.

The work in the Sanitary Department, and owing to new Acts coming into force, is considerably increased.

The work of the Housing and Town Planning Act is steadily advancing.

Your Council is still continuing its gratuitous supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Serum.

The examination of Specimens at the Bacteriological Laboratory Newcastle, still continues, and year by year is more taken advantage of, proving its helpfulness in accuracy of diagnosis.

As usual, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Drainage, and Housing have bulked largely in the Sanitary considerations of the year.

The Notification of Births Act year by year proves its usefulness.

BIRTHS.

During the year 210 births (127 males and 83 females) have been registered in your District, as against 246 (133 males and 113 females) in 1914; thus giving an annual birth-rate of 21·0 per 1,000 persons, as compared with an annual birth rate of 22·5 per 1,000 persons in the previous year.

The birth rate shows a decided decrease on the previous year, this is to be deprecated, but I have now formed the opinion that the advertisements that one reads in many journals are responsible for a deficit in the annual birth-rate, and if the information that one receives is from a reliable source, the sooner that examples are made the sooner will this evil cease.

DEATHS.

During the year 134 deaths (79 males and 55 females) were registered in your District, giving an annual death-rate of 13·4 per 1,000 persons as compared with 135 deaths (67 males and 68 females) in the previous year, and a death-rate of 12·3 per 1,000 persons, but to this number fails to be added 21 deaths, which occurred without your District, but were transferable deaths, so that the corrected total deaths are 155 and a corrected death-rate of 15·5 per 1,000 persons, as against a corrected death-rate of 14·0 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The deaths occurring without your District are increased by 3 on the previous year. The following table gives the deaths occurring without your District :—

Cornforth	...	...	...	1
Workhouse Infirmary, Darlington	...	...	...	4
Borough Hospital, Darlington	...	...	...	7
County Lunatic Asylum, Sedgefield	...	...	...	2
Wales	...	...	...	1
Union Workhouse, Thirsk	...	...	...	1
Military Hospital	...	...	...	1
Southsea	...	...	...	1
Greenbank Hospital, Darlington	...	...	...	1
Darlington Borough	...	...	...	1
Sedgefield Rural District	...	...	...	1
Total				<u>21</u>

INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 22 deaths under one year of age have been registered in your District, giving a death-rate of 2·2 per 1,000 persons or a mortality of 104·7 per 1,000 births registered. Again three deaths under one year of age occurred without your District giving a total of 25, as against a corrected total of 24 in the previous year, and a reduction of one occurring within your District in the previous year.

The Infant Mortality of 1914 was the lowest during the decade (1904-1914), and this year's is only increased by one and considerably below the average for the same decade.

Of the 25 deaths registered, Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Diarrhœa, and Premature Birth are responsible for no less than 15.

The Infant Mortality, although slightly increased on the previous year, is still proportionate to all other deaths occurring in your District, and the increase can be accounted for by the inclement weather experienced at the beginning of the year.

The following table gives the deaths occurring under one year of age since 1904 :—

In 1904	...	...	53 deaths.
„ 1905	...	...	35 „
„ 1906	...	...	30 „
„ 1907	...	...	36 „
„ 1908	...	...	28 „
„ 1909	...	...	28 „
„ 1910	...	...	30 „
„ 1911	...	...	35 „
„ 1912	...	...	29 „
„ 1913	...	...	26 „
„ 1914	...	...	24 „
„ 1915	...	...	25 „

The deaths occurring under one year occurred in the following Sub-Districts :—

Heighington	...	...	...	4
Whessoe	...	...	...	4
Haughton-le-Skerne	...	...	...	3
Middleton-St.-George	...	...	...	5
Hurworth	...	...	...	2
Coniscliffe	...	...	...	4
Total				<u>22</u>

The 3 deaths occurring without your District, were as follows:—

The Hospital, Darlington	...	...	1
Workhouse Infirmary, Darlington	...	...	1
Greenbank Hospital, Darlington	...	...	1
Total			<u>3</u>

I have again to repeat myself that the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, is responsible for a certain reduction in infant deaths. The visits of the Health Visitors are now more eagerly welcomed and not looked upon as an intrusion, and their advice is conscientiously put into practise. Enquiries, I have personally made, has solicited the information that their children thrive and do much better than others who have adopted some old person's advice, and it is gratifying to be able to report (after investigation) that of the 22 deaths occurring in your District not one of them could be attributed to carelessness and neglect.

