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REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
WITH
TABULAR RETURNS OF MORTALITY, &c.,
DURING THE YEAR 1904,

BY
T. CUNNINGHAM PENFOLD,

M.B., C.M., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT,
1904.

Hexham:
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1905.

PAROCHIAL COMMITTEES.

At a Meeting of the Hexham Rural District Council, held on the 8th day of January, 1895, it was resolved:—

“That the Parish Council, where there is one, and the Parish Committee, where there is no Parish Council, with the addition in both cases of the District Councillor, or Councillors, for the Contributory Place, be the Parochial Committee.”

The following Townships have Parish Councils:—

<i>Acomb.</i>	<i>Hexham Low Quarter.</i>	<i>Prudhoe Castle.</i>
<i>Allendale.</i>	<i>Horsley.</i>	<i>Sandhoe.</i>
<i>Broomley.</i>	<i>Humshaugh.</i>	<i>Shotley Low Quarter.</i>
<i>Chollerton.</i>	<i>Mickley.</i>	<i>Simonburn.</i>
<i>Corbridge.</i>	<i>Newbrough.</i>	<i>Slaley.</i>
<i>Eltringham.</i>	<i>Ovingham.</i>	<i>Wall.</i>
<i>Haydon.</i>	<i>Ovington.</i>	<i>Warden.</i>
<i>Hedley.</i>	<i>Prudhoe.</i>	<i>Wylam.</i>

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
TO THE
HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
FOR THE YEAR 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report for 1904, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board. In their memorandum recently issued to Medical Officers of Health, the Board ask for information on the following points :

- 1.—Physical features and general character of the District.
- 2.—House accommodation, especially for the working classes ; its adequacy and fitness for habitation ; sufficiency of open space about houses, and cleanliness of surroundings ; supervision over erection of new houses.
- 3.—Sewerage and Drainage :—Its sufficiency in all parts of the District ; condition of sewers and house drains ; method or methods of disposal of sewage ; localities where improvements are needed.
- 4.—Excrement disposal :—System in vogue ; defects, if any.
- 5.—Removal and disposal of house refuse :—Whether by public scavenger or occupiers ; frequency and method.
- 6.—Water Supply of the District or its several parts ; its source (from public service or otherwise) ; nature (river water, well water, upland surface water, etc.) ; sufficiency, wholesomeness, and freedom (by special treatment or otherwise) from risks of pollution.
- 7.—Places over which the Council have supervision—e.g., lodging houses, slaughter houses, dairies, cowsheds and milk-shops, bake houses, factories and workshops and offensive trades.

TABLE I.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.**Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

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 registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belong- ing to the District.	
		Num- ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.					Num- ber.	Rate. *
				Num- ber.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Num- ber.	Rate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894 ...	27,200	758	27.5	96	126.64	368	13.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1895 ...	27,266	743	27.7	87	117.09	397	14.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1896 ...	27,331	737	26.9	73	99	389	14.2	...	.....	.....	...	...
1897 ...	27,395	786	27.2	98	124.68	402	14.6	...	.....	.....	...	...
1898 ...	27,460	674	24.5	102	151.33	441	15.1	...	.....	.....	...	...
1899 ...	29,524	739	26.8	111	150.20	482	17.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1900 ...	27,589	736	26.6	118	160.32	447	16.2	...	.....	.....	...	...
1901 ...	27,638	715	25.8	120	167.83	431	15.5	...	.....	.....	...	...
1902 ...	27,702	780	28.2	73	93.58	419	15.1	...	.....	.....	...	...
1903 ...	27,762	691	24.8	89	128.65	455	16.3	1	.....	12	467	16.8
Averages for years 1894—1903	27,486	735	26.6	96	131.93	423	15.2	1	.....	.....	...	...
1904 ...	27,822	737	26.4	110	149.2	466	16.7	1	Nil.	5	471	16.9

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

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—200,700.339 Acres.

Total population at all ages, 27,638
 Number of inhabited houses, 7,141
 Average number of persons per house, 4 } At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Nil.	Royal Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne Northumberland County Asylum, Morpeth Union Workhouse, Hexham	Nil.
Is the Union Workhouse within the District ? No.		

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

Names of Localities.	Allendale Sub-District.				Bywell Sub-District.				Chollerton Sub-District.				Hexham Sub-District.			
	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.
1894 ...	4985	125	74	10	12452	381	186	55	5455	158	84	19	4308	94	54	12
1895 ...	4955	107	82	12	12553	400	200	56	5445	144	81	12	4313	93	34	7
1896 ...	4925	104	89	8	12654	403	169	49	5435	136	72	9	4317	94	59	7
1897 ...	4895	114	91	12	12755	440	181	66	5425	141	74	14	4320	91	56	6
1898 ...	4865	103	87	13	12856	380	209	66	5415	105	81	19	4324	86	64	5
1899 ...	4836	132	93	22	12957	385	240	69	5405	126	74	10	4326	96	57	8
1900 ...	4807	123	88	15	13058	411	234	81	5396	127	67	15	4328	75	58	7
1901 ...	4778	101	79	15	13159	408	214	80	5387	119	67	14	4314	87	71	13
1902 ...	4778	111	85	9	13221	444	212	49	5380	122	57	6	4323	103	65	9
1903 ...	4778	105	71	6	13279	390	263	63	5373	99	71	10	4332	97	62	10
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903.	4860	112	83	12	12894	404	210	63	5411	127	72	12	4320	91	58	8
1904 ...	4778	106	78	8	13319	405	240	79	5383	134	74	12	4342	92	74	11

