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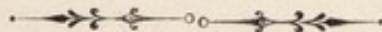
ANNUAL REPORT
AS TO THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF DISS

for the Year 1921,

BY

H. M. SPEIRS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
DISS URBAN COUNCIL.

I herewith have the honour to present my **Seventeenth Annual Report** as your Medical Officer of Health.

1. Population.

1921—3479.

I append a paragraph from the Registrar General's Report to me to explain the decrease in our population.

“The Census of 1921, originally planned for the 24th April, was unavoidably postponed until the 19th June; and it is now clear that, while the latter date avoided the recognised programme of industrial holidays, some holiday movement was, largely owing to the abnormally fine weather, already then in progress. This is reflected in the Census returns by the inclusion in the case of the more popular holiday areas of varying and sometimes substantial proportions of visitors. The use of local population figures which depart materially from the figures of normal resident populations would, of course, be unsuitable in connection with statistics of births and deaths classified according to area of residence; and it has been deemed necessary to make an adjustment for these purposes by measuring the extent of the non-resident population in certain areas and by effecting its redistribution throughout the country. Such an adjustment has accordingly been made by means of the best data available in the preparation of the estimated mid-yearly populations for 1921. Any substantial difference between the population quoted and the corresponding Census figure should be attributed to this process of adjustment, although its effect has been negligible in the majority of arears.”

2.—Physical Features and General Character of District.

I reported fully on this last year, and have nothing further to add.

3.—Social Conditions and Occupation.

Ditto.

VITAL STATISTICS.

TABLE I.

| YEAR. | POPULATION | | BIRTHS. | | | | DEATHS. | | | | INFANTILE MORTALITY. | | |
|-------|-------------|-------------|---------|---------|--------|----------------|---------|---------|--------|----------------|----------------------|--------|-----------------------|
| | for Deaths. | for Births. | Male. | Female. | Total. | Rate per 1000. | Male. | Female. | Total. | Rate per 1000. | Illegitimate. | Total. | Rate per 1000 Births. |
| 1917 | 3,359 | 3,744 | 21 | 32 | 54 | 13.9 | 33 | 34 | 67 | 19.9 | | 5 | 94.3 |
| 1918 | 3,417 | 3,829 | 29 | 34 | 63 | 16.0 | 30 | 25 | 55 | 16. | 2 | 7 | 111.1 |
| 1919 | 3,596 | 3,746 | 36 | 29 | 65 | 17.3 | 21 | 23 | 44 | 12.2 | 1 | 5 | 76.9 |
| 1920 | | 3,739 | 35 | 49 | 84 | 22.4 | 26 | 25 | 51 | 13.6 | 2 | 8 | 91.6 |
| 1921 | | 3,479 | 31 | 28 | 59 | 14.0 | 19 | 31 | 50 | 14.3 | 2 | 7 | 118.6 |

4.—Infantile Mortality.

The rate is 118.6, the highest I have recorded for some years past, due, in my opinion, to the abnormally long dry summer and a low Birth Rate. That for England and Wales is 83.

5.—Births.

Total 59. Male 31, Female 28. Rate 14. That for England and Wales 22.4.

6.—Deaths.

Total 50. Male 19, Female 31. Rate 14.3. Note, almost the same as the Birth Rate. That for England and Wales 12.1.

Causes of Death at all Ages.

TABLE II.

| CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES. | 1921. | |
|--|--------|----------|
| | Males. | Females. |
| ALL CAUSES | 19 | 31 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | |
| Influenza | 1 | 2 |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System... .. | 1 | 2 |
| Other Tuberculosis Diseases... | 1 | |
| Cancer, malignant disease ... | 3 | 6 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.... | | 2 |
| Heart Disease | 2 | 7 |
| Arterio-sclerosis | 2 | 2 |
| Bronchitis | 1 | 2 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | | 1 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 1 | 1 |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition | | 1 |
| Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth | | 1 |
| Suicide | 1 | |
| Other defined Diseases ... | 3 | 3 |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown | | 1 |

7.—Rainfall.

