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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 1909,

BY

T. CUNNINGHAM PENFOLD,

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

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT,
1909.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TO THE

HEXHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have pleasure in placing before you the Annual Report for the year 1909.

AREA.—The Area of the whole District is 200,700·339 Acres. It is sub-divided into the following sub-districts :—

Allendale Sub-district having an area of 51,832·650 Acres ;			
Bywell	”	”	50,526·166 Acres ;
Chollerton	”	”	50,530·703 Acres ;
Hexham	”	”	47,810·820 Acres.

POPULATION.—The estimated Population of the whole District is 28,142, as compared with 28,077 for 1908. The estimated population of the various sub-districts is as follows :—

Allendale, 4778.	Chollerton, 5438.
Bywell, 13,509.	Hexham, 4417.

DEATHS.—The Deaths for the year have numbered 387, as compared with 388 for the previous year. These deaths have included 201 males and 186 females, and give a death-rate of 13·75 per thousand, which is practically the same as last year. Of deaths of children under one year of age, 77 have been

registered, as compared with 85 for the previous twelve months. The infant mortality rate works out at 104·9 per thousand births registered, which is a considerable decrease on last year's numbers. The chief causes of death amongst adults have been Heart Disease, 49 ; Cancer, 37 ; Phthisis, 33 ; Senile Decay, 36 ; and Pneumonia, 30.

BIRTHS.—734 Births have been registered during the past year, being an increase of 29 over the numbers for the previous year, and rather above the average number of the past ten years. The Birth-rate is 26 per thousand, as compared with 25 for last year. Of the 734 births registered, 373 were males, and 361 were females, and of these 23 males and 19 females were illegitimate.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—During the year, 279 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, being an increase on the figures of the previous year of 93. They were distributed as follows :—In the Allendale sub-district, 42 ; in the Bywell sub-district, 181 ; in the Chollerton sub-district, 10 ; and in the Hexham sub-district, 46. The zymotic death-rate amounts to ·49, which is the same as that for 1907, and an increase of ·14 over the rate for last year.

TABLE I.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 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 belonging to the District.			
		Num-ber.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					Num-ber.	Rate.*	Num-ber.	Rate.*
				Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Num-ber.	Rate.*							
I.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1899 ...	27,524	739	26·8	111	150·2	482	17·5	.....	.....	.....	...	...		
1900 ...	27,589	736	26·6	118	160·32	417	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		
1904 ...	27,822	737	26·4	110	149·2	466	16·7	1	.....	5	471	16·9		
1905 ...	27,882	720	25·8	64	88·8	356	12·7	2	.....	1	357	12·7		
1906 ...	27,947	688	24·6	64	100·7	365	13	4	.....	11	376	13·4		
1907 ...	28,012	662	23·6	59	89·1	364	12·9	1	1	15	378	13·4		
1908 ...	28,077	705	25	85	120·5	383	13·6	1	1	6	388	13·8		
Averages for years 1899—1908	27,795	717	25·7	89	124·8	416	14·9	1·6	1	8·3	406	14·5		
1909 ...	28,142	734	26·08	77	104·9	383	13·6	3	3	7	387	13·3		

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

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 200,700·339 Acres.

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

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.
The Sanatorium, Barrasford (Chollerton Sub-District).	Royal Infirmary, Newcastle Northumberland County Asylum, Morpeth Union Workhouse, Hexham	Nil.
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.		