The following table shows the ages at which death occurred under one year of age within your District:—

	1915	1914
Under one week	6	8
1—2 weeks	2	—
3—4 weeks	1	1
4 weeks and under 3 months	3	4
3 months and under 6 months	1	5
6 " " " 9 "	5	1
9 " " " 12 "	4	5
Total	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>

The following shows the ages at which death occurred of those registered within your District:—

Under One year	...	...	22 deaths
1— 5 years	...	...	8 "
5—15 years	...	...	6 "
15—25 years	...	...	5 "
25—65 years	...	...	41 "
65 years and upwards	...	...	52 "
Total	<u>134 deaths</u>		

Those registered without your District, but transferable to it :—

Under One year	...	...	3 deaths
1— 5 years	...	...	3 „
5—15 years	...	...	2 „
15—25 years	...	...	2 „
25—65 years	...	...	6 „
65 and upwards	...	...	5 „

Total 21 deaths

During the year six deaths were uncertified, and seven certified by a Coroner after inquest, as compared with two deaths uncertified and seven certified by a Coroner after inquest in 1914.

It is very difficult to give an accurate version why so many deaths are uncertified, unless it is that a person has died a sudden death and the cause is known.

Cancer claimed nine deaths, giving a mortality of $\cdot 9$ per 1,000 persons per annum, as against seven and a mortality of $\cdot 64$ per 1,000 persons in 1914.

Heart Disease is responsible for no less than 22 deaths, giving a death-rate of $2\cdot 2$ per 1,000 persons per annum, as compared with 8 and a death-rate of $\cdot 73$ per 1,000 persons in 1914.

Phthisis claimed 6, giving a death-rate of $\cdot 6$ per 1,000 persons of the population, but a mortality of 375 of every 1,000 cases notified.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The deaths from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases, viz.:—Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Measles, and Diarrhœa, were 6 as compared with 13 in 1914.

This gives a Zymotic death-rate of $\cdot 6$ per 1,000 persons as compared with a rate of $1\cdot 1$ per 1,000 persons in 1914.

Enteric Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhœa being responsible for the six.

The distribution of deaths occurring within your District, in point of seasons, are as follows :—

	1915		1914		1915		1914
January ...	15	...	9	July ...	20	...	11
February ...	12	...	14	August ...	6	...	14
March ...	19	...	15	September ...	2	...	7
April ...	9	...	2	October ...	4	...	17
May ...	20	...	11	November ...	6	...	13
June ...	6	...	12	December ...	15	...	10
Totals	<u>81</u>		<u>63</u>		<u>53</u>		<u>72</u>

Fourteen persons died above the age of 80 years, three reaching the advanced age of over 90, and one 97 years.

The youngest registered being 12 hours.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

76 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year being an increase of 13 compared with the previous year. Of the cases notified, 19 were removed for treatment to the Darlington Corporation Fever Hospital, as against 26 in the year 1914. The cases removed to the hospital were made up as follows : Diphtheria 11, Enteric 3, Scarlet Fever 5.

The following is a summary of the cases notified :—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	21	Diphtheria ...	...	14
Erysipelas ...	...	13	Enteric Fever ...	...	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16		Other Tubercular Diseases	8	

They were notified from the following districts :—

SCARLET FEVER, 21 cases.

Blackwell ...	...	1	Middleton-St.-George	1
Dinsdale Low ...	...	7	Neasham ...	2
Haughton-le-Skerne	1		Redworth ...	5
Hurworth ...	...	1	Piercebridge ...	3

DIPHTHERIA, 14 cases.

Burdon Great ...	...	3	Middleton-St.-George	1
Haughton-le-Skerne	4		Whessoe ...	1
Hurworth ...	...	5		

ERYSIPELAS, 13 cases.

Aycliffe	...	...	5	Piercebridge	...	1
Hurworth	...	...	2	Redworth	...	2
Heighington	...	...	1	Sadberge	...	1
Neasham	...	...	1			

ENTERIC FEVER, 4 cases.

Aycliffe	...	...	1	Haughton-le-Skerne		1
Cockerton	...	...	1	Piercebridge	...	1

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS, 16 cases.

