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

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
https://wellcomecollection.org

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Hartismere Rural District

For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

EYE:

A. G. Roper, Printer, Church Street.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HARTISMERE.

GENTLEMEN,

The Annual Report of the Sanitary state of your district, which I have the honour of presenting to you, was last year entirely remodelled to bring it into unison with the recommendations contained in a Memorandum issued by the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board. The present report is practically uniform with that of last year except that such alterations and revisions have been made as are necessary to bring it up to date. It will be found to contain many things which are perfectly familiar to you all; but it is pointed out by Dr. Newsholme that "these reports are for the information of the 'Local Government' Board and of the County Council as well as of the Council of the district, and

that a statement of the local circumstances and a history of local sanitary questions which may seem superfluous for the latter may often be needed by the former bodies."

The district under your control is about 10 miles in length and breadth and comprises 31 parishes, varying in size at the last census from 113 to 961 inhabitants. The district is fairly level without being absolutely flat, ranging from 80 to 220 feet above sea level. The character of the soil is loamy and in most parts heavy, and the subsoil consists of beds of clay, and, in a few parishes, of sand and gravel resting on the chalk which is reached at a depth of from 80 to 120 feet. The rainfall is small, averaging 23 inches yearly, the average of England as a whole being 36 inches ; but owing to the nature of the soil and subsoil the rain is retained and the surface does not dry rapidly. A small stream, the Dove, formed by brooks rising in Westhorpe, Mendlesham, and Rishangles runs through the district and empties into the Waveney at Hoxne on the border of the district. The northern boundary of the district is formed by the river Waveney, which divides it from the county of Norfolk.

The only industry of the district is agriculture, and the whole of the inhabitants are either engaged in tilling the land, which is chiefly arable, or in trades and occupations necessary to the provision of the wants of those so engaged. There is no factory in the district, but milk and eggs are produced for the supply of London and other markets. The district contains an unusual percentage of aged people, due, I think, to the fact that the younger adults migrate to towns in search of employment—a fact which has a distinct bearing on the birth-rate of the district. As a consequence of this migration there is not a very excessive amount of unemployment, except perhaps

in winter when some agricultural operations are at a standstill; but taken as a whole the number of unemployed contrasts favourably with town districts.

House Accommodation.—The house accommodation of the district is probably sufficient, numerically—there being an average of 4¾ persons to each house—but there is a distinct lack of houses fitted for large families—and this fault is one difficult to remedy, inasmuch as the cost of building such houses is greater than can be justified from a commercial point of view, the rental which the poor can possibly pay not yielding an adequate return for the capital invested. The majority of cottages have but two bedrooms, and these in many cases without fire places, which is a serious fault in case of sickness; and whilst the size of the rooms is such that overcrowding as measured by cubic feet is not frequent, yet what I may characterise as moral overcrowding undoubtedly and frequently occurs.

The physical overcrowding, which alone is dealt with in the Public Health Act, has been from time to time reported by your officers and remedied by suitable action on the part of your Council to the extent of about 5 cases yearly; but the process of remedying this evil is necessarily difficult and slow, on account of the scarcity already mentioned of houses adapted to the needs of large families.

As a rule the houses are provided with gardens, so that there is sufficient air and sufficient space for the disposal of refuse; but there are numerous exceptions, notably in the larger villages where the houses are more or less adjacent to each other, forming streets; and in some instances where houses have been built on what was originally a piece of waste land by the roadside. These

latter are especially difficult to deal with as there is no space for suitable sanitary conveniences, except in close proximity to the houses.

The erection of new houses proceeds very slowly, but in all cases the local authority has caused them to be inspected, and has required them to be furnished before they are inhabited with a certificate of a suitable water supply under the provisions of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878. There are no bye-laws made in connection with this matter. The only action which has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act has been in connection with closing houses unfit for habitation ; this has been done in several cases in recent years, and from time to time cases arise in which such action is needed, or in which necessary repairs are carried out in order to obviate such action being taken under Part II. of this Act. Part I. does not apply to Rural Districts, but Part III. has, by the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, been made applicable to Rural Districts, and thus much greater powers are given to your Council than those you have hitherto possessed in dealing with the difficult problem of the Housing of the Working Classes.