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.
Name of District.—Hexham Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases Removed in each Locality.				No. of Cases Removed to Hospital in each Locality.			
	At all Ages	At Ages.—Years.						ALLEDALE Sub-district.	BYWELL Sub-district.	CHOLLERTON Sub-district.	HEXHAM Sub-district.	ALLEDALE Sub-district.	BYWELL Sub-district.	CHOLLERTON Sub-district.	HEXHAM Sub-district.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & up-ward								
Small-pox	13	.....	1	1	.....	9	2	8	1	1	4	.....	7	1	4
Diphtheria	98	.....	16	57	14	11	.....	87	1	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
Membranous Croup	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Erysipelas	40	1	.....	2	7	22	8	32	1	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	287	7	78	139	36	27	.....	198	31	30	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever	7	.....	.....	1	4	2	.....	1	1	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Continued Fever	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Fever	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Chicken Pox	39	2	15	21	1	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	19	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals.....	487	10	110	223	62	72	10	34	349	37	67	.....	7	1	4

* Notifiable for three months only. When Small-pox was prevalent.

Isolation Hospital—Edgewell, Prudhoe.

TABLE IV.

*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.**Name of District—Hexham Rural.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoining 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 whether of Residents or "Non-residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	
Small-pox ...	1						1		1			1
Measles ...	2		2					1			1	
Scarlet fever ...	13		3	7	3				10	1	2	
Whooping Cough ...	13	6	5	2				4	7	2		
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	15		6	9				1	14			
Croup ...	2		2						2			
Epidemic influenza ...	4					3	1	1	2		1	
Diarrhoea ...	26	21	4			1		2	21	2	1	
Enteritis ...	1	1							1			
Erysipelas ...	1					1				1		
Other septic diseases ...	1					1			1			
Phthisis ...	46			2	12	28	4	8	22	10	6	
Other tubercular diseases ...	39	19	8	5	2	5		3	30		6	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	17					6	11	4	6	1	6	
Bronchitis ...	15	3				2	10	3	5	4	3	
Pneumonia ...	23	5	3	1		7	5	4	13	4	2	
Pleurisy ...	2					1	1			2		
Alcoholism ...						3	1		2	1	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	4											
Premature birth ...	8	8						3	4		1	
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	3				1	2			3			
Heart diseases ...	61				7	21	33	14	19	13	15	
Accidents ...	12		1	1	3	6	1	1	4	5	2	
Suicides ...	1					1					1	
Apoplexy ...	20					5	15	4	7	4	5	
Senile decay ...	37						37	10	13	7	7	
Nephritis ...	13			2	1	8	2	2	6	3	2	
Debility from birth ...	28	28							19	4	5	
Convulsions ...	20	15	5					1	13	5	1	
All other causes ...	38	2	3	1	4	12	16	9	16	5	8	
All causes ...	466	110	42	30	33	112	139	75	241	74	76	1

1904.

PLANS APPROVED OF AT THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS.

12th January.

CHOLLERTON.—Plans of alterations to two cottages, in Barrasford Village, for His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, per Mr. Temperley, Estate Office, Alnwick, were submitted and approved.

ACOMB.—Plans of two houses in flats, and two cottages in Main Street, for Mrs. Green, Westfield Terrace, Hexham, were submitted and approved.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of alterations and additions to two cottages, in Princes Street, for Mr. Middlemiss, West Terrace, Corbridge, were submitted and approved.

9th February.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of additions and alterations to a house, in Front Street, for Mr. Wood, Bridge End, Corbridge, were submitted and approved.

8th March.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, for Mr. Constable, 5, Jackson Street, North Shields; and plans of additions and alterations to a cottage, at Painshawfield Farm, Stocksfield, for Miss Wilkinson, Painshawfield, were submitted and approved.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of a byre, at High Field Farm, Catton, for Mr. Dinning; and plans of stables and harness room, at Far Houses Road, Allendale, for Mr. Bell, Heatherlea, Allendale Town, were submitted and approved.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of bath-room and w.c., at the East End, Corbridge, for Miss Weddle, East End, Corbridge; and plans of a villa, cottage, and stable, at the Tyne Valley Building Estate, Corbridge, for Miss Pears, 17, Leazes Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne, per Messrs. Dixon, Architects, St. John's Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

HAYDON.—Plans of alterations to a urinal, at the Railway Hotel, Church Street, Haydon Bridge, for W. B. Reid & Co., Brewers, &c., Grey Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

BROOMHAUGH.—Plans of converting a stable into a cottage, at Underwood, for J. D. Scott, Esq., Underwood, Broomhaugh, were submitted and approved.

MICKLEY.—Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Road, Stocksfield, for Mr. T. G. Usher, 44, Leazes Park Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and plans of thirty houses, at sites near Beaumont Wood, Mickley, for the West Wylam and Prudhoe Co-Op. Society, Ltd., were submitted and approved.

5th April.

HAYDON.—Plans of additions and alterations to 2 cottages, at Altonside, Haydon Bridge, for the representative of the late J. E. Rogerson, were submitted and approved.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of additions to a house, at Quarry House Farm, Allendale Town, for Mrs. Lee, Lipwood House, near Haydon Bridge, were submitted and approved.

MICKLEY.—Plans of a house at Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. Smiles, Mount Pleasant, were submitted and approved.

WYLAM.—Plans of a villa, at the Wylam Wood Estate, S. Wylam, for Mr. Brough, per Mr. Strachan, Builder, S. Wylam, were submitted and approved.