Aycliffe	...	...	1	Middleton-St.-George		3
Cockerton	...	...	1	Neasham	...	3
Haughton-le-Skerne			2	Heighington	...	2
Hurworth	...	...	4			

OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES, 8 cases.

Aycliffe	...	...	1	Middleton-St.-George		1
Blackwell	...	...	1	Sadberge	...	1
Denton	...	...	1	Whessoe	...	2
Heighington	...	...	1			

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

The 24 cases notified were 13 males and 11 females. Of these 13 were notified between the ages of 5—15, and 4 between the ages of 15—25 years, and 7 between the ages of 25—45 years.

Six deaths were registered as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 6 due to other Tubercular Diseases giving a decrease of 5 on the previous year. The mortality from this disease has been decreasing year by year, showing that the improved sanitation in the homes and surroundings has had a beneficial effect. The visits made by the Health Visitors, the Sanitary Inspector and your Medical Officer, with the object of instructing them as to the disposal of expectoration and all infectious material, with complete isolation of the patient, and also that the disease is infectious and notifiable, and should be treated as any other infectious disease, has no doubt aided in the reduction of deaths. The recognising of the disease in the early stage, and sanatorium treatment, have proved of the greatest avail.

Aycliffe, Great.—During the year 8 cases of infectious diseases were notified in this parish.

They were as follows : Erysipelas 5. Enteric 1. Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1. Other Tubercular Diseases 1. No removals were made to the Hospital, efficient isolation being possible in each case. The water supply continues abundant and wholesome, and on analysis proves to be a pure water and suited to all domestic purposes.

Blackwell.—One case of Scarlet Fever occurred in this parish at Low Stressholme Farm where a case of Tuberculosis also was notified. The Scarlet Fever case was removed to the Hospital for treatment.

Complaints were received of the nuisance caused by the fumes arising from the burning of refuse at the Darlington Corporation Tip in Snipe Lane. As yet the Corporation Officials have not been successful in mitigating the annoyance.

Four houses were inspected in this parish under the Housing and Town Planning Act. The Darlington Corporation owned two situated at Low Stressholme. In consequence of the inspections the following work has been done :—Yards paved, food store built and drainage system repaired. Two houses inspected in the Village are, I understand, going to be closed by the owner and used for purposes other than for human habitation.

The area of this parish has been increased resulting from the Darlington Borough Extension. The detached portion of Darlington, known as Oxenlyfield, having been added.

Burdon, Great.—Three cases of Diphtheria were notified from this parish during the year. All the cases were removed to the Hospital. One case occurred at the Mill. The premises were in an unsanitary condition, and work as follows is being carried out with a view to their improvement :—Drainage system repaired, yard paved, dry area constructed round house, new windows, staircase, floors, etc.

Coatham Mundeville.—No cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish. A farm house known as Coatham Hill

Top House was inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act. The premises are without water supply or drainage, and the owner is giving this his attention. Very slow progress has been made with the work owing to the scarcity of labour arising from the abnormal conditions caused by the War.

Cockerton.—During the three months ending March 31st, 1915, 2 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish. The diseases were one of Enteric and one of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The enteric case was removed to the Hospital for treatment.

After the 1st of April, the major portion of Cockerton came into the Borough of Darlington, resulting from the Darlington Borough Extension. The remaining area, that is the portion to the north of the Barnard Castle Branch of the N.E.R., being added to the parish of Archdeacon Newton.

Dinsdale Low.—7 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at Stodhoe Cottage in this parish. All the cases were in one family. One of the children was removed to the Hospital for treatment. The child was very ill and unable to obtain attention at home.

Haughton-le-Skerne.—8 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish during the year. The cases were as follows: 1 of Scarlet Fever, 4 of Diphtheria, 1 of Enteric, and 2 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Two houses were inspected at Red Hall under the Housing and Town Planning Act, and paving and drainage work has been done to them.

On April 1st, the Harrowgate Hill portion of this parish was added to the Borough of Darlington in consequence of the Darlington Borough Extension.

Heighington.—3 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year from this parish. One case of Erysipelas, and two of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Three houses were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act. Extensive repairs and improvements are being carried out to three houses near the Churchyard. These were

without drainage. Other two houses were also without drains, and one of them needed repairs, which are now being put in hand.

The village pond is again a source of complaint. In its present state it is likely to be injurious to health. If it was cleaned out more regularly, no nuisance would arise. I believe in 1909 a local committee was formed with a view to having the pond cleaned out annually, but they do not appear to have ever taken action.