Water Supply.—The water supply of the district is still in many instances not all that is desirable, but shows steady progress. As already mentioned, care is taken in the case of new houses to obtain a wholesome and sufficient supply—but in the case of old houses practically no action can be taken, as in most cases it is impracticable to provide a supply within the cost prescribed by the Public Health (Water) Act, 1875. There are numerous public wells provided and maintained by the District Council, and of these there are 33 dis-

tributed amongst the 31 parishes comprised in your district as follows :—

Bacton	2	Stuston	1
Brome	1	Thorndon	2
Burgate	1	Westhorpe	1
Cotton	2	Wetheringsett ..	3
Finningham ..	1	Wickham Skeith ..	2
Gislingham	2	Wortham	1
Mellis	3	Wyverstone	1
Mendlesham ..	3	Yaxley	3
Occold	2		—
Palgrave	1		33
Redlingfield	1		—

—This is the same number as in last year's report, one new public well having been provided in Yaxley and the public well at Rishangles has been closed, being found to be polluted.

The water supply of the district is derived from several sources :—

1. From ponds, or pits in the clay subsoil, which form the supply of many cottages and houses. These ponds are sometimes dependent on rain water for their supply, and sometimes are fed by springs from the clay. Many of the inhabitants prefer pond water to well water, especially for tea making, as the soft pond water, they say, brews better tea than the hard well water. These ponds are as a rule kept free from sewage contamination, but contain an abundance of vegetable organic matter, which gives the water a yellow colour, and water fleas and other animalculæ exist in these ponds in abundance. I have not, however, been able to trace any disease originating from drinking pond water, provided it was free from sewage contamination, except the frequent presence of the "ascaris lumbricoides" in children drinking such water.

2. From surface wells—10 to 30 feet in depth—which derive their supply from surface water percolating

through the soil, and yield a moderately hard water, but with great liability to serious contamination.

3. From deeper wells, from 30 to 100 feet in depth, usually supplied by springs at various depths and yielding a hard, and when suitably situated a fairly pure and safe supply. Many of this class of well have been made by the District Council and are maintained by them as public supplies.

4. From borings into the underlying chalk—only one of these exists in the district, viz., at the Kerrison School, Thorndon, in depth about 180 feet and yielding an inexhaustible supply of water, organically pure, but very hard and bringing up with it lime-salts in suspension. At the Kerrison School the whole supply after pumping passes through specially made spongy iron filters and all the suspended lime is removed.

All the well waters of the district are so hard as to be practically free from any plumbo-solvent action, and contamination of water with lead is unknown in this district. Many of the waters contain a perceptible amount of iron in solution, which forms a red deposit after the water has stood in vessels exposed to the air, and gives rise to doubt in the minds of those using the water as to its organic purity.

With regard to the work done in connection with water supplies during the past year, I have to report that I have made chemical analyses of 18 specimens of drinking water, of which 6 are of satisfactory quality; 6 may be characterised as of doubtful quality; whilst 6 were unfit for drinking or domestic uses. With regard to the two latter classes, the necessary steps have been taken to remedy the faults complained of.

During the year 1 pond and 3 wells have been cleansed, and 2 pumps repaired, which supply water to 11 houses.

The public wells in the district have been kept in order, 14 wells and pumps having been cleansed or repaired during the year.

One new public well has been provided during the year, and one public well, which was found to be polluted, has been closed.

Certificates under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, have been granted for 6 new houses during the year.

Milk Supply.—*Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885.*—The milk supply of the district is entirely in the hands of farmers, and no milk is imported; on the other hand milk is sent away from the district to London and other towns. All such dairies, &c., which come under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885, are registered. There are 9 premises thus registered at the present time, all of which have been regularly inspected and have been found to be fairly well kept. Any nuisances found to exist have been dealt with under the Public Health Acts. There are no bye-laws in existence for the management of these registered premises, your Council being of opinion that such bye-laws are unnecessary in this district. In one instance additional accommodation has been provided, and in another the ventilation has been improved on the recommendation of your officers.

In addition to these registered premises, milk is sold at many farm houses to workmen on the farm and to near neighbours. Milk shops, apart from dairies do not exist in the district, the milk being retailed directly by the farmer.