WHITTINGTON.—Plans of additions and alterations to an inn, at Main Street, Great Whittington, for Mr. J. Robson, Queen's Head; and plans of a waggon house, stable, and out-offices, at Whittington, for Mr. Beattie, builder, were submitted and approved.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of additions and alterations to a farm house, at Temperley Grange, Corbridge, for Mr. Ridley, Mount Pleasant; and plans of a stable, at the Black Bull, Corbridge, for Mr. Lumley, Brewer, Ovington-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

HUMSHAUGH.—Plans of additions to a Wesleyan Chapel, at the West End, Humshaugh, for the Chapel Trustees, per Rutherford and Armstrong, Builders, Hexham, were submitted and approved.

3rd May.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Cowen, Painshawfield; and plans of a semi-villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, for Mr. J. Brown, Rose Cottage, were submitted and approved.

NEWBROUGH.—Plans of alterations and additions to a Joiner's shop and cottages, at the Main Road, Newbrough, for T. W. Benson, Esq., Allerswash, Fourstones, were submitted and approved.

MICKLEY.—Plans of twenty cottages, at the Square, for the Mickley Coal Co., were submitted and approved.

SHOTLEY.—Plans for re-building a farm house, at Minster-acres, for the Exors. of the late —. Silvertop, were submitted and approved.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of four cottages in flats, at the Main Road, The Bank, Prudhoe, for Mr. R. Lowdon, 223, W. Wylam; and plans of a social club, at The Bank, Prudhoe, for the Club Members, were submitted and approved.

OVINGHAM.—Plans of two houses, at Castle View, East End, Ovingham, for Messrs. Forster and Gemmell, were submitted and approved.

31st May.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Duncan, 40, Green Street, South Shields; and plans of two semi-villas, at the Painshawfield Estate, for Mr. Fairress, Kimberley House, Stocksfield, were submitted and approved.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans for converting existing buildings into three cottages, at Eastfield, Corbridge, for J. H. Straker, Esq., Howden Dene, Corbridge; and plans of a villa, cottage, stables, &c., at Leazes Lane, Corbridge, for Miss Thompson, Farlam Hall, Brampton, were submitted and approved.

WYLAM.—Plans of a laundry, at site near Holeyn Hall, for the Hon. C. A. Parsons, were submitted and approved.

28th June.

SHOTLEY.—Plans of additions and alterations to a farm house, at Durham Field, for W. & R. Taylor, were submitted and approved.

OVINGTON.—Plans of a cottage, at the Lodge Farm, Ovington, for T. H. Archer-Hinde, Esq., were submitted and approved.

SIMONBURN.—Plans of additions to a farm house, at the Hall Barns, Simonburn, for the Rev. J. Allgood, Nunwick, Wark, were submitted and approved.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of two houses, at Ridley Mill, Stocksfield, for Mrs. Wallis, Old Ridley, were submitted and approved.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of a shop, house, and two houses, at the Brick House, The Bank, Prudhoe, for Mr. Wilkinson, Edgewell Colliery; plans of a motor house, workshop, and harness room, at The Hall, for Col. Swan, Esq., The Hall; also, plans of additions and alterations to a gardener's lodge, for Col. Swan, Esq., were submitted and approved.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of two w.c.'s, at Wesley Terrace, Allendale Town, for the Trustees of the Wesleyan Chapel, were submitted and approved.

CORBRIDGE.—Plans of a bath room and w.c., at Middle Street, for Mr. Pearson; and plans of a stable and pig-house, at the Aydon Road, Corbridge, for Mr. Bowman, were submitted and approved.

26th July.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of two houses in flats, at the Main Road, East End, for Mr. Turnbull, Low Prudhoe; plans of a house and stable, at the Main Road, East End, for Mr. Spence, West Wylam; and plans of additions and alterations to a woodman's cottage, at The Hall, for Col. Swan, Esq., were submitted and approved.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of a Baptist Chapel, at Painshawfield, Stocksfield, for the Chapel Trustees, per W. Dixon & Son, Architects, St. John's Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne; and plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, for Mr. T. Davidson, Dispensary Lane, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

CHOLLERTON.—Plans for converting a joiner's shop into a cottage, at The Inn, Barrasford, for His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, per Mr. Temperley, Estate Office, Alnwick, were submitted and approved.

23rd August.

HAYDON.—Plans of a gas-holder, at a site in grass field, at the east end of California Gardens, for the Gas Co., Haydon Bridge, were submitted and approved.

SANDHOE.—Plans of two cottages, at Fern Hill Farm, for Mr. Cuthbert, Beaufront Castle, Hexham, were submitted and approved.

NEWBROUGH.—Plans of additions and alterations to a cottage, at The Hall, Newbrough, for W. J. Benson, Esq., were submitted and approved.

20th September.

HALTON.—Plans of re-building a cottage, at Halton Castle, near Corbridge, for Sir E. W. Blackett, Bart., Matfen, were submitted and approved.