The Parish Council should accept responsibility and have this pond, which is an eyesore in its present condition, turned into a place of beauty and usefulness.

Houghton-le-Side.—No infectious diseases occurred in this parish during the year. The water supply here is still unsatisfactory. Elm Grange Cottage on which a closing order had become operative has been extensively repaired and made fit for occupation.

Hurworth.—12 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish as follows :—One of Scarlet Fever, two of Erysipelas, five of Diphtheria, and four of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Four cases were promptly removed to the Hospital for treatment.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, eight houses were inspected. Following these inspections a house known as Beech Cottage was provided with a water closet and the yard paved, another house near the School which had been occupied by the Military Authorities was without a wholesome water supply, and the sewage from it ran direct into a brook. At present the owner has not commenced to do the necessary work to put the latter house into sanitary order. Notices have been served but are not yet operative. The Military Authorities took possession of a house at Hurworth Place, previously used as a Laundry, and on an inspection being made, a practically new system of drainage was provided and several other improvements made.

Middleton-St.-George.—6 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish as follows :—One of Scarlet Fever, One of Diphtheria, three of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one of other Tubercular Diseases. Two of the cases were removed to the

Hospital for treatment. At the commencement of the year the Ropner Convalescent Home was occupied by troops, a case of Diphtheria occurring amongst them. The soldier was removed to the Hospital, where he died. After the place was vacated all the rooms were thoroughly disinfected. The Home is now being used as a hospital for wounded soldiers.

51 houses were inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act. One case of overcrowding being dealt with after these inspections. The majority of the houses inspected were in good repair. The largest owners in the parish, The Linthorpe, Dinsdale Smelting Co., Ltd., appear to give careful attention to the housing of their employees. 8 houses, known as Central Buildings, were without satisfactory closet accommodation, and several structural repairs were needed. Notices are now about to operate on the owner for this work to be done. 10 houses in Harper Terrace have been supplied with dust bins. Three privy middens in Station Road have been converted into water closets.

Neasham.—6 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish during the year. Two of Scarlet Fever, one of Erysipelas, and three of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Efficient isolation was possible at home for the cases of Scarlet Fever, and it was not deemed necessary to remove to the Hospital for treatment.

After inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act, extensive repairs and improvements have been carried out to the Fox and Hounds Inn. The work includes new drainage system, new food store, new closets and urinals and structural repairs.

The Military have again had troops encamped at the Rifle Range during the summer. It is very pleasing to note that no disease has been introduced or can be said to be attributable to the soldiers. Early in the year I made an inspection of the sanitary arrangements of the camp, and was very courteously treated by the Officer Commanding. I made various suggestions for the improvement of the camp which the authorities have acted upon. The camp is now

supplied with water from the Tees Valley Water Board's Mains, and the scavenging of the camp is carefully and expeditiously carried out.

Piercebridge.—5 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish during the year follows:—three of Scarlet Fever, one of Erysipelas, and one of Enteric. The Enteric case was removed to the Hospital for treatment. In the other cases efficient isolation was possible. A case of overcrowding was dealt with in this parish and abated, the family moving into a larger house.

Redworth.—7 cases of infectious disease were notified from this parish during the year as follows:—five of Scarlet Fever, and three of Erysipelas. The Scarlet Fever cases occurred at isolated farm houses, and as effective isolation was possible, it was not thought necessary to make removals to the Hospital for treatment.

A house in Brusselton Lane on which an order of demolition had become operative, has been pulled down by your workmen in lieu of the material for roadmaking. Another house near, belonging to the same owner has been substantially improved and repaired. A closing order being served previous to this being done.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging contractors during the year in the districts where public scavenging has been adopted, have given satisfaction, and have done their work in an efficient and thorough manner. Owing to the shortage of labour resulting from the War, I would advise householders to burn as much of their refuse as possible.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Throughout the district regular inspections have been made of the dairies and cowsheds. Where improvements were necessary, the requisite steps were taken to have them carried out. A source of complaint at several places was the large amount of manure accumulated near the sheds. It is hoped that in future occupiers will try and avoid this and remove the manure more frequently. Several of the largest cowkeepers in the district have had mechan-

ical milking plants installed to do away with hand milking, a proceeding which has been rendered necessary through the dearth of labour. These machines appear to give satisfaction and from a sanitary point of view have much to be said in their favour, the milk being produced under more cleanly conditions and exposed to germ infection to a minimum degree.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Houses inspected during the year under the Housing and Town Planning Act, numbered 70. Of these the majority were situated in Middleton-St.-George and Hurworth, the rest being in Blackwell, Coatham Mundeville, High Coniscliffe and Heighington.

