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#### **Contributors**

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HALLATON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT,

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1925.

Annual Report of M.O.H.

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## HALLATON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the year 1925.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health this Report is in some respects more comprehensive than has heretofore been customary, for it includes particulars of Public Health improvements which have been effected during the past five years. Statistics of mortality and sickness during that period are also included.

As this is but one of fifteen Reports which I am submitting to as many Authorities its size and scope are necessarily more curtailed than would be the case were I merely acting for a single District.

The subjects dealt with are systematized under the following six headings:-

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Housing.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

# I. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in a	eres)	13,654
Population	Census, 1921	1,746
"	Estimated, 1925	1,750

Since 1911 the population has decreased by about 6 per cent.

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# Physical Features and General Character of the Area.

The District which is situated in the South East of Leicestershire covers an area of 21 square miles. It is chiefly undulating grass land with a fall towards the river Welland which separates it on the South from Northamptonshire.

Fringing the Welland the geological formation is Alluvium.

For the rest Lower Lias predominates, but Middle Lias, Marlstone Rock, Northampton Sand and Lincolnshire Colitic Limestone are also in evidence.

# Social Conditions.

The population which has for years been steadily decreasing (having fallen from 2,139 in 1891 to but little over
1,600 at the present moment) is essentially agricultural, most
of the land being grazed. There are no factories in the District and beyond the village bakehouses, blacksmiths and carpenters only one workshop. This is at Great Easton where
some women are employed in corset-making. The District is
the centre of Fernie's Country, which for hunting is second
to none in England.

The three largest villages with their Census Populations are: - Hallaton, 465: Great Easton, 397: and Medbourne, 380.

A large Private School (preparatory for Public Schools) is situated in the parish of Neville Holt.

# Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate. M. 15. F. 10. Total - 25.

"illegitimate - 1 " - 1

Total:- 15 11 26

Birth Rate 14.8
" " (1921 - 1925) 16.7
" " for England & Wales (1925) 18.6
Deaths - M. 17. F. 11. Total - 28.
Death Rate 15.9
" " (1921 - 1925) 12.3
" " for England & Wales (1925) 12.2
Deaths of Infants under one year of age 4 (1 illegitimate)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births 153
" " (1921 - 1925) 56
" " for Eng. & Wales (1925) 75

Two per cent of the births registered during the past five years were illegitimate.

In so small a population birth and death rates for a single year are liable to great fluctuations. The rates for the quinquennium form a much less unreliable indication of the District's health.

# Causes of Death in 1925. Civilians only.

Causes of Death:-	Males.	Females.
All Causes	17	11
Thooping Cough	-	1
Influenza	-	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	2
Other tuberculous diseases	-	-
Cancer, Malignant disease	-	3
Cerebral haemorrhage.&c	1	-
Heart disease	3	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Puerperal sepsis	-	ıx
Suicide	1	-
Other deaths from violence	2 XX	-
Other defined diseases	6	1
Causes ill-defined or unknown	1	-

x Vide Heading VI (Infectious Diseases)

xx One, an infant, died from the sting of an insect. The other, an old man aged 91, died from shock following burns.
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# II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

Tuberculosis, Maternity and Children's hospital accommodation are controlled by the County Council and the matter is dealt with comprehensively in the County Report.

Fever. There are eight Isolation Hospitals with a total of 85 beds, controlled by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals' Committee. Patients are sent to such hospitals as have beds available for the disease from which they are suffering. None of the hospitals are in this District.

Small Pox. There are two hospitals provided for the County as a whole.

# Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For Infectious Cases Motor ambulances are provided in connection with the Isolation Hospitals.
- (b) For Non-infectious Cases and Accident. None under the District Council. The Leicester Royal Infirmary and other voluntary Organizations provide the necessary facilities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres .- All under the County Council.

### Public Health Officers of the Local Authority .-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for this and fourteen other Districts in four counties. The Combined Districts cover 500 square miles and have a population of about 120,000. No office or clerical staff is provided.

The Sanitary Inspector is also District Surveyor. They are part-time appointments.

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The Sentracy Inspects is also District Surveyor. The

are derbette appetante.