WYLAM.—Plans of additions and alterations to a house, at Rushmere, S. Wylam, for Mr. Waller, were submitted and approved.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of a stable, coach-house, and byre, at Painshawfield, near Stocksfield, for Mr. Duncan, 10, Green St., South Shields; and plans of additions and alterations to a farm house, at Roaches Foot, near Stocksfield, for Mr. Gilhespie, were submitted and approved.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of a farm house, at High Wooley, for Mr. T. Henderson; plans of a Temperance Hall, at Leadgate, Allendale Town, for the managers; and plans of a byre at Chapel House, Keenley, for Mrs. Lee, Lipwood House, Haydon Bridge, were submitted and approved.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of a house, at the Co-Op. premises, St. Helen's Street, for the Co-Op. Society, Ltd; and plans of additions and alterations to a house, at Eales Flat, for Mr. Jack, per W. Dixon & Son, Architects, Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

PRUDHOE.—Plans of four houses, at Draw Back, Prudhoe, for Mr. Atkinson, Gateshead-on-Tyne, per Mr. R. Wardle, junr., Architect, Prudhoe, were submitted and approved.

18th October.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of additions and alterations to a blacksmith's premises, at the Main Road, Stocksfield-on-Tyne, for W. B. Beaumont, Esq., Bywell Hall, Stocksfield, were submitted and approved.

WYLAM.—Plans of two semi-villas, at the Wylam Wood Estate, S. Wylam, for Mr. Strachan, builder, S. Wylam, were submitted and approved.

15th November.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of two houses, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Simpson, were submitted and approved.

ALLENDALE.—Plans of a byre, at Harlow Bower, Keenley, for Mr. Shield, Burnlaw, Keenley, were submitted and approved.

WYLAM.—Plans for re-building the Ship Inn, Main Street, N. Wylam, for Col. Blackett, were submitted and approved.

13th December.

ALLENDALE.—Plans for converting a school into a dwelling house, at Lonkley Road, Allendale Town, for Mr. J. Wilson, and others, Gateshead-on-Tyne; plans of additions to an inn at Catton, also at the Path Head Inn, Allendale Town, for R. Deuchar & Co., Brewers, &c., Newcastle-on-Tyne, were submitted and approved.

BROOMLEY.—Plans of a stable and coach-house, at Scar Crag, Painshawfield, Stocksfield, for Mr. Weigheil, were submitted and approved.

ACOMB.—Plans of alterations to three cottages, at West Oakwood, Hexham, for C. W. C. Henderson, Esq., The Riding, were submitted and approved.

NUISANCES, &c.

The following Notices have been issued to Owners and Occupiers, during the Year, by the Sanitary Inspector :—

To Provide proper drainage to premises	19
„ Open out and relay choked drains	15
„ Trap inlets to drains and sewers	7
„ Trap waste water pipes	5
„ Cement, pave, and repair defective yard surfaces ...	15
„ Cleanse, cement, and drain urinals	9
„ Relay floors, and drain stables, byres, and piggeries ...	13
„ Properly cleanse cesspits and open channels	19
„ Disconnect rain-water down pipes from drains ...	2
„ Cease depositing liquid matter into ashpits	33
„ Repair manholes	3
„ Provide manure pits to premises	4
„ Remedy dampness in dwelling houses	21
„ Repair roofs of houses	11
„ Provide ventilation to drains	6
„ Cleanse piggeries, byres, stables, &c.	17
„ Provide W.C., E.C., or privy accommodation	5
„ Cease depositing ashes and other refuse on or by the side of public roads	21
„ Remove offensive slaughter house refuse from premises	19
„ Repair delapidated privies and ashpits	14
„ Cement floors and walls of ashpits and privies ...	10
„ Properly ventilate ashpits and privies	3
„ Thoroughly cleanse and limewash walls of outoffices ...	41
„ Ventilate main sewers	3
„ Provide and fix rain-water spouting to dwelling houses	25
„ Remove outlets of drains from the side of public roads ...	3
„ Properly cleanse underground sinks	17
„ Connect drains to main sewers	11
„ Remove offensive accumulation of refuse from premises	36
„ Open out drains of new premises for inspection ...	2
„ Repair defective water cisterns	3
„ Disconnect waste water pipes from drainage	5
„ Protect water supply	5
„ Fix inlets to drains on the outside of buildings ...	3
„ Cleanse manure pits	27
„ Supply urinals with water for flushing purposes ...	2
„ Cease depositing slop-water on yard and private road premises	17
„ Extend outlets of drains	6
„ Flush main sewers	5
„ Cease depositing ashpit refuse too near dwelling houses	35

To Repair defective water fittings	...	...	...	2
„ Remove ashpits and privies adjoining dwelling houses				1
„ Lime-wash walls, &c., of premises	...	...	...	25
„ Cleanse cesspools near dwellings	...	...	...	37
„ Remove overflow pipe from cesspools		...	...	1
„ Cleanse open sewers	...	...	...	7
„ Properly cleanse public watering places		...	...	1
„ Cleanse rain-water spouts	...	...	...	4
„ Repair sewer outlets	...	...	...	1
Houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	1
Cases of disinfectants given out	...	...	...	541
Schools, dwelling houses, bedding, furniture, &c., disinfected and fumigated	...	...	...	275
Drains tested by smoke test and otherwise		...	...	93
Drains found defective	...	...	...	17

Part of Main Sewers have been relaid and extended at Allendale, Prudhoe, Corbridge, and Mickley.

DAIRIES.

There are 74 registered Dairies in the Union, five more than last year's number.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been visited at various times by the Sanitary Inspector, and found generally to be kept in a clean state. Any improvements of a sanitary nature were at once carried out.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

During the year, and over the whole district, there have been 33 deaths which have not been registered in the usual way. On 13 of these inquests were held, whilst on the remaining 20 this was not considered necessary.

