Darlington Rural District Council

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

R. H. MEIKLE, M.B., C.M.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Population - - -	9,992
Area of District in Acres -	44,000

To the Chairman and Members of the
Darlington Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitation of your District for the year ending 31st December 1925.

I have taken my estimates from the estimated population of 1925, namely 9,992.

The Rural District is situated on the South-west of the County of Durham, and its highest point above Sea level is at Brusselton 729 feet and the lowest point above Sea level is at Bowl Hole, Middleton, which is 30.6 feet. The Rural District extends to about 44,400 acres in area, with an estimated population as stated of 9,992. The rateable value of the District is estimated at £122,400, which sum representing a penny rate amounts to £424.

The death rate for the year is 13.3, the birth rate is 17.3.

The infant mortality shows a decrease on the previous year.

Sixty-five cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

The number of deaths attributable during the year was 133, (69 males and 64 females) giving a death rate of 13.3 per 1000 per annum, as compared with 12.8 per 1000 per annum in the previous year.

The number of births was 173 (98 males and 75 females) giving a birth rate of 17.3 per 1000 per annum as compared with 229 births (125 males and 104 females) and a birthrate of 23.0 on the previous year. Of the 173 births registered 10 were illegitimate (6 males and 4 females) as compared with 8 in 1924.

INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 13 deaths (7 males and 6 females) occurred under the age of 1 year, giving an infant mortality of 75.1 per 1000 births registered, as compared with a mortality of 69.8 per 1000 births registered and 16 deaths in 1924. Of the 13 deaths registered only one was illigitimate.

The infant mortality shows a decided decrease on the previous year, and is below the average for decade 1915 to 1925. The chief causes of death being Broncho-Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Convulsions.

The following parishes are responsible for the deaths under the age of one year.

Blackwell	1
High Coniscliffe	1
Haughton-le-Skerne	3
Heighington	1
Morton Palms	1
Aycliffe	1
Hurworth	2
Low Dinsdale	1
Neasham	1
Middleton-St.-George	1
Total ...	13

The following table shows the ages at which death occurred under the age of 1 year :—

	1925	1924.
Under 1 week	2	4
One week to two weeks ...	2	2
Three to four weeks ...	2	2
Four weeks and under three months	3	1
Three months and under six months	1	—
Six months to nine months ...	—	5
Nine to twelve months... ...	3	2
Totals	13	16

The causes of death under 1 week was Premature birth and those from 9 to 12 months, Meningitis and Pneumonia.

Table showing the causes of death under 1 year.

Premature Birth	2
Pneumonia	1
Convulsions	3
Whooping Cough	2
Debility from Birth	3
Meningitis...	1
Bronchitis, (uncertified)	1
Total ...	13

The causes of death at all ages were as follows :—

	Males	Females
Influenza	—	3
Tuberculosis (respiratory) ...	4	2
Tuberculosis (other)	2	1
Cancer	9	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage	12	7
Heart Disease	12	8
Arterio Sclerosis	—	4
Bronchitis...	3	2
Pneumonia	10	7
Whooping Cough	—	1
Nephritis	2	2
Congenital Debility & Premature Birth	1	3
Other deaths from violence ...	3	2
Other defined diseases	8	11
Accidents and diseases of pregnancy and Parturition	—	1
Suicide	1	2
Convulsions	2	2
Totals	69	64

During the year 7 deaths were certified by a coroner after inquest, and 6 were uncertified, as compared with 8 certified and 5 uncertified in 1924.

Tuberculosis is responsible for 13 deaths (10 males and 3 females) as compared with 7 in the previous year, which gives a Tubercular death rate of 1.3 per 1000 per annum as compared with .61 per 1000 in 1924.

The distribution of deaths in point of Season is as follows :—

	1925	1924		1925	1924
January	14	10	July	8	8
February ...	17	18	August	9	7
March	10	17	September	8	5
April	14	22	October	12	4
May	15	14	November	10	9
June	9	5	December	7	9
Totals	79	86	Totals	54	42

The oldest person who died during the year was 89 years, and the youngest was 2 hours.

DEATH RATE AND INFANT MORTALITY FOR EACH PARISH.