There is no special action taken to ascertain by inoculation or otherwise the existence or non-existence of tuberculosis in cattle.

Foods.—With regard to foods, there is no reason to believe that any foods of an unsound character are exposed for sale in the district, and the places in which foods are prepared, stored or exposed for sale are only subjected to the same systematic inspection as the other houses of the district, with the exception that the bakehouses are specially inspected; and their periodical cleansing and lime-washing secured. The supply of meat in the district is to a large extent from the adjacent towns—there being only three slaughter houses for cattle in the district—these are kept in a cleanly state. Samples of various foods, milk, &c., exposed for sale are from time to time taken by the Police, by direction of the East Suffolk County Council, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. No action has been taken during the past year under section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and no carcases nor parts of carcases have been condemned for tuberculosis.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The houses in your district are for the most part isolated from each other, and except in a few instances do not lend themselves to any systematic scheme of drainage. House drains are as a rule properly trapped and disconnected from sewers and cesspools; and in most instances each house has its individual drainage, carried usually to a cesspool situate at some distance from the house, with an overflow into adjacent ditches. Groups of three or four houses are also frequently dealt with in the same way—with a common cesspool and overflow; but there is nothing which can be called a system of drainage except in the parishes of Mendlesham and Palgrave, in both of which sewers with depositing tanks and overflow pipes have been constructed by your Council; and these are cleansed and maintained by the Sanitary Authority. The system seems sufficient for the wants of the district and is not generally productive

of nuisance, but requires constant supervision on the part of your Sanitary Inspector.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams in the district does not occur to any serious extent. The drains, as already described, and which do not usually convey solid excrementitious matter, empty themselves into ditches between the fields, which are frequently dry and allow the sewage to soak away into the soil and be absorbed by vegetation ere it reaches the stream.

Excrement Disposal is almost entirely by the midden system which are emptied by the occupiers at irregular intervals, and the time of the inspector is much occupied by periodical visits and notices to secure sufficiently frequent attention. Very few water closets exist, and these entirely at better-class houses and are almost invariably well kept by the occupiers. In some cottages, especially where the ground at the back of the house is limited, the pail system is in use, and requires the same constant supervision as the middens; and this remark also applies to the *House Refuse*, which is removed by the occupiers in the same uncertain manner. The ultimate disposal of the house refuse and of the contents of the middens is usually on the garden or the allotment with which many of the cottages are provided, or they are conveyed to the manure heap of the adjoining farm and there covered with farmyard manure and ultimately applied to the land.

Nuisance Removal and Systematic Inspection. —*Nuisances* are dealt with by the constant and systematic inspection of the district by the Sanitary Inspector—many are removed at his request, verbally; in others after report to your Council, a formal notice is served; and this rarely fails to produce a remedy, and only in one or two cases

each year are legal proceedings found to be required. In the more difficult cases in which the remedy is not obvious, or in which the owner or occupier disputes the necessity of complying with the Inspector's requirements; inspection is also made by the Medical Officer of Health, and in this way both Officers keep themselves constantly informed of the sanitary state of the district. Many of the nuisances reported and remedied are found to recur; in fact it appears that some occupiers never take any steps for the removal of refuse, or for the emptying of middens, or for unstopping blocked drains, until they are reminded of the omission by your Sanitary Officers. The extent and character of the work done during the year is thus summarised in the Sanitary Inspector's report, and this differs but little, either numerically or in the character of the matters dealt with from the reports of previous years :—

425 Notices have been given for sanitary improvements.
8 New Privies built.
14 Removed from objectionable situations.
87 Repaired and cleansed.
9 Converted into Pail Closets.
15 New Pail Closets built.
7 Houses provided with new drainage.
32 House Drains repaired and trapped.
2 New Urinals provided.
9 Cesspools filled up.
10 Dead Wells emptied and cleansed.
12 Foul Ditches cleansed.
22 Accumulations of manure removed.
3 Dust-bins cleansed.
18 Houses repaired.
54 Premises cleansed.
14 Cases of overcrowding abated.
4 Cases of swine and other animals improperly kept removed.
10 Houses fumigated and cleansed after Infectious Diseases.
4 Houses cleansed.
4 Cases Gipsies have been removed in consequence of the absence of sanitary conveniences.