Of the 13 inquests held,

- 5 were in the Chollerton Sub-district ;
- 1 in the Allendale Sub-district ;
- 5 in the Bywell Sub-district ;
- 2 in the Hexham Sub-district.

The causes of death were as follows :—Scarlet fever, 1 ; Scalds, 1 ; Burns, 3 ; Heart disease, 7 ; Convulsions, 5 ; Drowning, 3 ; Falls of stone in pit and quarry, 2 ; Bicycle Accident, 1 ; Exposure, 2 ; Railway accident, 1 ; Cut throat, 1 ; Gastric catarrh, 1 ; Hæmorrhage, 1 ; Influenza, 1 ; Marasmus, 1 ; Tabes Mesenterica, 1 ; Senile decay, 1.

The Local Government Board in their memorandum lately issued to Medical Officers of Health, ask for information with regard to the physical characteristics of the district, and I am fortunate in being able to give the following lucid and most instructive account of the physical features of the Hexham Rural District, from the pen of an expert, Professor Lebour, M.A., M.Sc., who has made this very district the subject of long continued and laborious scientific investigation.

I take the opportunity of thanking Professor Lebour for his great kindness to the District Council, and myself, in this matter.

NOTES

ON

Physical Features of the District,

BY

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The principal feature of the district is, of course, the valley of the Tyne and South Tyne, by which it is divided into Northern and Southern halves of fairly equal dimensions. The *Thalweg* of this East and West valley is necessarily the line of lowest surface level in the region, and has a fall varying from about 13 feet per mile above Hexham, to less than 6 or 7 feet per mile below, as far as Wylam. The Northern half of the district is itself bisected by the valley of the North Tyne, with a fall of about 13 feet per mile. The region south of the main Tyne valley is traversed by the South to North valleys of the Allen, Devil's Water, and smaller streams, and of their respective tributaries, whose sources are situated within the boundaries of the district on the high ground of Allendale Common and Blanchland Moor. The Derwent, for several miles of its course, runs in a deeply eroded valley, and actually forms part of the Southern boundry which, there, coincides with that of the County. Speaking generally, the ground within the area treated of ranges from between nearly 2,000 feet and 37 feet above sea level, most of it being between 400 feet and 800 feet. It is, therefore, a region of fairly high ground, copiously drained by numerous rapid rivers and burns, whose valleys, often broad, are in general steep-sided, and sometimes precipitous and gorge-like, as in the dales of the North Tyne at Warden and at the Devil's Elbow; of the South Tyne at Allerwash; of the main Tyne at Thornbrough; of the Allen at the Iron Gates; or of the Devil's Water at Swallowship, and elsewhere. Notwithstanding this occasional scarped character of the valleys, much of the surface occupied by them is made up (a) of broad alluvial flats ("haughs") filling in the loop of the winding streams with loam, sand, and shingle; (b) of similar, but older, terraced accumulations rising tier above tier up the lower flanks to—in some places, as between Hexham and Haydon Bridge—a height of 300 or 400 feet above sea level. The high gravel terraces of this kind are made up almost entirely of sand and pebbles belonging to the Glacial Drift, and many of the ancient settlements are situated upon them wholly or in part, such as Corbridge, Haydon Bridge, Humshaugh, etc.

The Glacial gravels and sand just mentioned often overlie the more ancient Glacial Boulder Clay, blue or brown, stiff and impervious, from which they are partly derived, and this Boulder Clay is to be found, irregularly distributed, up most of the valleys and over the lower ground generally, but seldom above the 1000 feet contour line. All the rest of the district—all of it that is free from alluvial deposits (whether of river origin or peat) and Glacial Drift, is made up of sedimentary rocks of the

Carboniferous system, with later igneous rock injected among them. In the order of their predominance these rocks consist of

(a). *Grits and Sandstones* (locally "Freestone"). These occur everywhere, and are the thickest and most widely spread members of all three of the chief groups of the system, viz :—The Coal-Measures, the Millstone Grit, and the Bernician or Carboniferous Limestone Series. They are the chief water-bearing strata, and yield the universally used building stone of Hexhamshire and Tynedale. All the high, peaty, heather clad moorland country standing on the local watersheds between the various dales is formed of rocks of this type.

(b). *Shales* (locally known as "Metal " or "Plate "). These beds, intervening between harder strata such as the Sandstones occurring throughout the Carboniferous divisions, cause most of the softer, concave features of the region, and to their easy erosion are due most of the many small waterfalls which so picturesquely diversify the burn scenery—a shale bed being in almost every case undercut beneath the sandstone stratum over which the burn falls, as at Dilston, for instance. The junction of these Shales with Sandstones also determines the occurrence of lines of natural springs, and the frequent presence in them of ironstone often renders the water chalybeate.

(c). *Limestones*. These are found only in the lowest of the three large divisions of the Carboniferous system here. They occur as comparatively thin beds, rarely attaining 30 feet, and most of them much thinner, at many horizons in the Bernician Series, interbedded with Sandstones, Shales, and Coals. Their outcrops are characterized by special vegetation, finer herbage, a warmer surface, and often by quarries and lime-kilns, and it is in them that the lead-veins of the region (in the Allenheads, Haydon Bridge and Newbrough, and Blanchland mining areas) have yielded most ore. They are responsible for the hardness which characterizes much of the water.