At Middleton-St.-George a case of overcrowding was dealt with resulting from the inspections. In this parish the people on the whole are well housed and no really bad houses were found. In Harper Terrace 10 houses were provided with refuse accommodation, 3 houses in Station Road had privy middens converted into water closets. In Central Buildings there are 8 houses belonging to the same owner, which had insanitary privy middens, and several had faulty floors, etc. Notices have not yet become operative to have the defects remedied.

Of the 8 houses inspected in Hurworth 6 have been put into sanitary order. The house known as Beech Cottage has had a water closet provided in place of a large foul privy, and the yard area paved. At the Laundry, Hurworth Place occupied by the Military, a new drainage system was provided and other repairs done. A house near the School previously occupied by troops, where the sewage ran direct into a brook, and the water supply from a pump which on analysis was found to be contaminated, is being dealt with.

The houses inspected in Blackwell numbered four. At Low Stressholme two had the yard paved and a food store provided with other improvements. A plan has been approved showing alter-

ations to be made to the other two houses inspected in the village. After alteration the owner intends to use them for other purposes than for human habitation. Three cottages belonging to the same owner are to be made into two. Various improvements are to be carried out in addition to these alterations.

In Heighington parish, work in connection with the houses inspected has been greatly delayed owing to the scarcity of labour. Three houses near the Churchyard have been connected to the public sewer, and other work is in progress for their improvement, including amongst other things, structural alterations and dry ash closets. Three houses situated at the north of the Green, which had demolition orders made on them last year, have been made into two with considerable improvements and additions. The ground behind has been excavated to prevent dampness and undoubtedly these houses have made very desirable dwellings.

At Houghton-le-Side the cottage known as Elm Grange Cottage on which a demolition order had become operative, has been rendered habitable, and the demolition order has been withdrawn.

In Redworth parish a cottage situated in Brusselton Lane has been extensively repaired. Another belonging to the same owners and near, has been demolished.

Coatham Mundeville Hill Top House, owing to the abnormal conditions of the labour market, difficulty has been experienced by the owner in proceeding with the work of improvement to this house. It is without drainage or water supply, and structural repairs are needed.

Many of the houses in the district are of a very old type, and built mainly of limestone, and the only satisfactory way of dealing with them is demolition, and rebuilding on a more up-to-date method.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following Schools were closed on account of Measles during the year :—

Haughton-le-Skerne Schools from Feb. 22nd to March 26th.

Low Coniscliffe School from March 8th to April 1st.

Coniscliffe C.E. School from May 3rd to June 4th.

The number of Workshops on the register is 38, and the appended table shows that the work has been satisfactorily done. Very few defects were discovered, but where any work was required the occupiers were requested to have it carried out, which was done in an efficient manner.

The general work of the Food and Drugs' Act has been carried out by the County Council.

The work of the Health Department has increased by leaps and bounds, and the work entailed has increased two-fold. The clerical work alone demanding much time.

I again express my indebtedness to the Council and its Officers for their ready and kind support in the discharge of my duties during the year and to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Geo. L. Bowron, who has taken the greatest interest, and spared no trouble in maintaining the high sanitary standard of your District.

You will find the usual tables attached.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. MEIKLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1915 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.			
		Un-corrected 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.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1910	9591		274	28.5	134	13.9		16	30	109.4	134	13.9
1911	10914		257	23.5	176	16.1		2	35	136.1	176	16.3
1912	10914		266	24.3	118	10.8		9	29	109.0	127	11.6
1913	10914		265	24.2	166	15.2	2	14	26	98.1	178	16.3
1914	10914		246	22.5	135	12.3		18	24	97.4	153	14.0
1915	10000		210	21.0	134	13.4	1	21	25	104.7	155	15.5

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 37,990.

Total population at all ages .. 10,914 } At
 Number of inhabited houses .. 2467 } Census of
 Average number of persons per house 4 } 1911.