The sewage tanks at Mendlesham and Palgrave have been cleansed periodically.

The sewage works in Palgrave, belonging to the Diss Urban Council, have been periodically inspected, and have been working satisfactorily.

Bye-Laws.—There are no bye-laws as to houses let in lodgings, offensive trades, etc., and there does not appear to be any immediate necessity for such bye-laws. There are but few houses let in lodgings, and the only offensive trade is that of a horse-slaughterer, which is carried on at a distance from any dwelling or high road and is not productive of nuisance.

Schools.—There are 27 public elementary schools in the district, of which 7 are provided by the County Council, 1 at Botesdale (Dyer's Charity) is endowed, and 19 are voluntary schools. Their sanitary condition is good, and the water supply is usually satisfactory. Their sanitary requirements are provided for by earth closets, which are systematically emptied and provided with dry earth. The arrangements for medical inspection of school children are in the hands of a special Medical Officer appointed by the County Council, and the disinfection of the schools after an outbreak of infectious disease is carried out by the Education Authority under the supervision of the School Medical Officer.

There is also a Reformatory School at Thorndon (the Kerrison School) for 110 boys. The school is provided with a plentiful and pure supply of water from the chalk which is reached at a depth of a little over 100 feet. This school has an outlying farm house attached to it which is used for isolation purposes in the event of the outbreak of any infectious disease.

Infectious Diseases (Tables III. and VII).—The method of dealing with such infectious diseases as are notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, is as follows:—On receipt of a notification from a medical man, the Medical Officer sends a notice to the Public Elementary School prohibiting the attendance of the child affected, and in the case of Smallpox, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, prohibiting the attendance of any member of the family at school until further notice is given by the Sanitary Authority, and a duplicate of this notice will in future be sent to the School Medical Officer. At the same time the Medical Officer of Health institutes specific enquiries, through the Sanitary Inspector, as to the origin of the outbreak, the means adopted to isolate the patient, the sanitary condition of the premises, the source of supply of water and milk, the attendance of members of the family at Sunday schools, &c., &c. The Inspector sends a request to the superintendents of Sunday schools thus indicated, asking for the family to be excluded, which had already been done in the case of the day school; and this request though not legally binding, I am glad to say, is invariably complied with. The Inspector is also instructed to take a sample of the drinking water for analysis in all cases of Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, and in other cases where there appears possibility of pollution. The reason for these enquiries being in the first instance conducted through the Inspector, is to avoid undue interference with patients under the care of other medical practitioners. The information thus gained is carefully considered by the Medical Officer of Health, and if circumstances seem to require it, a personal visit of inspection is made, and this is made in all cases where the outbreak threatens to assume the form of an epidemic. In cases notified by the householder, instead of

by a medical man, the Medical Officer of Health visits in order to secure a reliable diagnosis of the ailment. At the termination of the case, the house is fumigated with formaldehyde by the Sanitary Inspector, and the occupier is required to clean the house after fumigation, and when this has been accomplished, leave is given for the children to return to school. There is no isolation hospital in the district, and cases are isolated as far as is possible in their own homes.

The number of cases notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 (Table III.) was 13, and included :—

7 Cases of Scarlet Fever.
1 Case of Diphtheria.
1 Case of Enteric Fever.
4 Cases of Erysipelas.

The cases thus notified are fewer than in any year since the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, came into force. The results of the investigation made into these cases are shown in Table VII. There was no approach to anything like an epidemic of either of these diseases. The number of Infectious cases occurring in your district shows a satisfactory decrease—as is evidenced by the following analysis of the number of notifications received and cases ascertained by your Sanitary Officers.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Erysipelas.	Enteric (Typhoid) Fever.	Puerperal Fever.
Average of 5 years 1890-94	71·8	15·8	19·0	6·0	2·0
,, ,, 1895-99	41·8	7·4	23·2	1·6	1·6
,, ,, 1900-04	30·6	5·6	11·6	·8	·8
,, ,, 1905-09	28·0	3·4	8·8	·6	·2
Year 1910	7·0	1·0	4·0	1·0	—

Of the other infectious diseases which are not notifiable:—

Influenza prevailed to a considerable extent throughout the district during the early months of the year, and in the parishes of Wortham, Redlingfield, Thorndon, Wickham Skeith, Wetheringsett and Gislingham, necessitated the closure of the public Elementary Schools. Five deaths were attributed to this disease.