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities during 1909 and previous years.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

Names of Localities.	Allendale Sub-District.				Bywell Sub-District.				Chollerton Sub-District.				Hexham Sub-District.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
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	7	13159	408	214	80	5387	119	67	14	4314	87	71	13
1902 ...	4778	111	85	6	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
1904 ...	4778	106	78	8	13319	45	240	79	5383	134	74	12	4342	92	74	11
1905 ...	4778	111	69	7	13349	399	158	41	5398	104	53	7	4357	106	76	9
1906 ...	4778	90	63	6	13389	387	173	44	5408	125	73	9	4372	86	67	5
1907 ...	4778	99	69	10	13429	380	191	43	5418	104	67	5	4387	79	51	1
1908 ...	4778	87	70	9	13469	426	209	58	5428	108	55	8	4402	84	54	10
Averages of Years																
1899 to 1908	4786	106	76	10	13262	403	213	60	5397	116	65	9	4348	90	63	8
1909 ...	4778	101	75	11	13509	445	207	56	5438	117	59	8	4417	71	42	2

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1909.
Name of District—Hexham Rural.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in Whole District.					Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.				
	At all Ages	At Ages.—Years.				Allendale Sub-district.	Bywell Sub-district.	Chollerton Sub-district.	Hexham Sub-district.	Allendale Sub-district.	Bywell Sub-district.	Chollerton Sub-district.	Hexham Sub-district.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards.							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	115	2	23	55	18	17	.....	35	39	9	32	1	8	7 16
Erysipelas.....	36	1	1	2	5	20	7	3	31	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	119	4	32	72	6	5	.....	4	107	1	7	.....	7	2 9
Enteric Fever	9	.....	.....	.....	4	5	.....	.....	4	.....	5	.....	1	1 2
Totals.....	279	7	56	129	33	47	7	42	181	10	46	1	16	10 27

Isolation Hospital.—Name and Situation : Edgewell Isolation Hospital, Prudhoe. Total available beds, 12. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

Lightwater Smallpox Hospital, Hexhamshire. Total available beds, 8.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1909.

Name of District.—Hexham Rural.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging 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	Choller'n	Hexham	
Measles	6	2	3			1		1	4		1	
Whooping-cough	6	2	3	1				1	5			
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous croup)	1	1							1			
Acute Rheumatism	4			1	1	2		2	2			
Enteric Fever	1					1		1				
Epidemic influenza	3					2	1	2		1		
Diarrhoea	6	4	2						6			
Enteritis	4	4						1	3			
Erysipelas	1	1							1			
Other Septic Diseases	1			1				1				
Phthisis	33			1	8	22	2	4	18	8	3	3
Other tuberculous diseases	16	4	3	5	1	3		5	9	1	1	
Cancer	37					16	21	9	15	6	7	
Bronchitis	19	3	3			4	9	3	10	2	4	
Pneumonia	30	8	2	1	1	10	8	3	17	7	3	
Bright's Disease, Nephritis	15			1		8	6	6	3	1	5	
Cirrhosis of Liver	1						1	1				
Premature Birth	17	17						2	13	1	1	
Diseases and accidents of parturition	4					4		2	1	1		
Heart Diseases	49			1	3	10	29	14	19	13	3	
Accidents	13	1		1	3	7	1		9	4		
Suicides	4				1	2	1	1	2	1		
Senile Decay	36					1	35	3	25	5	3	
Debility from Birth	17	17						3	13	1		
Convulsions	7	7						2	4	1		
Apoplexy	19					2	17	5	9	1	4	
All other causes	37	6	1	2	2	11	15	5	20	5	7	
All causes	367	77	17	15	20	112	142	75	207	59	42	3

TABLE V.

*Hexham Rural District.***INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.***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)	18	1	3	6	28	10	2	3	4	4	3	4	7	7	2	2	76
	(Uncertified)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
<i>i. Common Infectious Diseases :</i>																		
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
<i>ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases :</i>																		
Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	4
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	4
<i>iii. Wasting Diseases :</i>																		
Premature Birth	...	12	...	1	1	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	17
Congenital Defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
<i>iv. Tuberculous Diseases :</i>																		
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
<i>v. Other Causes :</i>																		
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	...	1	1	...	...	8
Other Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Debility from Birth	...	5	1	1	4	11	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
		18	1	3	6	28	11	2	3	4	4	3	4	7	7	2	2	77

Births in the year—Legitimate, 692 ; Illegitimate, 42.

Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 71 ; illegitimate infants, 6.

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 383.

Population estimated to middle of 1909, 28,142.

1909.

The following Plans were submitted and approved at the following Meetings of the Sewage, Building, and Water Works Committee.

January 5th.

Plans of an oil-house, at the Co-op. Premises, Mickley, for the Prudhoe and West Wylam Co-operative Society, Ltd., per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of converting a privy into a W.C., and new drainage, at Hill Top House, Corbridge, for the Private Hospital Committee, Corbridge.

Plans of a farm house, at Fairley May, near Riding Mill, for Mr. Silvertop, Minsteraces Hall, Riding Mill.

February 2nd.

Plans of three houses, at Halfway Houses, Prudhoe, for Smithson & Son, builders, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions to a shop, at Main Road, E., Prudhoe, for R. Appleby & Co., merchants, Prudhoe.

Plans of a stable, at Main Road, W., Prudhoe, for Mr. W. Hall, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions to a stable and warehouse, at Main Road, E., Prudhoe, for Messrs. Little Bros., Stocksfield.

Plans of additions to a shop and yard, at Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. Longstaffe, merchant, Stocksfield.

Plans of a school, at North Wylam, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of alterations to a house and outoffices, at the Sun Inn, Acomb, for Mr. E. Hawkins.

February 16th.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, a cottage, and laundry, at Hindley Hall, Stocksfield, for J. Pumphrey, Esq., Minsteraces Hall, Riding Mill.

Plans of a house, at New Ridley, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. T. Murray.

March 2nd.

Plans of six houses, at sites south of Main Road, E., Prudhoe, for Mr. J. Robson, West Road, Prudhoe.

Plans of thirty-seven houses, at Drawback, Prudhoe, for Mr. J. Hunter, The Villa, Drawback, Prudhoe.

Plans of four houses, at Halfway Houses, Prudhoe, for Mr. G. Wanless, builder, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions and alterations to the Unionist Club, Prudhoe, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of a byre and stable, at Shield Green Farm, Hexhamshire, for Henry Bell & Sons, Hexham.

Plans of a wash-house and outoffices, at the New Houses, near Humshaugh, for Mrs. Clayton, The Chesters, Humshaugh.

Plans of a house, at Lonkley Terrace, Allendale Town, for Mr. N. Elliott, builder, Allendale Town.

Plans of a byre, at Wooley Farm, near Allendale Town, for Mr. T. Forster.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at The Lodge, Newbrough, for A. M. Palmer, Esq.

Plans of two semi-villas, at Wylam Wood, for Mr. Strachan, builder, Riding Mill.

March 30th.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Brunton House, near Wall, for G. H. Waddilove, Esq.

Plans of eight houses, at sites near Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. Ewart, and others.

Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. A. Constable, architect, Stocksfield.

Plans of two houses, at Barrasford, for the Duke of Northumberland, The Castle, Alnwick.

Plans of additions to a cottage, at Broomhaugh, Riding Mill, for C. S. Swan, Esq.

Plans of a house and shop, at Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Mr. Martindale, merchant, Stocksfield.

Plans of new drainage, at Ordley School, Hexhamshire, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of additions and alterations to a school, at Hedley-on-the-Hill, for the Duke of Northumberland, The Castle, Alnwick.

April 27th.

Plans of additions to a villa, at The Hall, Allenheads, for Lord Allendale, Bywell Hall, Stocksfield.

Plans of additions to a house, at Anick Cottage, Anick, for Mr. A. Forster.

Plans of an amended drainage, at Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. Hindmarsh, Neville Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of a cottage, at High Warden, Hexham, for C. E. Straker, Esq.

Plans of two cottages, at Coastley Farm, near Hexham, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

Plans of four houses, on sites off Main Road, E., Prudhoe, for Mr. R. Blackburn, Neal Street, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions to a cottage, at the Bank Top, Prudhoe, for the Duke of Northumberland, Alnwick Castle.