(d). *Coal*. The lower seams of the Coal Measures occur within the district in its Eastern portion, crossing the valley of the Tyne between Stocksfield and Ovingham. They are largely worked, and are the cause of the mining population at Prudhoe, Mickley, Wylam, and the neighbouring villages. The same seams are found again in a narrow outlier running from Whittonstall to Grey Mare Hill, and along the north side of a great fault known as the Stublick Dyke, as a series of quite small coalfields having an East and West trend, and running from a

mile or two to the South of the Tyne at Hexham to the high ground immediately South of Haydon Bridge. Several much older seams of coal occur also (as regards England only in the County of Northumberland on such a scale) in the Bernician series, and valuable collieries have been, from time to time, opened out to work them. The size of Acomb is due to coal of this age worked near that village, and smaller collieries of the same kind are, or have been, worked at Fourstones, Fallowfield, Halton, Whittington, Gunnerton, Thorngraston, Sooty Row, and many other places.

(e). *Gannister and Fire-clays.* Both occur in the district; Gannister in the lower Coal-measures beneath the Brockwell Seam to the S.E. of Stocksfield, and at Fourstones, and Fire-clays beneath almost all the coal-seams at whatever horizon, as well as independent beds, as in the neighbourhood of Corbridge.

From the point at which the Roman Wall enters the district from the West, to Tepper Moor, and thence in a somewhat broken line by Gunnerton to Thockrington, there runs the prominent outcrop of the great intrusive sheet of igneous rock (Basalt or Whinstone) which is one of the most remarkable topographical and geological features of the district. It is known as the Great Whin Sill, is here about 100 feet thick, and is largely quarried for purposes of paving and road-making generally.

*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1904,
for the Rural District of Hexham.*

*Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces,
and Homework.*

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosec'tions
<i>Factories</i> (Including Factory Laundries).	60	5	.....
<i>Workshops</i> (Including Workshop Laundries).	107	31	.....
<i>Workplaces</i> ... ..	.....	.....	.....
<i>Homeworkers' Premises</i> ... ..	.....	.....	.....
<i>Total</i>	167	36	.....

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.	
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector		
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>					
Want of Cleanliness	60	60	...	...	
Want of Ventilation	2	2	...	...	
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	...	...	
Other nuisances	24	24	...	...	
Sanitary accommodation—					
insufficient	2	2	...	...	
unsuitable or defective	1	1	...	...	
not separate for sexes	...	...	...	...	
Other offences	...	...	...	...	
Total	90	90	...	...	

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.	
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	Nil.	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)—		
{ Notified by H.M. Inspector	3	
{ Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	3	
Other	Nil.	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—		
In use during 1903	Nil.	
Certificates granted { in 1903	Nil.	
{ in 1904	Nil.	
In use at the end of 1904	Nil.	
Homework :—		
Number of		
<i>List of Outworkers*</i> (S. 107) :—	<i>Lists.</i>	<i>Outworkers</i>
Lists received	Nil.	Nil.
Addresses of outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities		
{ received from other Authorities		
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—</i>		
Notice prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)	Nil.	Nil.
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises	Nil.	Nil.
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110)	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.	52	
Important classes of workshops, such { as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here		
Total number of workshops on Register	52	

Smallpox.—There have been in all 13 cases of this disease during the year. The first outbreak was at Riding Hills Farm, in the month of February. Four patients were here infected. The primary infection was most probably brought from the town of Hexham, in which there was a good deal of Smallpox at that time. These cases were all removed to the hospital at Edgewell, with very satisfactory results, as no further spread of the disease occurred. The district was after this free from the disease until 13th April, when two cases were reported, one in Prudhoe and one in West Wylam, both of these men being removed to the hospital. The son of one of these men (Smith), aged 6, who had escaped vaccination in infancy, showed signs of Smallpox two days after being vaccinated by me. A lodger in Smith's house, who refused revaccination, also contracted the disease. The house where these patients lived was disinfected by the Sanitary Authority, and while disinfecting operations were going on, an old man named John Rowe ventured to go in, and got the disease in a virulent form, and died after a short illness. I have no doubt whatever that about this time several cases of mild Smallpox were treated from start to finish as Chickenpox. This happened in the earlier stages of the disease in the case of three other patients, who were admitted to the hospital, and resided there a short time. I was informed by one of the medical men at that time in Prudhoe, that he treated a case of Smallpox as Chickenpox, which was so mild as to simulate Chickenpox very closely. I have very strong reasons for thinking that a few other cases of Smallpox occurred in Prudhoe at this time, which were very carefully concealed. The next case was reported by Dr. Stewart of Hexham, on 25th June, the patient being a bandsman in the volunteer corps then encamped at Walwick. He was promptly removed by your officials to the Edgewell Hospital, and fortunately the disease ceased to spread. In all the above reported cases thorough disinfecting of the premises was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, whilst, as far as possible, all contacts were revaccinated. These means fortunately were efficacious in preventing an extension of the Smallpox.

Continued Fever.—A notable decline in the number of Continued Fever cases has taken place this year, only one case having been reported in the Bywell Sub-district.

Erysipelas.—The Erysipelas cases numbered 40, and were distributed throughout the whole Four Sub-districts; for the most part they were very mild. Erysipelas was, however, assigned as the cause of death in one case. The localities affected were—Mickley, 6; Hedley, 4; Newton, 1; Ovington, 3; Prudhoe, 2; Wylam, 2; Stocksfield, 1; Blanchland, 1; Kiln Pit Hill, 2; Shotley, 2; West Wylam, 3; Horsley, 3; Riding Mill, 1; Thornbrough, 1; Acomb, 1; Corbridge, 1; Aydon, 1; Stag-

shawbank, 1; Windy Hill Farm, 1; Fourstones, 1: Haydon Bridge, 1.

