## [Report 1910] / Medical Officer of Health, Grantham R.D.C.

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GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1910.

January, 1911.

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

# GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with instructions from the Local Government

Board, I have the honour of submitting for your consideration my Fourth

Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Rural District

together with other information dealing with the administration of the

various Acts for the maintenance of Public Health. I submit a brief

summary of the vital Statistics before entering into further details.

#### SUMMARY.

Area of Rural District	85,827 acres.
Rateable value	- 2
Population- Census 1901	12426
Population-Estimated 1910	12,540
Birth rate per 1,000	20,75
Death rate per 1,000	10.8
Death rate of Infants under) one year, per 1,000 )	92.3
Illegitimate Births	24.

The physical features and character of the district have been dealt with in previous Annual Reports, and the chief occupation of the inhabitants remains practically unaltered from year to year, as would be expected in a district so essentially agricultural. The housing of the working classes varies very much in different parts of the district.

It was decided during the year to adopt Building
By-Laws, with the consent of the Local Government Board. This
will doubtless be of benefit to the health of the District,
for your Medical Officer has seen on more than one occasion
newly erected cottages well built in every way, but quite
spoilt, in his opinion, by having pig-styes constructed
adjacent to, or even touching, the house walls.

The following buildings have been erected during the year, and visited by your Medical Officer, and found to possess a supply of drinking water satisfying the Local Government Board Regulations:-

Ponton Heath Two Cottages.

South Stoke One Cottage.

Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir. Two Cottages.

Somerby Two cottages.

Stoke (Cringle) Four Cottages.

Mention should here be made of the New Housing and
Town Planning Act, which came into force during the year.
This Act entails house-to-house visitation of localities by
the Medical Officer of Health, and the Officer appointed
for that purpose in your district, viz., the Sanitary
Inspector, with a view to the abatement of insanitary
conditions. Several visits have been made under the provisions
of this Act, and a report will be made of the work done at
the end of the year 1911.

## WATER SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.

The chief sources of Water Supply were discussed in the Annual Report for 1908. During the year, several samples sacrated winds - (algorith) and

of water were analysed, and in only one case was there an unsatisfactory result. The District may on the whole be considered to be well supplied with water, but there are a few villages which are by no means satisfactory in this respect. Of cases of Infectious Disease notified and enquired into during the year, in no case was there reason to suspect the drinking water of being the cause of such disease. A case of severe illness, which, though not notifiable, was almost certainly caused by polluted drinking water, was enquired into, and steps were taken to prevent the water being used.

## MILK SUPPLY.

During the year, a considerable number of inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies have been undertaken, and it was found that the Regulations required by the 1907 Order had, on the whole, been well complied with. It is to be noted and to be regretted that, in many villages in your District where cows are kept, it is extremely difficult for the villagers to obtain milk, even in cases of illness. No action has been taken during the year with regard to the sale of milk.

## OTHER FOODS.

No unsound food has been detected, nor any action taken during the year.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

In your Medical Officer's Report for 1909, mention was made of newly-completed Sewage Works at Barrowby and Hough-on-the-Hill. Experience has shown that these give a satisfactory effluent. No large Scheme has been carried out in

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any parish during this year, but several minor works have been carried out under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector.

During the last four years, the condition of your district with regard to Sewers and house drains has been much improved.

#### POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

No action has been necessary during the year. The subject of excrement disposal has been described in former Annual Reports.

## NUISANCES.

Proceedings taken by the Council in respect of nuisances are described in your Sanitary Inspector's Report.

#### SCHOOLS.

As in the former year, the Medical Inspection of School Children has been carried out by Dr. A. H. Lowe, the Officer appointed by the County Council for that purpose. Your Medical Officer during the year has frequently consulted with Dr. Lowe with regard to the temporary closure of Schools in the presence of infectious disease, and the new procedure for this purpose has been found to work satisfactorily and smoothly.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year is recorded in Table Three. 51 cases were so recorded, consisting of 49 cases of scarlatina and two of Diphtheria. A case of cerebro spinal fever also occurred, but not during the period when owing to a number of cases of thes disease in the neighbouring districts it was made notifiable by your Council. No cases of Erysipelas or of Enteric Fever were recorded.

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Scarlatina-occurred in an epidemic form in the village of Welby, where 25 cases were recorded between the months of May and October. In this village, occasional isolated cases of this disease had been recorded during former years, without the occurrence of an epidemic, and your Medical Officer hoped this would be the case again, for after the notification of 5 cases early in May, there were no notifications for 17 days, when a fresh batch of 14 cases occurred within the next few days. It is to be feared that gross negligence on the part of the inmates of one of the afflicted houses was in great measure responsible for this, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining reliable evidence on the subject, your Medical Officer was not in a position to recommend action to be taken by the Council.