Plans of two bath-rooms, at two semi-villas, Riding Mill Building Estate, for Mr. Strachan, builder, Riding Mill.

Plans of a house and shop, at Main Road, W., Prudhoe, for Mr. W. Hall, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

Plans of eight houses, at sites off Main Road, W., Prudhoe, for Mr. W. Hall, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions and alterations to an inn, at the 'Travellers' Rest, Slaley, for Mr. W. Scott, The Orchard, Lemington-on-Tyne.

May 25th.

Plans of a bank and manager's house, at site off Middle and Front Streets, Corbridge, for Lloyds Bank Co., Ltd.

Plans of a motor-house, boiler-house, and a workshop and w.c., at Howden Dene, near Corbridge, for J. H. Straker, Esq.

Plans of a house and shop, at Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Mr. Martindale.

Plans of two semi-cottages, at Brettanby Terrace, Stocksfield, for Mr. W. F. Olloman.

Plans of a stable, coach-house, and harness-room, at Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. Edgar.

Plans of five houses, at sites near Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. T. Murray, Painshawfield, Stocksfield.

Plans of two houses, at sites near Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. Gazzani, builder, Stocksfield.

Plans of alterations to a house, at Piper Close, near Corbridge, for J. H. Straker, Esq., Howden Dene, Corbridge.

June 22nd.

Plans of a villa, on the Broomhill Building Estate, near Haydon Bridge, for Mrs. Walton, Linton House, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of converting a coach-house and stable into a cottage, at Shaftoe Court, Haydon Bridge, for Dr. Murray, Ratcliffe Road, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of three houses, at sites near Whittonstall, for the Consett Iron Co.

Plans of out-buildings at butcher's premises, Whittonstall Village, for Mr. Laycock.

Plans of four houses, at sites near South Parade, Stocksfield, for Mr. Davison, builder, Corbridge.

Plans of additions to a farm house, at Wooley Farm, near Allendale Town, for Messrs. Temperley, Allendale.

Plans of a lodge cottage, at The Glen, Slaley, for S. Carter, Esq.

Plans of a bath-room, lavatory, and w.c., at Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for G. Humble, Esq.

Plans of twelve houses, at Halfway Houses, Prudhoe, for Mr. H. Tulip.

Plans of a cottage, at Halton, near Corbridge, for H. D. Blackett, Esq., The Hall, Matfen, Corbridge.

July 20th.

Plans of a coachman's house, at Hindley Hall, Stocksfield, for J. Pumphrey, Esq., Minsteracres Hall, Riding Mill.

Plans of additions and alterations to an inn, at the Green Tree Inn, Langley, for Mrs. Bates, Langley Castle, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of alterations to a school and water supply, at Dean-raw, Langley, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of six houses, at Halfway Houses, Prudhoe, for Smithson & Son, builders, Prudhoe.

Plans of a house and shop, at sites off Main Road, W., Prudhoe, for Mr. W. Hall, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions and alterations to school premises, at Ninebanks, West Allen, Allendale, for the Northumberland Education Committee, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Plans of four houses, at sites off Main Road, W., Prudhoe, for Mr. W. Hall, West Wylam, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions and alterations to an inn, at the North Tyne Hotel, Wall, for Mr. Kell.

Plans of two semi-villas, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. Hedley, Woodburn, Stocksfield.

Plans of five houses, at Beaumont Terrace, Mickley, for the Prudhoe and West Wylam Co-operative Society, per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

August 17th.

Plans of additions to a house, at Eastfield, Main Street, Corbridge, for C. McKenzie, Esq.

Plans of a villa, at Oakwood, near Hexham, for Mr. Morrow, Lyndhurst, Corbridge.

Plans of additions to a farm house, at Salmon's Field Farm, Hexhamshire, for Lord Allendale, Bywell Hall, Stocksfield.

September 14th.

Plans of a byre, at Keenley Fell Farm, Allendale, for Mr. Harrison, Piatroon, Allendale.