TABLE II.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 Years.	5 to 15 Years.	15 to 25 Years.	25 to 45 Years.	45 to 65 Years.	65 years and upwards.	HEIGHINGTON	WHESSOE	HAUGHTON, LE-SKERNE.	CONISCLIFFE.	MIDDLETON-ST.-GEORGE.	HURWORTH.	
Diphtheria ... (including Membranous Group).	14	...	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	1	5	12
Erysipelas ...	13	...	...	...	...	9	4	...	3	5	1	1	...	3	...
Scarlet fever ...	21	...	7	9	5	...	...	...	5	...	1	4	8	3	9
Enteric fever ...	4	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	4
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	16	...	...	4	3	8	1	...	2	2	2	...	3	7	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	8	2	3	2	1	...	...	...	2	3	1	1	1	...	2
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals...	76	2	20	19	12	18	5	...	12	13	13	7	13	18	27

Isolation Hospital .. Borough Hospital, Darlington.
Sanatoria .. Middleton-St.-George (Felix House), Sanatorium.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.								
		All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards
All causes	(Certified (Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	6	..	1	..	1	2	2	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	6	1	2	..	2	1	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	5
Meningitis	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Organic Heart Disease	..	22	..	..	..	1	..	1	7	13
Bronchitis	..	11	3	1	1	..	..	..	1	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	12	3	1	..	1	..	4	1	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	..	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	..	7	..	..	..	..	1	4	1	1
Suicides	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	..	30	4	..	..	..	..	2	7	17
Diseases, ill-defined or unknown	..	6	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	4
Totals	..	134	22	6	2	6	5	19	22	25

TABLE IV.—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

Deaths from Stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		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 One Year.
ALL CAUSES—Certified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tubercular Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions ..	..	2	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	4
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth ..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ..	..	2	..	2	..	4	..	..	1	..	5
Other Causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Totals ..	..	6	..	2	1	9	3	1	5	4	22

BIRTHS IN THE YEAR { Legitimate .. 204
Illegitimate .. 6

DEATHS IN THE YEAR OF { Legitimate Infants .. 21
Illegitimate Infants .. 1

Death-Rate and Infant Mortality-Rate for each Parish, 1915.

Parish	Total Deaths	Infant Mortality	Census of 1911. Population	Death-rate per 1000	Death-rate from Zymotic Disease	Infant Mortality Death-rate
Haughton-le-Skerne	10	2	1349	7.4	2.2	1.4
Archdeacon Newton	...	...	48	...	...	...
Aycliffe, Great	13	2	750	17.4	...	2.6
Barmpton	2	...	87	22.9	...	...
Blackwell	5	1	405	12.3	...	2.7
Brafferton	...	...	144	...	...	...
Burdon, Great	1	...	94	10.6	...	...
Coatham Mundeville	...	...	129	...	...	...
Coniscliffe, High	4	1	312	12.8	3.2	3.2
Coniscliffe, Low	3	1	149	20.1	...	6.7
Denton	2	1	96	20.8	...	10.4
Dinsdale, Low	7	1	252	27.7	...	3.9
Heighington	12	2	658	18.2	1.5	3.0
Houghton-le-Side	1	...	82	12.1	...	...
Hurworth	18	2	1452	12.3	...	1.3
Killerby	1	1	70	14.2	...	14.1
Middleton-St.-George	21	4	1531	13.7	...	2.6
Morton Palms	...	...	71	...	...	...
Neasham	7	...	336	20.8	...	...
Piercebridge	4	...	209	19.1	...	...
Redworth	3	...	451	6.6	...	...
Sadberge	5	1	412	12.1	...	2.4
School Aycliffe	...	...	21	...	...	...
Sockburn	1	...	61	16.3	...	...
Summerhouse	2	...	131	15.2	...	...
Walworth	2	1	147	13.6	...	6.7
Whessoe	7	2	368	19.0	...	5.4
Totals	131	22	9815	13.4	0.6	2.2

The following is a Summary of work done by your Inspector of Nuisances during the year :—

1. Public Health Acts.

				Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	...	...	10	1	6
	Structural Defects ...	...	...	28	11	7
	Overcrowding ...	...	...	2	—	2
(Work delayed owing to scarcity of labour).						
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	4	—	2
Cowsheds	...	...	...	12	1	9
Ashpits and Privies	...	...	...	30	19	18
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	...	15	—	8
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...	15	3	8
House Drainage	Defective Traps	...	...	14	1	6
	No Disconnection from Sewers	...	...	11	1	5
	Other Faults	...	...	12	1	5
Water Supply	...	...	...	8	1	2
Animals Improperly Kept	...	...	...	1	—	1
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	3	—	1
Totals				166	39	81

II. Water, Food and Drugs.

	Number.	Remarks.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	1	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	1	Tees Valley Water laid on.