Rainfall in 1921

at The Cedars, Diss, in the county of Norfolk.

Rain Gauge. { Diameter of Funnel 5in.
 Height of { Above Ground 1ft. 8in.
 Top { Above Sea Level 108ft.

| Month. | Total Depth. | Greatest Fall in 24 hours. | | Number of Days with | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | | Inches. | Date. | .01 in. or more | .04 in. or more |
| JANUARY ... | 1.52 | .24 | 1 | 14 | 10 |
| FEBRUARY.. | .13 | .09 | 25 | 3 | 1 |
| MARCH | .96 | .28 | 19 | 11 | 7 |
| APRIL..... | 1.53 | .64 | 13 | 11 | 10 |
| MAY | .89 | .22 | 9 | 12 | 6 |
| JUNE | .50 | .31 | 26 | 3 | 2 |
| JULY | .25 | .14 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| AUGUST..... | 1.58 | .61 | 13 | 8 | 6 |
| SEPTEMBER | 1.11 | .69 | 11 | 4 | 3 |
| OCTOBER ... | 1.70 | .41 | 3 | 10 | 9 |
| NOVEMBER.. | 1.58 | .46 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| DECEMBER.. | 1.25 | .28 | 26 | 15 | 9 |
| TOTAL ... | 13.00 | | | 102 | 71 |

8.—Sanitary Conditions of District.

WATER SUPPLY.

WATERWORKS.—MONTHLY PUMPING RECORDS, 1921.

| Month. | Quantity of Water Pumped. | Average Daily Consumption. |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Gallons. | Gallons. |
| January... .. | 1,088,000 | 35,096 |
| February | 1,089,000 | 38,890 |
| March | 1,072,500 | 31,370 |
| April | 1,051,000 | 35,033 |
| May | 1,091,000 | 35,193 |
| June | 1,252,000 | 41,733 |
| July | 1,310,000 | 42,258 |
| August | 1,019,000 | 32,870 |
| September | 1,035,000 | 34,500 |
| October | 1,062,750 | 34,314 |
| November | 1,023,000 | 34,100 |
| December | 1,020,000 | 32,903 |

No. of Residential, Business and other Premises supplied..... 274
 „ Cottage „ 388

Total..... 661

Average Daily Consumption for all purposes 35,688 gallons.

Total Quantity used for Trade purposes during
 the year, by Meter 686,130 „

Approximate Average Consumption per head per
 day for all purposes 17.6 „

Present capacity of Storage Tank at the Waterworks 30,000 „

The estimated supply available from the Wells given by the Engineer to the scheme (the late Mr. Booth) was 20 gallons per head per day for the total population by ten hours' pumping.

Year 1920.

Average Daily Consumption for all purposes..... 38,013 gallons.

Total Approximate Quantity used for Trade purposes during 1920, by meter 671,560 „

Approximate Average Consumption per head per
 day for all purposes, 1920 18.7 „

9.—Infectious Diseases.

This is again one of the bright spots in my report. The total list is as follows:—

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|---|
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum.... | ..... | 1 |
| Erysipelas ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis..... | ..... | 4 |

Of the latter, two might be described as "imported" cases.

10.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

Nurse Campbell reports as follows:—

| | | |
|---|-------|-----|
| No. of House Visits to Infants ..... | ..... | 489 |
| „ Infants attending Welfare Centre..... | ..... | 22 |
| „ Visits of Infants to Centre ..... | ..... | 75 |
| Milk supplied to Nursing Mother (one pint daily for two months ..... | ..... | 1 |

The Infants seem to be well cared for and their clothing, on the whole satisfactory. Many Mothers have adopted the patterns of Woollen Underclothing shown at the Welfare Centre.

11.—Sanitary Administration.

INSPECTIONS.