Measles and *Whooping Cough* were only slightly prevalent and caused no deaths.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.—The seven principal epidemic diseases, viz., small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever, and diarrhœa, caused only 1 death, being at the rate of ·09 per 1,000 population. These diseases have shown a very satisfactory decrease in this district during recent years (see Table VI.) The corresponding rate in rural districts in England and Wales in 1910 was ·74 per 1,000.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The only system of notification of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is that provided in the case of paupers under the Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908.

On receipt of a notification, printed instructions are sent advising disinfection and destruction of sputa, etc., and in case of death the house is fumigated with formaldehyde.

The number of cases notified during 1910 was 2.

There is no accommodation for such cases in infirmaries nor elsewhere except in their own homes.

Pulmonary tuberculosis has very considerably decreased in this district during the last 20 years, as was clearly shown by the tables and chart appended to my annual report for the year 1906.

There were 5 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from other tuberculous diseases in the district during

1910. These figures are considerably below the average of recent years.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The area of the district is 49,199 acres; the population at the census of 1901 was 11,509, and is estimated at the middle of the year 1910 as 11,014. The number of inhabited houses in 1901 was 2,739, giving an average number of 4·2 persons per house.

BIRTHS (Table I).—252 births were registered in your district during the year, being at the rate of 22·8 per 1,000 of the population, the rates in former years being :—

Average of 5 years	.. 1905-9	..	22·1
,, 5 ,,	.. 1900-4	..	23·2
,, 10 ,,	.. 1890-9	..	26·5
,, 10 ,,	.. 1880-9	..	31·9
,, 10 ,,	.. 1870-9	..	31·2

The marked diminution in the birth-rate is partly due to the fact that so many of the younger adults leave the district in search of work, but is also partly due to causes affecting the whole community, as evidenced by the reports of the Registrar General.

The birth-rate for rural districts in England and Wales amounted in 1910 to 25·0 per 1,000 population, that for your district being about 9 per cent. lower than that of similar districts.

DEATHS (Table I.)—After correcting the registered number of deaths by the addition of the deaths of residents registered in public institutions beyond the district, the number of deaths was 135, the death-rate being 12·2 per 1,000. The rates in former years were :—

Average of 5 years	.. 1905-9	..	13·7
,, 5 ,,	.. 1900-4	..	14·4
,, 10 ,,	.. 1890-9	..	16·2
,, 10 ,,	.. 1880-9	..	15·8
,, 10 ,,	.. 1870-9	..	18·0

The corresponding rate in country districts in England and Wales is reported by the Registrar General as being 13·6 per 1,000.

Table II. shows similar statistics as to births and deaths but divided into "localities," and the localities chosen for this purpose are the same as in former reports, and are the old registration districts, and are constituted thus :—

Botesdale Division.—Consisting of the parishes of Botesdale, Burgate, Gislingham, Mellis, Palgrave, Redgrave, Rickinghall Superior, and Wortham, containing in 1901, a population of 4,005.

Eye Division.—Consisting of the parishes of Braiseworth, Brome, Oakley, Occold, Redlingfield, Stoke Ash, Stuston, Thorndon, Thornham Magna and Parva, Thrandeston, and Yaxley, containing in 1901 a population of 3,158. The municipal borough of Eye is excluded, as it forms a separate Sanitary District.

Mendlesham Division.—Consisting of the parishes of Aspall, Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Mendlesham, Rishangles, Thwaite, Westhorpe, Wetheringsett-cum-Brockford, Wickham Skeith, and Wyverstone, containing in 1901 a population of 4,346.

The following table shows the comparative statistics of the three divisions :—

Divisions.	Birth-rate per 1,000 population.	Death-rate per 1,000 population.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births Registered.
Botesdale	22·0	12·0	107
Eye	21·5	11·6	46
Mendlesham ..	24·7	12·7	78

I attribute these variations to accidental circumstances, due to small numbers extended over one year only, rather than to any real difference in the sanitary conditions of the divisions.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Tables I. and V.)—The number of deaths under one year of age occurring in your district was 20, being at the rate of 79 per 1,000 births registered. This is decidedly below the average of the last 10 years. The corresponding rate in rural districts in England and Wales in 1909 was 96 per 1,000 births.