# Professional Mursing in the Home.

The County Council's Health Visitors visit cases in this District.

# Midwives.

The supervision of Midwives is vested in the County Coun-

# Chemical Work.

Analyses of foods and drugs are conducted by the County Analyst. The Medical Officer of Health analyses samples of water.

# Legislation in Force.

There are no Local Acts, Special Local Orders, Building Bye-laws or General Adoptive Acts in force in the District.

# III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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# Water:-

Chiefly from springs and shallow wells. Most of the village of Hallaton is supplied by spring water conveyed by pipes.

# Rivers & Streams: -

Save in the parish of Medbourne, where sewage is reaching the brook untreated, there is very little river pollution in the District. The village is relatively low lying and any attempt at efficient treatment would involve the expense of pumping.

At Hallaton there is a four acre sewage-farm which is ample for the treatment of the sewage.

At Horninghold an installation for the purification of sewage was completed in 1911 on the initiative of the principal landowner.

In the remaining parishes most of the sowage has to flow through a considerable length of ditch in which it undergoes partial purification before reaching the brook. speciestics : Destant in the Hone.

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# Closet-Accommodation:-

In Hallaton the majority of the houses have hand-flushed water-closets. For the rest privies still predominate there being over a hundred in the District. During the past five years only 27 have been abolished. I cannot too fully emphasize the desirability of replacing the latter by pail-closets, especially in the larger villages.

## Scavenging: -

At Hallaton refuse is deposited on the sewage farm and at a refuse tip. At Medbourne and Great Maston on the land. My consistent advice throughout the Combined Districts is that every village with over forty inhabited houses, and frequently with less, should have a public system of scavenging. This is as a rule a condition precedent to the effective and sanitary conversion of privies to pail-closets.

# Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1925.

Total No. of complaints :	received during the year	8
" " inspections	made for all purposes	113
" " notices serv	red - 8. Informal - 8. Statutory	y- nil
" " summonses is	ssued	nil
Insanitary houses (Public Health Act 1875)	No. inspected No. cleansed	8
Smoke Nuisances	No. of observations Nuisances abated	nil nil
Overcrowding	No. of houses inspected Nuisances abated	nil nil
Offensive Accumulations:	No. inspected Nuisances abated	4
Closet Accommodation:-		
Total No. in District	(1) Privies (2) Pail closets (3) W.C's	105 79 88
	No. of new provided No. repaired No. converted to (a) pails (b) W.C's.	nil 4 2 nil

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# Squatary Innomital's Report Yor 1925.

Pails or earth closets	No. of new provided No. converted to V.C's	2 nil
Water closets	No. of new provided	nil
Drainage and Severage:-		
Drains, drain traps &c.	No. inspected Nuisances abated	26 4
Cesspools	No. repaired, cleansed &c. No. abolished & drains con- nected to sewer	2
Scavenging:-		
Ashpits	No. of new provided No. converted to ashbins	nil
Ashbins	No. of new provided	nil
for the destruction	d at the refuse tip at Hallaton of rats.	
	analysis	2
Wells	No. closed No. cleansed, repaired &c.	1
No. of instances where p	oublic supply was instituted	nil
Infectious Diseases:-		
Houses	No. inspected No. of inspections	10
No. disinfected	(a) Houses (b) Schoolrooms	5 nil
Arrangements for disinfe	ction of:- (a) bedding )Fumigat: (b) premises ) forms	ion by

Premises or Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations:-

None in the District.

Schools: - The three Public Elementary Schools are all fairly well kept and have a sufficient water supply.

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# IV. HOUSING.

Save at Horninghold where excellent modern houses have been provided by the principal land-owner most of the working class dwellings are very old. With a decreasing population building has been practically at a standstill save for twenty-two houses which have been provided by the Council.

I do not know of any instance of accentuated overcrowding and the last census revealed no house with more than two occupants per room.

With old properties such as prevail in old-world agricultural villages there is of course a great deal that fails to reach or even to approach modern standards of hygiene and fitness. Defects are rectified, probably imperfectly, from time to time, but nothing like the complete overhaul implied in the term 're-conditioning' is effected. Here, as in most Rural Districts, with decreasing populations, it is re-conditioning that is really required, and should a subsidy become available for this purpose I would urge you to do all in your power to encourage the improvement of these older properties.