Plans of additions to business premises, at The Riding, Mickley, for the Blaydon Co-operative Society, Ltd., Blaydon.

Plans of new business premises, billiard, reading, and games rooms, at Station Road, Low Prudhoe, for the Prudhoe and West Wylam Co-operative Society, Ltd., per W. Dixon & Son, architects.

Plans of four semi-villas, at sites near Drawback, Prudhoe, for Messrs. Jerden, Pulkinghorn, Hunter, and Mason, Prudhoe.

Plans of additions to a warehouse, at Ratcliffe Road, Haydon Bridge, for Mr. J. Makepeace, merchant, Haydon Bridge.

Plans of a house, at Dipton, near Riding Mill, for W. Blackburn, Esq., per W. Dixon & Son, architects, Riding Mill.

Plans of eight houses, at the Riding Estate, Mickley, for Messrs. H. Tulip and W. Charlton & Sons, builders, Ryton.

Plans of a byre, at the Fox and Hounds Inn, Whitley Chapel, Hexhamshire, per Mr. Clark, land agent, Haltwhistle.

October 12th.

Plans of a villa, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for A. Howson, Esq.

Plans of a cottage, at Aydon Farm, near Corbridge, for J. C. Straker, Esq., The Leazes, Hexham.

Plans of additions and alterations to a villa, at Hill House, near Haydon Bridge, for the Rev. Canon Crawhall, per Mr. Scott, land agent, Newton Hall, Stocksfield.

Plans of out-offices and drainage, at Whiteside Bank, Riding Mill, for G. May, Esq.

Plans of three pairs of semi-villas, at sites near Branch End, Stocksfield, for Mr. Gazzani, builder, Stocksfield.

November 9th.

Plans of three houses, at Catton, for Mr. J. Buin.

Plans of additions to a house, at Walwick House, near Humshaugh, for Mrs. Clayton, The Chesters, Humshaugh.

Plans of additions to two cottages, at the Bridge End, Warden, for C. E. Straker, Esq., High Warden, Hexham.

Plans of additions to a cottage, at Painshawfield, Stocksfield, for Mr. T. Bright.

Plans of a farm house, at Fell Lane, near Barrasford, for the Duke of Northumberland, The Castle, Alnwick.

Plans of a stable and wash-house, at Gunnerton Fell, near Barrasford, for Mrs. Hornsby.

Plans of converting an E.C. into a w.c., at Waverley House, Corbridge, for M. Robson, Esq.

Plans of two houses, at Main Road, Hedley-on-the Hill, for Mr. Marriner, The Grange, Hedley.

December 7th.

Plans of two houses, at sites east of the Dye Works, Bridge End, Hexham, for Mr. Birnie, builder, Hexham.

Plans of a wash-house, at house in Lonkley Terrace, Allendale Town, for Mr. N. Elliott, builder, Leadgate, Allendale Town.

Plans of a villa, at Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Messrs. Ferrier, builders, Stocksfield.

Plans of two semi-villas, at the Painshawfield Estate, Stocksfield, for Mr. J. Edgar.

Plans of a house and shop, at Birches Nook, Stocksfield, for Mr. Coull, builder, Stocksfield.