Of the 252 births registered in your district, 235 were legitimate, and amongst these the deaths under one year were 19, being at the rate of 80 per 1,000 births, whilst 17 were illegitimate, and amongst them 1 died under one year, being at the rate of 59 per 1,000 births.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted in the district.

CLOSING OF PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—The following Public Elementary Schools have been closed during the year on account of the presence of Infectious Diseases, viz. :—

WORTHAM LING SCHOOL from January 28th to February 7th, on account of Influenza. Closed by Order of School Medical Officer.

REDLINGFIELD SCHOOL for one week in February, on account of Influenza. Closed by Managers.

THORNDON SCHOOL from February 10th to 21st, on account of Influenza. Closed by order of School Medical Officer.

WICKHAM SKEITH SCHOOL from March 3rd to 14th, on account of Influenza. Closed by Order of School Medical Officer.

WETHERINGSETT SCHOOL from March 2nd to 14th, on account of Influenza. Closed by order of School Medical Officer.

GISLINGHAM SCHOOL from March 8th to 21st, on account of Influenza. Closed by order of School Medical Officer.

In all cases the Schools were fumigated with formaldehyde and cleaned before being re-opened.

Arrangements have been made between the School Medical Officer of the East Suffolk County Council and the Medical Officer of Health for the interchange of information concerning Infectious Diseases in Schools, and for promoting harmonious working and prevention of overlapping in their respective duties.

ANTHRAX.—One case of suspected anthrax amongst cattle was reported during the year.

PLAGUE.—This subject has been on several occasions under the consideration of your Council, and warning notices urging the destruction of rats have been issued in considerable numbers. Many landowners and farmers have co-operated in this work, and many rats have been destroyed, though this work is by no means complete. Your Medical Officer of Health has had two interviews with Dr. Bulstrode, one of the Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board, and also attended a Conference at Ipswich with the Public Health Committee of the East Suffolk County Council. Seven rats from various parts of the district were sent to the Local Government Board for bacteriological examination, and in all cases yielded negative results. Since the end of the year many rats have been sent to the Local Government Board Laboratory at Ipswich for examination, and thus should any spread to this district of Plague occur amongst rats it can hardly fail of early detection. In the opinion of those most competent to judge, the danger of the introduction and spread of Plague in England is a very real one, and the precautionary measures taken should be supplemented by the destruction of as many rats as is possible.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS have been taken in three cases during the year—two being cases of overcrowding taken under the Public Health Act, 1875, and one a case of allowing a new house to be inhabited without a certificate

that a proper supply of water for drinking and domestic uses had been obtained under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878. In each case the prosecution was successful and a fine imposed.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING, &C., ACT, 1909.—A house to house inspection was commenced in November. Up to the end of the year 250 houses have been visited, and in 30 cases notices were served under the provisions of this Act. These notices had not expired by the end of the year, so that any further report of action taken must be deferred.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—The Register of Factories and Workshops contains this year 129 entries, which may be classified as follows :—

Factories—20	Steam & Wind Mills for grinding corn, &c.	19
	Sewage Farm	1
	Smiths	33
Workshops—109	Carpenters	7
	Wheelwrights	7
	Wheelwrights and Carpenters ...	6
	Builders	6
	Builders and Wheelwrights	3
	Plumbers and Painters	3
	Coachbuilders	3
	Brickmaker	1
	Harness Makers	4
	Dressmakers	6
	Bootmakers...	4
	Tailor	1
	Basket Makers	2
	Brushmaker	1
	Cycle Repairers	3
	Retail Bakehouses	19
		129

There is no underground bakehouse in the district, nor are there any places registered as workplaces.

These workshops have been regularly inspected, 209 visits having been made during 1910. They are satisfactorily kept, and all the bakehouses have been cleansed and lime-washed. Three workshops have been cleansed and repaired, and the following nuisances, under the Public Health Acts, have been dealt with, viz. :—

2 Accumulations of Manure.
2 Premises in an uncleanly state.

There have been no matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories, except 1 instance of failure to exhibit the Abstract of the Factory Act.