At the beginning of the year, nine cases were notified in Ancaster and Sudbrook, when the epidemic mentioned in the Annual Report for 1909 came to an end.

The Isolation Hospital, which will accommodate 12 or more patients, was not used during the year, and in the light of the epidemic at Welby, this must be considered a matter of regret. It must be admitted that, where an Isolation Hospital is not regularly used, but only opened in cases of an epidemic, it is most difficult to decide upon the precise moment when it should be utilised.

Of the 49 cases of Scarlatina, two proved fatal from complications following the febrile period, and it is not without interest to note that during your Medical Officer's four years' term tenure of the office, these two are the only fatal cases out of 132 recorded in your district of this disease. This experience is by no means exceptional, and forms a strong contrast to the mortality following Measles, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. It would seem, therefore, that the "lay" mind might divest

itself of some of the horror with which it regards Scarlatina, and at the same time remember that it is even more important to isolate cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, which are too often regarded merely as inevitable childish complaints. The methods of dealing with Infectious Disease were described in the Report for 1908.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

This disease is probably not very prevalent in your District. The number of deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year is six, and two deaths were due to other forms of tuberculosis.

The Tuberculosis Regulations with regard to paupers are in force, and were explained by your Medical Officer at a meeting of the Council in 1909. No cases have at the present time been notified.

There is no hospital accommodation for cases of this disease in your district.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.

There are no registered Factories in your District.

The number of Workshops is 80. Routine inspection of these is carried out. It has not been found necessary to institute proceedings in any case.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

The actual figures with regard to births and deaths during the year are of unusual interest, and require some comment.

The number of births registered is 260, which is considerably lower than that of any of the preceding 12 years, the nearest approach being 277 in the year 1901. Of these births no less than 24 are recorded as illegitimate, a number considerably

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exceeding that of any other-recent year. For this two-fold teason the Council cannot regard the figures with satisfaction.

number of deaths is 136. This is the lowest number during the last 12 years, the year 1903 showing exactly the same number. This return is quite satisfactory, and agrees with the usual experience that a year not memorable for pleasant weather is yet often healthy. A perusal of this Table will show that there is no very unusual feature. A comparison with former years shows a decline in tuber-culosis, the figures being 12 in 1908, 13 in 1909, and six in 1910.

Special consideration is given to the question of deaths of children under the age of one year. The number of such deaths is 24, as shown in Table 5. This is very satisfactory, and is less than that recorded in the previous 12 years, with the exception of the year 1903.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted in your District, and if the infantile death rate maintains such a low figure, it may be hoped that the provisions of the Act are not required.

During the year, systematic inspections have been made by your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector, on frequent occasions.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. D. ROBBS, M.B.

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## TABLE I.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

## Name of District:-GRANTHAM RURAL.

				1					
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BI Numbe	TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED in the District.						
				No. Rate per 1,000 births regis-	No. Rate.				
				tered.					
1	2	3	4	5 6	7 8				
1900	13153	306	21,25	28 91,5	178 13.6				
1901	12426	277	22.27	33 117.1	171 13.76				
1902	12444	307	24.8	36 116.5	171 13.74				
1903	1.2500	312	24.7	20 96.18	136 10.8				
1964	12509	303	24.22	28 92.5	167 13.3				
1905	12517	302	23,32	38 125.7	167 13.5				
1906		o data	to hand.		1				
1907	12525	304	24.3	No da	ta.				
1908	12550	281	22.4	27 98	177 14.1				
1909	12575	292	23.22	32 109.8	167 13.6				
Averages years 1900-190	12577	296.2	23.3	30.2 105.6	166.8 13.2				
1910	12540	288	20.75	24 92.3	138 10.8				

Rates in Cols. 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of gross estimated population.

Total population 12,426. Area of District in acres) exclusive of area covered) 85,827. by water

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm patients from outside the District-

> Isolation Hospital, belonging to Grantham Union.

II. Institutions within the Other Institutions District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District-

The Hospital, and The Union Workhouse, Grantham.

· III . the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District:

nul

Is the Union Workhouse within the District ?-No.

percentage entered and mixture materials

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#### TABLE III.

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1910.

## Name of District :- GRANTHAM RURAL.

NOTIFIABLE - DISEASES.	At all Ages.	underl	Cases lto5				e district 65&upward
Small-pox	-	-	-	-	_	-	
Cholera	-	! -	-	-	_	-	-
Diphtheria(in- cluding Mem- branous croup)	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Erysipelas'	- 1		-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	49	-	11	38	-	-	-
Typus Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	- 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Relapsing Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Continued Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plague	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	51	_	11	40	_	_	_

Total Cases removed to Hospital:-Nil.