596 Visits of Inspection have been made during the year.

SUMMARY.

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Abatement of Nuisances... | ..... | 61 |
| General Inspection—District ..... | ..... | 205 |
| „ „ Markets ..... | ..... | 85 |
| Slaughterhouses ..... | ..... | 60 |
| Dairies and Cowsheds..... | ..... | 44 |
| Scavenging ... .. | ..... | 46 |
| Housing—Inspections and Re-Inspections ..... | ..... | 95 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | Total | 596 |

One visit was made in company with the Medical Officer of Health.

The County Medical Officer of Health was met upon one occasion at the Diss Council Schools during the year.

INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

MEAT.

The shops of the Meat Purveyors are frequently visited and are kept in a clean condition. The work of supervision has largely increased, owing to the number of Retail Meat Stalls at the local weekly Market ; the meat sold at the stalls includes Imported Beef and Mutton, Home Killed Pork and Mutton. Imported Bacon and Ham are also sold.

FISH.

The four Fishmongers' premises are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition. Three premises where Fish and Chip-Potato frying is carried on are kept in a satisfactory condition. There are now a number of Stalls for the sale of wet and dried fish at the weekly Market. These are regularly visited. During the year 10 boxes of mackerel were examined and surrendered by the salesman, as they were unfit for sale as human food.

BAKEHOUSES.

During the year one Bakehouse has been closed and one Bakehouse built. There are 8 Bakehouses in the district, including one underground ; all are kept in a satisfactory state.

MILK AND MILK SUPPLY.

There are ample supplies of milk retailed throughout the district. The Milk Stores are periodically visited and kept in a very clean condition. The quantity of Milk sold by Retail and distributed in the district weekly is approximately 1,022 gallons.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Dairies are regularly limewashed and cleaned and kept in a very sanitary condition. A new roof and floor is included in the improvements made to Cowsheds during the year.

THE REGISTER.

| | |
|--|-------|
| Cowkeeper, Dairyman and Purveyor of Milk | 4 |
| Purveyor of Milk | 8 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 12 |

One person has been registered during the year as a Purveyor of Milk.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are four Registered Slaughterhouses in the district, one licensed Slaughterhouse having been discontinued for the purposes of the trade during the year.

Three of the Slaughterhouses are in regular use and one only periodically.

All are kept in a clean and sanitary condition. Improvements carried out during the year include repairs to roofs and the repairing to floors.

DISINFECTION.

A "Thresh" emergency Disinfector is kept for the purposes of disinfection when such is necessary. During the year rooms have been disinfected by fumigation on four occasions.

One house has been thoroughly fumigated for the purposes of cleansing upon the removal of the occupier.

SCAVENGING.

| | | | Loads Removed |
|---|-------|-----|------------------|
| No. of Privy Pails emptied weekly ..... | ..... | 72 | 104 |
| „ Dustbins „ „ ..... | ..... | 220 | 279 |
| „ Fixed Type Dustbins emptied ..... | ..... | 70 | 123 |
| „ Privy Vault Closets „ ..... | ..... | 151 | 170 |
| „ Cesspools emptied ..... | ..... | 6 | 20 |

YEAR 1921.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----|
| Total No. of Loads removed | Excreta | 274 |
| „ „ | Dry Refuse | 402 |
| | Total | 676 |

Present contract expires 31st March, 1922.

YEAR 1921.—NUISANCES, ABATEMENT OF

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| Complaints received 5. | Complaints Investigated 5 | |
| Nuisances found on Inspection ..... | ..... | 14 |
| „ by Complaint ..... | ..... | 5 |
| | | — |
| | | 19 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----|
| Statutory Notices received | ..... | ..... | Nil |
| Formal " " | ..... | ..... | 4 |
| Summary :—Unabated 1st January, 1921 | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| Nuisances found on Inspection | ..... | ..... | 14 |
| " " Complaint | ..... | ..... | 5 |
| | | | — |
| | | Total | 21 |
| Number abated | ..... | ..... | 19 |
| " unabated to 1st January, 1922 | | | 2 |
| | | | — |
| | | Total | 21 |

SEWERS.