PARISH	Total Deaths	Infant Mortality	Death Rate per 1000	Population at last Census	Death Rate from Zymotic Diseases	Infant Mortality Death Rate per 1000 Births
Haughton-le-Skerne	14	3	10·3	1349	—	17·6
Archdeacon Newton	—	—	—	48	—	—
Aycliffe, Great	6	1	8·0	750	—	5·7
Barmpton	—	—	—	87	—	—
Blackwell	4	1	9·8	405	—	4·3
Brafferton	2	—	13·8	144	—	—
Burdon, Great	1	—	10·6	94	—	—
Coatham Mundeville	3	—	23·2	129	—	—
Coniscliffe, High ...	2	1	6·4	312	—	5·7
Coniscliffe, Low ...	1	—	6·7	149	—	—
Denton	—	—	—	96	—	—
Dinsdale, Low	1	1	11·9	252	—	5·7
Heighington ...	12	1	18·2	658	—	5·7
Houghton-le-Side ...	1	—	12·1	82	—	—
Hurworth	23	2	15·7	1452	—	11·5
Killerby	—	—	—	70	—	—
Middleton-St.-George	33	1	21·5	1531	·6(1)	5·7
Morton Palms	1	1	11·2	71	—	5·7
Neasham	5	1	14–8	336	—	4·3
Piercebridge	1	—	4·7	209	—	—
Redworth	8	—	17·3	451	—	—
Sadberge	7	—	16·9	412	—	—
School Aycliffe ...	—	—	—	21	—	—
Sockburn	—	—	—	61	—	—
Summerhouse	1	—	7·6	131	—	—
Walworth	2	—	13·5	147	—	—
Whessoe	5	—	13·6	368	—	—
Totals	133	13	13·3	9992	·6	75 1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total deaths
Chicken Pox	41	—	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Scarlet Fever	15	11	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)...	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	1	—
Erysiplas	4	—	—
	—	—	—
	65	13	—
Tuberculosis :—			
(*a*) Pulmonary—M	1	—	1
F	1	—	1
(*b*) Non-Pulmonary— M ...	3	—	3
F ...	1	—	—

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925, for the Rural District of Darlington.

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
FACTORIES ... ... (Including Factory Laundries)	—	—	—
WORKSHOPS ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries)	20	2	—
WORKPLACES ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	20	2	—

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
**Nuisances under the Public Health Acts* :—				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { unsuitable or defective ...	2	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation { not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	2	—	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.			
Dwelling Houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions	10		10
Structural Defects... ...	23		20
Overcrowding	4		3
Lodging-houses	—		—
Dairies and Milkshops ...	8		7
Cowsheds...	9		9
Bakehouses	—		—
Slaughter-houses	3		2
Ashpits and Privies	23		15
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	—		—
Waterclosets	—		—
Defective Yard Paving ...	—		—
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps	10		7
No Disconnection from Sewers	3		1
Other Faults	24		22
Water Supply	2		—
Pigsties	—		—
Animals Improperly Kept ...	—		—
Offensive Trades	—		—
Smoke Nuisances	—		—
Other Nuisances	—		—
Totals ...	119		96

	Number
II. WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	7
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis ...	
Samples of Food and Drugs found Adulterated	
III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	66
Schools do. do. do. ...	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	
Convictions for do. do. do. ...	
IV. GENERAL.	
Number of New Houses erected during the year	52
Number of such houses occupied during year...	49
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	
,, ,, Water-closets ...	
Ash-closets ,, ,, ,, ...	
Total number of Water closets in the District	395
,, Ash-closets ,, ...	416
,, Ash-pit privies ,, ...	1352

WATER SUPPLIES.

No complaint can be made of the purity of the water supplies in your area, with the exception of Low Coniscliffe which is from wells and of a suspicious quality.

I strongly recommend that some arrangements should be made for a supply to be taken from the Tees Valley Water Boards main. If the cost is prohibitive it might be possible to take a supply from say three standpipes placed in the village.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There has been further development in the Parish of Haughton le-Skerne, and the Council last year laid a 9″ sewer in Barmpton Lane to deal with this development.

Further branch sewers have been laid by private enterprise in the same vicinity.

Due to sewage percolating into the quarries at Aycliffe it has been found necessary to relay a sewer in another direction.

A new filter bed has been put in at Low Coniscliffe which has prevented the ponding of sewage, and these sewage disposal works are now highly satisfactory.

New sewage disposal works have been put down at Brusselton Houses.

SCAVENGING.

During the year public scavenging has been put in force at Blackwell and is being done by direct labour.

DAIRIES & COWSHEDS.

Systematic inspections are being made of the Dairies and Cowsheds in the district and gradually the arrears of inspections due to the influx of registration under the Act of 1922 are being overtaken.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number on the register is 44. Notices have been served in 2 cases, which notiees have been obeyed.

HOUSING.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection—(1)	Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts)	97
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations	10
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	3
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation	7

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their officers.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(a) Proceeding under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning etc., Act, 1919.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close ...	—
(3)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit	
	(a) By owner	—
	(b) By Local Authority	—

(b) Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied	
(a) By Owner	—
(b) By Local Authority	—

(c) Proceeding under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, etc., 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of the closing order	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

Under the Housing Etc., Act, 1923 92 houses have been completed since the Act came into force and 67 houses were completed during 1925.

70 houses are in course of erection.

There is a great need of houses in Aycliffe Village and until some are built the Council cannot make much progress in removing the undesirable property there which is being met with in the systematic inspection of the Village now being carried out.

Since my last report when I advocated houses being built in Heighington, 4 houses suitable for the working classes have been erected by private enterprise, and there is good prospects of further development.

In the Sanitary Department, Mr. Pallister, Sanitary Inspector still carries out his manifold duties with zeal and tact.

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

The work of the Health Department demands more and more time and is still on the increase.

I again in this Twenty-fifth Annual Report express my great and thankful indebtedness to the Council and its Officers for their kind support in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

I remain

Yours obediently,

R. H. MEIKLE,

Medical Officer of Health.