Homework does not appear to exist in the district, hence there is no report to be made under this heading.

Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, is not in force in the district.

Almost all the workshops are small, and only employ 2 or 3 workers, and the sanitary arrangements required is left to the discretion of the Sanitary Officers—all the circumstances of the case being taken into consideration. There are no workshops which employ workers of both sexes, except in some retail bakehouses where the wife or daughter of the proprietor superintends or assists in the making of bread.

The duties of the Inspector of Nuisances have, in my opinion, been satisfactorily carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDGAR G. BARNES, M.D., Lond.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Eye, February 15th, 1911.

TABLES

Appended to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1910.

TABLE I. HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-residents registerd in Public Instituns in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutns beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.						
		Number	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900.	11620	260	22·3	36	138	154	13·2	—	—	18	171	14·7
1901.	11509	264	22·9	22	83	152	13·2	—	—	6	158	13·7
1902.	11454	258	22·5	31	120	158	13·7	—	—	13	171	14·9
1903.	11399	304	26·6	21	69	164	14·3	—	—	14	178	15·6
1904.	11344	246	21·6	24	97	135	11·9	—	—	12	147	12·9
1905.	11289	280	24·8	22	78	142	12·5	—	—	12	154	13·6
1906.	11234	242	21·5	29	119	146	12·9	—	—	15	161	14·3
1907.	11179	233	20·8	15	64	131	11·7	—	—	12	143	12·7
1908.	11124	245	22·1	10	40	128	11·5	—	—	18	146	13·1
1909.	11069	240	21·6	20	83	148	13·3	—	—	18	166	14·9
Averages for years 1900-1909	11322	257	22·6	23	89	145	12·8	—	—	13	159	14·0
1910.	11014	252	22·8	20	79	122	11·0	—	—	13	135	12·2

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 49,199.

Total population at all ages, 11,509.
Number of inhabited houses, 2,739.
Average number of persons per house, 4·2.
} At Census of 1901.

The Public Institutions taken into account in these tables are the Hartismere Union Workhouse, and the East Suffolk Hospital, both situated outside the district.

TABLE II. **HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.**

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1910 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	1. HARTISMERE R.D.				2. BOTESDALE DIVISION.				3. EYE DIVISION.				4. MENDLESHAM DIVISION.			
Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*
1900	11620	260	171	36	4031	90	65	10	3183	77	35	8	4406	93	71	18
1901	11509	264	158	22	4005	96	59	11	3158	69	45	5	4346	99	54	6
1902	11454	258	171	31	3985	87	54	8	3143	72	47	7	4326	99	70	16
1903	11399	304	178	21	3965	122	65	10	3128	79	46	2	4306	103	67	9
1904	11344	246	147	24	3945	81	53	12	3113	64	45	5	4286	101	49	7
1905	11289	280	154	22	3925	87	48	6	3098	84	46	8	4266	109	60	8
1906	11234	242	161	29	3905	83	62	7	3083	64	42	11	4246	95	57	11
1907	11179	233	143	15	3885	88	52	3	3068	60	42	7	4226	85	49	5
1908	11124	245	146	10	3365	87	56	5	3053	73	43	3	4206	85	47	2
1909	11069	240	166	20	3845	83	65	7	3036	58	41	8	4186	99	62	5
Averages of Years 1900 to 1909	11322	257	159	23	3935	90	58	7	3106	70	43	6	4280	96	56	8
1910	11014	252	135	20	3825	84	46	9	3023	65	35	3	4166	103	54	8

Notes.—(*a*) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(*b*) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this Table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(*c*) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(*d*) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12 respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1910.

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1	2	3
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	Botesdale Division.	Eye Division.	Mendlesham Division.
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) .	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	3	—
Scarlet fever	7	—	3	3	1	—	—	1	2	4
Typhus fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Relapsing fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	—	3	5	1	4	—	3	6	4

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District.