Measles has prevailed much more extensively this year than last, chiefly during the last quarter of the year. The disease was most severe in the following districts, where school closure was rendered absolutely necessary—Riding Mill, Prudhoe, Ninebanks, Keenley, Newbrough, Hedley, Acomb, and Ordley. Although the disease affected a wide area, it was of a very mild type, and only two deaths resulted therefrom.

Whooping Cough.—There have been three epidemics of Whooping Cough during the year, one at Acomb, and one at Haydon Bridge. In both cases the schools were closed, with good results. It assumed a somewhat severe form in the Eastern portion of the district, where 7 deaths were caused.

Diarrhœa is this year assigned as the cause of death in 26 cases. No zymotic disease is so much affected by weather as epidemic Diarrhœa, and the fine summer, with its long-continued heat, entirely accounts for this result. There can be no question but that the proximity of large and improperly constructed middens in close proximity to dwellings, tends to increase the death-rate from epidemic Diarrhœa. It seems to me that one of the things which must be aimed at in the near future, is the abolition of old-fashioned uncovered middens with uncemented sides and floors, all of which at times are liable to cause nuisances. The byelaws, of course, provide for the proper construction of ashpits, but the middens to which I refer have been built prior to the passing of the byelaws, the latter not being retrospective; hence to improve matters in this direction, each one would require to be dealt with separately, and proved to be a nuisance.

Scarlet Fever.—287 cases of this disease have been reported during the year, as compared with 374 for last year. In all, 13 deaths have resulted therefrom. Most of the cases, namely 198, were as usual in the Bywell Sub-district, see Table 3; the other Sub-districts had about 30 each. Well marked epidemics prevailed at Hedley, in February; at Fourstones, during the first quarter of the year, where the school was closed for two weeks; at Ninebanks, in October and November, where the school was closed for six weeks; in Corbridge, during November and December; and at Low Prudhoe, during February and March, where it was found necessary to close the school for three weeks. At Prudhoe, West Wylam, and Mickley, the disease may be said to be epidemic—never a month passing without notifications of this disease being received from these places. Extended observation has convinced me that at least 70% of the cases have derived the infection from school attendance, and I am sorry to say that no considerable improvement

has taken place at any of these schools, viz :—Mickley, Prudhoe National, and Low Prudhoe, during the year.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—One of the most gratifying features in the review of last year's work is the considerable reduction in the number of Diphtheria cases notified, there being 98 as compared with 244 during the previous year, resulting in 15 deaths, this being a reduction of 30 on last year's numbers, and giving a case mortality rate of 153 per 1000. There is no reason why both the attack-rate and the death-rate should not undergo a further considerable decrease, and to this end the District Council should agitate until every school in the Eastern part of the district is put into perfect order from a sanitary point of view. They should also insist upon the provision for each child of at least the minimum air space and floor space to which they are entitled by the regulations of the Board of Education. The only school closed during the year for Diphtheria was Low Prudhoe, for three weeks. In the other Sub-districts the few cases which did occur were sporadic in distribution, and included no outbreak that could be called an epidemic. I would again strongly urge the Council to take into consideration the question of supplying Antitoxin free of charge to medical practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria. This practice is now pursued by numerous Corporations and Councils, and the Local Government Board have hitherto never objected to the expenditure so incurred. By supplying this invaluable remedy free, the Council would, at the cost of a few pounds per year, be the means of considerably reducing the death-rate from this disease. The price of Antitoxin puts it out of the reach of many poor people.

Enteric Fever.—Only 7 cases of Enteric Fever have been notified this year, and none of these proved fatal. In no instance was there more than one case in one house, nor did infection spread from one case to another.

School Closure.—The following schools were closed during the year for the periods and causes named :—

<i>School.</i>	<i>Closed.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Mickley Square	... 4th Jan. to 25th Jan.	... Sore Throats.
Haydon Bridge	... 4th Jan. to 18th Jan.	... Scarlet Fever.
Low Prudhoe	... 29th Feb. to 19th Mar.	Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.
Acomb	... 2nd May to 23rd May	Whooping Cough.
Riding Mill	... 17th Oct. to 21st Nov.	Measles.
Prudhoe Nat.	... 18th Oct. to 7th Nov.	Measles.
Ninebanks	... 26th Oct. to 24th Dec.	Scarlet Fever, Measles, and Structural Alterations
Keenley	... 5th Dec. to 23rd Dec.	Measles.
Newbrough	... 8th Dec. to 23rd Dec.	Measles.
Hedley	... 16th Dec. to 23rd Dec.	Measles.
Ordley	... 14th Dec. to 23rd Dec.	Measles.

Dwellings.—98 new dwellings have been erected during the past year, chiefly in the Eastern portion of the district, where the overcrowding mentioned in previous annual reports is gradually being diminished. Special credit is due to the Mickley Coal Company for their efforts in this direction. At Mickley Square, 20 good new houses will soon be ready for occupation, whilst the 30 built in 1903 at West Wylam are now fully occupied, and I understand that more will be built according to the needs of the workers. Private enterprise is also assisting in the supply of dwellings.