III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	40	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	40	
Schools do. do. do.	1	High Coniscliffe after Measles.

IV. General.

Number of New Houses erected during the year	Number. ...	—
Number of such Houses occupied during the year	...	—

Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	2
do. do. Water-closets	...	...	3
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	265
do. Ash-closets do.	...	...	363
do. Ashpit-privies do.	...	...	1430

GEO. L. BOWRON, A.R., SAN. I.,

Inspector of Nuisances.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The Water Supplies in the various Parishes in the District have been well maintained and no complaints in consequence have been received.

Aycliffe.—The Pumping Plant for this supply still gives satisfaction, and apart from some minor repairs carried out early in the year, has not needed much attention. The water continues to be of wholesome quality.

Burdon, Great.—At the beginning of the year water from the Tees Valley Water Board's Mains was laid on to every house in the village. The Dean and Chapter of Durham are the owners.

Heighington.—The main conveying the water from the springs to the pump became choked, and it was necessary for some short lengths to be relaid to remedy this.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

Burdon, Great.—The sewers at this place have been frequently choked, and men have continually rodded them out to make them as free as possible until such times as a new sewerage scheme may be put in hand.

Coniscliffe, High.—A branch sewer has been laid to enable some houses on the South side of the village to be drained into the main sewer.

Hurworth.—The sewer down the Station Bank, Hurworth Place, became blocked and the sewage ran down the road side. To remedy this the sewer was taken up and relaid in a more direct route.

A branch sewer running up Round Hill road has had a manhole constructed at the head, so that it may be flushed to remove any sediment that may collect.

Middleton-St.-George.—The sewer from the bottom of the Old Row running underneath the Railway was almost blocked. Rodding was tried with no effect, so the sewer was dragged with thorns and a hand winch and it is now working satisfactory.

Sadberge.—The length of sewer up Dinsdale Road has been relaid. This was rendered necessary owing to the pipes becoming choked with roots. The pipes which were ordinary common field pipes unjointed, were replaced with sanitary pipes jointed in cement.

There was a serious subsidence in the sewer near the Tannery owing to quicksand displacing the pipes. The sewer was at once opened out, and a firm bed formed for the pipes in concrete and wrought iron. A manhole was built where the subsidence took place.

Summerhouse.—A portion of the main sewer has been relaid. The old length was laid in a circuitous route and of common pipes unjointed. The new sewer takes a direct line, and consists of sanitary pipes jointed with spun yarn and cement, and manholes where junctions are situated.

Sewage Disposal.—The tanks in various parts of the district have been regularly cleaned out, and where filtration is in vogue, with the exception of Redworth the works are giving satisfactory effluents.

Inspection of Pumping Plants.—The Insurance Company's Inspector reports as having found the Pumping engines in good order without exception.

Portable Pumping Plant for Disposal Tanks.—The Council gave their sanction to the purchase of a Portable Petrol-driven Pumping Plant which will effect a great saving on the cost of cleaning out Sewage Disposal Tanks.

Coniscliffe, High.—Formerly the cleaning out of the Sewage Disposal Tank devolved on the tenant, but this was an unsatisfactory arrangement. A new lease has been prepared in which the work of cleaning out is to be done by the Council.

Harrowgate Hill Sewage Disposal Works.—The works were handed over to the Darlington Corporation on the 1st of April with the exception of the Whessoe Pumping Plant.

Middleton-St.-George Sewage Disposal Works.—The caretaker's house situated at the works has been provided with a water closet.

The large sewage trough has been lengthened at the suggestion of the County Health Inspector.

Redworth Sewage Disposal Works.—To obviate the complaint of the unsatisfactory affluent from these works, the point of discharge was removed further down the field. This is only a temporary arrangement and the filtering medium will have to be washed or renewed at an early date.

WM. J. PALLISTER, A.R. San. I., M.I. Mun. E.

Sanitary Surveyor.



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