TABLE IV. HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all Ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Botesdale Division.	Eye Division.	Mendlesham Division.	
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever — Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever — Enteric	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever — Other continued	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influenza	5	1	—	—	1	—	3	3	2	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteritis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	1	3	—
Other tubercular diseases	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	16	—	—	—	—	8	8	11	4	1	—
Bronchitis	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	3	2	—
Pneumonia	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—
Pleurisy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism / Cirrhosis of liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Venereal diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—
Heart diseases	14	—	—	—	—	4	10	3	1	10	—
Accidents	5	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	4	—
Suicides	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other causes	73	13	—	—	1	10	49	24	19	30	—
All causes	135	20	1	2	4	27	81	46	35	54	—

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

EDGAR G. BARNES, M.D., Lon., *Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE V. HARTISMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1910.

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

	CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes	Certified	5	1	1	1	8	...	3	1	1	...	2	...	1	...	2	1	19
	Uncertified	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria : including Membraneous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	4	...	1	1	6	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes.	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
	Meningitis (*not Tuberculous*)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
	Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other causes	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
		6	1	1	1	9	...	3	1	1	...	2	...	1	...	2	1	20

Population (estimated to middle of 1910), 11,014. Births in the year: legitimate, 235; illegitimate, 17.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 19; of illegitimate infants, 1.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 135.

TABLE VI.

HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Table showing the Number of DEATHS from each of the 7 Principal EPIDEMIC DISEASES for the year 1910, compared with the averages of the five years 1905-9, the five years 1900-04, the ten years 1890-99, the ten years 1880-89, and the ten years 1870-79.

Disease.	1910	Average of 5 years 1905-09.	Average of 5 years 1900-04.	Average of 10 years 1890-99.	Average of 10 years, 1880-89.	Average of 10 years, 1870-79.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	·4
Measles	—	1·2	—	1·2	1·7	2·1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1·0	2·5	3·5
Diphtheria	—	·6	1·6	1·4	3·2	1·7
Whooping Cough	—	1·6	1·4	3·6	4·0	5·8
Fever	—	·2	·2	1·1	1·6	4·3
Diarrhœa	1·0	1·0	1·6	3·7	3·8	5·7
Totals ...	1·0	4·6	4·8	12·0	16·8	23·5

TABLE VII. HARTISMERE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Table showing particulars of *Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases* investigated during the year 1910.

Date.	Disease.	Locality.	Origin of Outbreak, Sanitary Defects, &c.	Houses affected.	Persons attacked.	Deaths.
January	Scarlet Fever	Mendlesham	Continuation of last year's outbreak	1	3	—
,,	,,	Thorndon	Ditto	2	2	—
,,	,,	Bacton	Origin from School Attendance in adjacent District ...	1	1	—
July	,,	Gislingham	The disease occurred in a house to which three London Holiday Fund Children had come, five days before the outbreak. No evidence could be obtained that these children had either suffered from or been in contact with Scarlet Fever	1	1	—
				5	7	—
September	Enteric Fever	Occold	Boy was in Yarmouth about 14 days prior to attack and ate ice creams there, which his sister also ate and remained well. The Medical Officer of Health for Yarmouth reports there was no Enteric Fever there. Water supply from pond which contained organic matter of vegetable origin, but no evidence of sewage contamination ...	1	1	—
October	Diphtheria	Botesdale	No sanitary defects found on premises, but sufferer had been engaged in the course of his business on some very offensive work connected with a water closet ...	1	1	—

TABLE VIII. FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK, 1910.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	0	0	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	209	31	0
Workplaces	0	0	0
Homeworkers' Premises	0	0	0
Total	209	31	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—

Want of Cleanliness	31 found,	27 remedied.
Want of Ventilation	0 ,,	0 ,,
Overcrowding	0 ,,	0 ,,
Total	31 ,,	27 ,,

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Matters Notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—

Failure to Affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	1	
Underground Bakehouse	0	
Homework	0	

Workshops on Register at end of 1910:—

Factories—Steam Mills	19	20
Sewage Farm	1	
Workshops—Smiths	33	109
Builders, Carpenters, Painters, &c.	32	
Coachbuilders and Cycle Repairers	6	
Harness Makers	4	
Brick Maker	1	
Basket Makers and Brush Makers	3	
Dressmakers, Tailors, Bootmakers	11	
Retail Bakehouses	19	
Total		129