Sewerage.—During 1904 the village of West Wylam has been efficiently sewered under the direction of Mr. Parker, C.E., and it is fully anticipated that this measure alone will result in great benefit to the health of the locality. The scheme is being carried out in sections, and the remainder of the work is being proceeded with. At both Eltringham and Mickley, sewers and sewage disposal works are being put down, whilst schemes have been prepared for Haydon Bridge, Riding Mill, Corbridge, Broomley, Ovingham, and Mickley. At Hedley-on-the-Hill, and at Ovington, there is much need for the construction of sewers. Generally speaking, the district is well sewered, but the disposal arrangements are somewhat unsatisfactory, much crude sewage being poured into the river.

Water Supply.—In last year's report the imperfect water supplies of Haydon Bridge, High Mickley, and Painshawfield Estate were mentioned, and I am sorry to say that no improvement has taken place in any of these places. At Haydon Bridge, the schemes hitherto brought before the Council have all been found unduly expensive, and I am afraid that the scheme has yet to be found which will give Haydon Bridge an efficient supply at a reasonable cost. The development of this little town depends very much on this want being met. At High Mickley, the shortage of water this year has been greater than ever, no doubt due to the long summer drought. At the time of writing, one of the large farmers there has to lead his water a considerable distance, and his stock suffers accordingly. During the summer, matters here were really very serious, water for the cattle and other stock having to be brought from the Tyne. It would be well if the Council could devise before long some plan of meeting the requirements of this place. At the Painshawfield Estate, the arrangements for water supply are of a very indifferent character, the bulk of the houses depending upon shallow wells, there being a cesspool in most cases on the same site. That contamination of the water occurs in some cases there can be no doubt.

Schools.—The attention of the Council might once again be drawn to the insanitary conditions of Mickley, Wylam, and

and Prudhoe Schools. Although plans have been submitted and approved by the Council for alterations at Prudhoe National School, nothing has yet been done in the direction of the much needed enlargement. At Mickley School, matters remain in *statu quo*, and it would seem advisable for the Council to put all available pressure on the County Council Education Committee and its officials, in order to get the defects already mentioned in last year's report remedied. Several complaints having reached me about Corbridge School, I inspected the building and found a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. The down spouts open into the drains without any disconnection. The privy accommodation, especially for the girls and infants, is deficient in quantity, there being only three privies for 230 children. The schoolrooms are badly lighted and ventilated by ordinary sash windows, which in windy weather are frequently unusable, owing to the want of arrangements to direct the air towards the ceilings, and so prevent violent draughts. In most cases the light does not come from the pupil's left, and it has been abundantly proved that schoolrooms lighted as these are, are a potent factor in producing myopia, eye strain, and other serious defects in the eyesight of the children. The so-called air outlets provided in the ceilings of the various rooms are generally total inefficient, but the most serious defect in the whole of the school arrangements is the want of accommodation in the infant's department. Accommodation is here provided for 59 children on the 8 square ft. basis, 109 are on the register, and more than 90 are often present. The other two classrooms are both not unfrequently grossly overcrowded.

Isolation Hospital, at Edgewell. This hospital was simply invaluable during the three outbreaks of Small-pox which we have had this year. I do not hesitate to say that it saved the district from a widespread epidemic of Small-pox. It is to be regretted that more use is not made of this building by the medical men and the public in the locality. One would naturally suppose that when an infectious case broke out in a two-roomed house, where, it might be, five or six children were living, the parents' first thought would be the removal of the patient affected for the sake of the others, and no doubt the public will in time become educated to the necessity for this. Within the last year both water supply and drainage has been provided, and also a nurse's room detached from the main building. A mortuary and disinfecting chamber are still needed. In many respects this hospital does not conform to the necessarily somewhat stringent regulations of the Local Government Board, and it is satisfactory to note that the Council have secured a site in Dipton Wood, from His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, which will conform to the above-named regulations.

Factory and Workshop Act.—The work done by your officials under this Act is set forth in tabular form elsewhere in this report. This district is very slightly affected by the Act. For instance, there is not a single underground bakehouse in the whole district, while factories are also comparatively few in number. Periodical inspection by your officials has taken place throughout the year, and it is satisfactory to note that in the great majority of cases the workers labour under conditions which are certainly in no way detrimental to health. In all cases notices served by the Sanitary Inspector requiring the provision of improvements have been promptly attended to.

Scavanging.—Over the greater part of the district the occupier is the person responsible for the disposal of refuse. Prudhoe was, however, formed into a "scavanging area." Under the previous contractor the work was done efficiently and well. The present contractor has, however, somewhat failed to come up to the high standard of his predecessor, and complaints have been very frequent. The County M.O.H. suggests as the best solution of the difficulty that the council should themselves do the scavanging.

GENTLEMEN,

The report may this year on the whole be considered a favourable one, although much remains yet to be done, especially in the Eastern portion of the district. I trust this year will see a crusade carried on against our overcrowded schools and houses, and ashpits which are neither covered in nor cemented. The County M.O.H., in his last annual report, comments severely, and justly too, on the continued presence of these insanitary conditions in our midst, and your officials would respectfully ask your support in dealing with these during the coming year.

It only remains for me to thank Mr. John Scott, the chairman of our council, and the various members thereof, for the kindness and help extended by them to the sanitary officials during the past year. I am sure I am expressing the wish of every member of the council in hoping that Mr. Scott may be fully restored to health, and may long remain in our midst as chairman. To Mr. J. H. Nicholson, and his assistant, Mr. Hamilton, I am obliged for their readiness to help us in every possible way. Mr. Stephen Pearson has again given us a taste of his excellent business qualities, as chairman of the Sanitary Committee. To all these gentlemen, and to my colleague, Mr. Waugh, my thanks are hereby extended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. CUNNINGHAM PENFOLD.