There is, in my judgment, no need for further building by the Council. The average argicultural labourer cannot possibly pay an economic rent. But private enterprise should be encouraged to the uttermost by offering the full subsidy of £100 for any farm labourer's cottages that may be required.

No dwelling-houses have been built during 1925 and there have been no inspections under the Housing Regulations. All the inspections are included in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

The Inspector, however, reports two houses which were "Found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation." Both were voluntarily closed.

There have been no proceedings under the Housing Act of 1925 or under the Public Health Act.

No dwelling-houses have been demolished.

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# V. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

# Milk: -

Retail Purveyors:	(a) Register - No. on	13
	(b) Premises - Total No. of inspections made.	26
	No, found to require (a) Cleansing (b) Structural or san imprs.	6 2

# Wholesale Traders & Producers :-

(a)	Register - No. on	10
(b)	Premises - No. of inspections	-
	made - (1) Total	26
	made - (1) Total (2) During milking time	4
	No. found to require (1) Cleansing	1
	(2) Structural or san. imprs.	2

There are about 150 milch-cows in the District. No Veterinary Surgeon has as yet been appointed by the Council to inspect these cows. As nothing but benefit to producer as well as to consumer can accrue from the periodic examination of all milking cows I venture to hope that you will fall into line with nearly all the other Rural District Councils in the country by appointing a Veterinary Surgeon for this purpose. I would also suggest that you take advantage of the County Council's arrangements for the bacteriological examinations of samples of milk.

#### Meat: -

There are only three slaughter houses on the Register. In 1920 there were four. Twelve inspections have been made during the year, 8 being at time of slaughter. The slaughter houses are well kept. Slaughtering is done now on Mondays and every facility is afforded for inspections. No carcase or part of a carcase was condemned or surrendered by reason of its being unsuitable for food.

The little shops are inspected at the same time as the Slaughter houses.

# Other Foods :-

Bakehouses are regularly inspected and are on the whole exceedingly well kept. One of the most commendable features in .

Rural Districts for which I am Medical Officer of Health is the pride which bakers take in maintaining the strict cleanliness of their bakehouses.

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# VI. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A case of <u>Scarlet Fever</u> was notified at Hallaton in May the patient being kept at home.

In November a case of <u>Puerperal Fever</u> was reported, but the onset of the fever, which was diagnosed as Influenza, preceded the patient's confinement and it was not included in my returns. There were, I am advised, no subsequent symptoms suggesting puerperal origin. The case proved fatal and is included in the death returns as Puerperal Fever.

Two cases of <u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u> were notified and four cases proved fatal. These cases are classified as follows:-

			New C		Deaths.			
Age-Periods.	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	H.	F.	15.	F.	M.	F.	14.	F.
10 & under 15 yrs	-	1	-	-	1		-	-
15 " " 20 "	-	-		-	-	1	-	-
45 " " 55 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals:-	-	2	-	-	2	2	-	-

One of the fatal cases had not been previously notified.

The notifications received during each of the past five years were as follows:-

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total	Admit- ted to Hos.	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	-	2	-	-	1	3	1	-
Cerebro-spinal F.	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Encephalitis Lethargica.	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.	-	-	2	1	2	5		11
Other Tuberculous diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-		2

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Bacteriological examinations are conducted at the County Council's Laboratory in Leicester. The County Bacteriologist examined the following specimens during 1925:-

Sputa f	or Tubercle	e bacilli	3
Urine	11 11	"	1
" (g	eneral and	Bacteriological).	1
Sewage	and water a	nalyses	2
		Total:-	7

# Factories and Workshops.

With the exception of a small corset making industry established at Great Easton there are no factories or workshops save of course such of the latter as are common to all Rural Districts. The four bakehouses have all been inspected. No faults were found during the year and it has not been necessary to refer any matter to H. M. Inspector.

There are, in so far as I know, no outworkers in the District.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe, Nr. Leicester. May 15th, 1926.

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