Isolation Hospital)
Name and situation)
Whalebone Lane.

Total beds available:-14.

Number of Diseases )
that can be con- ) One.

currently treated )

ALTE: - d -E

## CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1910.

		Death	s at the	subjoin	ed ages o	f "Resi	idents."
CAUSES		whether	cocurri	ng in or	beyond t	he dist	rict.
OF	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year			15 & un- der 25.		
DEATH.	/						
1,	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
Small-pox	-	-	9-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soarlet Fever	8	-	4	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	. 3	1	2	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria (in-	}						
oluding Membran-	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
ous croup)	,						
Croup				3		-	
(Typhus Fever (Enterio	_						
Other contd	. 1			1			
Epidemio Influenz		1	_	_	_	_	2
Cholera			_	_	_	_	_
Plague	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Diarrhoea	1	_	1	-	_	_	_
Enteritis	2 2	1	_	- /	-	-	1
Gastritis	2	2	_	_	_	_	_
Puerperal Fever	-	-	_	-	_	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Phthisis (Pulmon- ary Tuberoulosis	, 6	-	-	1	2	3	-
Other tuberculosi	s 2	-	-	1	-	1	-
Cancer, malig- nant disease	12	-	-	-	-	3	9
Bronchitis	14	3	1	_	_	5	5
Pneumonia	12	8	ī	_	1	2	2
Pleurisy	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Other diseases of	)						
Respiratory organs	} -	-	-	-	-	-	-
Alcoholism	1	-	-	_	-	1	-
Venereal diseases		-	-	-	-	-	-
Premature birth	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
Diseases and ac-)							
oidents of par-)	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
turition )							
Heart disease	11	-	-	-	-	7	4
Accidents	3	-	1	1	-	1	-
Suicides	07	-	-		-		23
Old Age	23			-	ī	6	20
Apoplexy Nephritis	. 2		1		-	-	1
Diabetes	3		_			ī	2
All other causes	16	6	3	-	-	5	2
ALT CATSES	136	24	11	5	4	36	56.

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#### TABLE V.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

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

												9					
	Weeks old. Months old.							Total									
CAUSE OF DEATH.		to		to	Total under one month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	deaths under one year.
1COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES:				121	inger.	100				10					1		
Whooping Cough	100	-			100										-		
2DIARRHOEAL DISEASES:																	
Enteritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gastritis	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
3WASTING DISEASES:-																	
Premature birth	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Atrophy ) Debility ) Marasmus )	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	
4TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES:-																	
(Nil).																	
5. OTHER CAUSES:																	
Convulsions	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	
Other causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
and their thinnels to be	4	1	-	-	5	3	1	2	-	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	24.
THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	1 3 9	1000		9150	1000	510							119		-	THE REAL PROPERTY.	

Births in the year: - Deaths in the year of:-

Legitimate 236 Illegitimate 24

Legitimate Infants 20 Illegitimate Infants 4

Deaths from all causes) 136. at all ages.

Population: Estimated) 12,540.

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#### GRANTHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## REPORT of INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES for the Year 1910.

During the year ending December 31st., 1910, your Inspector has made 291 visits from time to time in carrying out his duties in your District, the distance covered being 2,274 miles.

NUISANCES. There were 32 of these dealt with, 16 Public and 16 Private. It was found necessary to serve seven Notices of Abatement. A detailed account of these will be found in my Monthly record.

OUTFALL DITCHES. - In addition to those regularly emptied by this Council, it was found necessary to empty those in the parishes of Humby, Burton Coggles, Sudbrook, Welby and Woolsthorpe-by-Belvoir.

CESSPOOLS have been emptied under supervision to different villages, as stated in your Inspector's Repert Record.

CANAL BOATS.-Your Inspector presented his Annual Report in January.

MILK.-Under the Order of this District inspection has been made from time to time to enforce the Regulations. Nine fresh names have been added to the Register, the number now being 43, against 37 last year, certain old ones having removed.

FOOD.-Your Inspector has made a point of looking out for unsound articles of food exhibited, and has also visited different slaughter-houses on essaeien occasion(he is not empowered to take samples under the Food and Drug Act).

BUILDING BYE-LAWS. -Two sets of Plans for Motor Workshop and New Rectory to Colsterworth were submitted, also additions to Mr. Bradley's house, Belton lane, Harrowby Without, for approval.

Careful disinfection after infectious disease has been thoroughly carried out. Under the Housing Act, certain cottages in Carlton Scroop were submitted for early inspection during 1911.

H. Cecil Rudkin,

Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor.

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