Sewer extension, Frenze Road, 100 yards.

DRAINAGE.

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Reconstructed Drains | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 |
| New Connections to Sewers | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| Old Drains Ventilated | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 |
| New Drains | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 |
| " " Provided with Ventilation | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 |

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Conversion of Privies, Year 1921.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Fixed to Removable Receptacles | ..... | ..... | 11 |
| " Fresh Water W.C.'s..... | ..... | ..... | 22 |
| " Waste Water W.C.'s..... | ..... | ..... | 6 |

Statistics for the District, Year 1921.

| | | |
|--|-------|----------------|
| No. of Privies : Fixed Receptacles | ..... | No. not known. |
| " " Movable Receptacles | ..... | ..... 81 |
| No. of Fresh Water W.C.'s | ..... | ..... 232 |
| " Waste Water W.C.'s | ..... | ..... 51 |
| Total No. of Water W.C.'s | ..... | ..... 283 |
| " " " including Houses, Factories and Schools..... | ..... | ..... 313 |

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 50 Workshops registered in the district. One has been discontinued during the year. One notified by H. M. Inspector of Factories has been registered. The Workshops are visited from time to time and kept in a satisfactory condition.

12.—Public Health Staff.

George Handel Jones, Part-time Officer, Sanitary Inspector ; other public office held by him—Collector of Rates. Certificates :—
 (a) Royal Sanitary Institute ; by examination, Associate Royal Sanitary Institute ; (b) General Hygiene, Institute of Hygiene ; (c) Hygiene and Sanitation, British Red Cross Society.

13.—Housing.

No. of New Houses erected during the year :—

- | | | |
|---|-------|----|
| (a) Total | | |
| (b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme | ..... | 26 |

1 UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES. INSPECTIONS :—

- | | | |
|--|-------|----|
| (1) Total No. of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | ..... | 34 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | ..... | 23 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | ..... | 2 |

2 REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- | | | |
|---|-------|----|
| Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | | 24 |
|---|-------|----|

3 ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

| | |
|--|-----|
| (a) Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919, | Nil |
| (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts | Nil |
| (c) Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 | |
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders (brought forward from 1920) | 2 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | 2 |
| (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | Nil |
| (4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (4a) Number of Dwelling-houses voluntarily demolished by Owner on which a Closing Order was made | 1 |

Under Section 17 (4) one application was made to the Petty Sessions, Division of Diss, for an Order of the Court for the possession of a cottage in respect of which a Closing Order was operative and in respect to which the occupying tenant was in default. The information was laid by the Sanitary Inspector, who appeared on behalf of the Local Authority, and an Order was made for possession within 30 days. This has been complied with.

SUMMARY.

Five Caravans have been inspected.

Four New Glazeware Sinks have been fixed in Houses.

One New Glazeware Lavatory Basin has been fixed in a Dwelling-house.

One ditto ditto ditto in a Factory.

Two ditto ditto ditto in a Bank Premises.

One ditto ditto ditto in a New Bakery.

One New Urinal has been erected at a Factory.

Ditto ditto to an Hotel.

Four New Baths with Water Supply have been fixed in Dwelling-houses.

Eighteen Dwelling-houses have had defective Roofs repaired.
Three Farm-houses have been thoroughly repaired.

Three Cottages have been provided with New Doors and Sash Windows.

Two Cottages have been provided with New Casement Windows.

One Well supplying Cottages with Water has been cleaned out and made deeper.

One Sample of Water from a Well has been taken for analysis.

I beg to thank my Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Handel Jones, for his valuable and tactful help throughout the past year; Mr. Cooper for his summary of the Water Supply; Nurse Campbell for her work in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your unvarying courtesy and help to me in my work.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. M. SPEIRS.