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	...	...	21
„ Open out and relay choked drains	...	...	13
„ Trap inlets to drains and sewers	...	...	17
„ Trap waste water pipes	...	...	9
„ Cement, pave, and repair defective yard surfaces	...	...	7
„ Relay floors, and drain stables, byres, and piggeries	...	...	23
„ Properly cleanse cesspits and open channels	...	...	11
„ Cease depositing liquid matter into ashpits	...	...	20
„ Provide manure pits to premises	...	...	3
„ Remedy dampness in dwelling houses	...	...	5
„ Repair roofs of houses	...	...	2
„ Provide ventilation to drains	...	...	9
„ 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	...	...	17
„ Repair delapidated privies and ashpits	...	...	19
„ Cement floors and walls of ashpits and privies	...	...	13
„ Properly ventilate ashpits and privies	...	...	3
„ Thoroughly cleanse and limewash walls of outoffices	...	...	25
„ Ventilate main sewers	...	...	1
„ Provide and fix rain-water spouting to dwelling houses	...	...	8
„ Properly cleanse underground sinks	...	...	27
„ Connect drains to main sewers	...	...	12
„ Remove offensive accumulation of refuse from premises	...	...	19
„ Disconnect waste water pipes from drainage	...	...	3
„ Protect water supply	...	...	2
„ Fix inlets to drains on the outside of buildings	...	...	5
„ Cleanse manure pits	...	...	14
„ Cease depositing slop-water on yard and private road premises	...	...	18
„ Extend outlets of drains	...	...	2
„ Cease depositing ashpit refuse too near dwelling houses	...	...	24
„ Provide proper doors and coverings to ashpits	...	...	15
„ Repair defective water fittings	...	...	2
„ Remove ashpits and privies adjoining dwelling houses	...	...	1
„ Lime-wash walls, &c., of premises	...	...	25
„ Cleanse open sewers	...	...	7
„ Cleanse rain-water spouts	...	...	6
„ Repair sewer outlets	...	...	4

To remove privy and ashpit built in contravention of the bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	1
(This notice not having been complied with, the Council's workmen pulled buildings down).						
Schools, dwelling houses, bedding, furniture, &c., disinfected and fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	171
Drains tested by smoke test, or otherwise	...	...	...	...	...	60
Drains found defective	...	...	...	...	...	5

During the year 1909, 43 new houses have been occupied.

DAIRIES.

There are 101 registered Dairies in the Union, 3 more than 1908.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These number 38, and are frequently visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and found generally to be kept in a clean state.

INQUESTS AND UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

During the year, and over the whole district, there have been 25 deaths which have not been registered in the usual way. On 19 of these inquests were held, whilst on the remaining 6, inquests were not considered necessary by the coroner.

Of the 19 inquests held—

- 1 were in the Allendale sub-district ;
- 12 were in the Bywell sub-district ;
- 5 were in the Chollerton sub-district ;
- 1 were in the Hexham sub-district.

The causes of death were as follows :—

Drowning accidents, 3.	Convulsions, 1.
Pit accidents, 3.	Accidental choking, 1.
Heart failure, 3.	Cut throat, 1.
Measles, 2.	Asphyxiated during alcoholic coma, 1.
Epileptic fit, 1.	Killed by falling tree, 1.
Suicide on railway, 1.	Suicidal hanging, 1.
Motor car accident, 1.	Spring cart accident, 1.
Fractured spine, 1.	Killed by being thrown from
Natural causes, 1.	hay-raking machine, 1.
Apoplexy, 1.	

*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1909,
for the Rural District of Hexham.*

Factories, Workshops, 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) ...	65	7	.....
<i>Workshops</i> (Including Workshop Laundries) ...	119	25	.....
<i>Workplaces</i> ... ..	.....	.....	.....
<i>Total</i>	184	32	.....

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 ...	21	20	...	...
Want of ventilation ...	1	1	...	...
Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	3	3	...	...
Other nuisances ...	27	27	...	..
<i>Total</i>	52	51	...	...

3.—HOME WORK.

None of the industries enumerated are carried on in our district.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Total number of workshops on register, 98.

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133), 24.

Smallpox.—The district has been quite free from this disease during the past year.

Erysipelas.—36 cases of Erysipelas have been returned, compared with 31 for the previous twelve months. No less than 31 of these were in the Bywell sub-district, the chief centres being Prudhoe and Ovington. The Chollerton sub-district was exempt, whilst the Allendale and Hexham sub-districts had respectively 3 and 2 each. It was ascribed as the cause of death in 1 case, an infant of three months.

Measles has prevailed largely during the year, the areas chiefly affected being Horsley, Eltringham, Mickley, Great Whittington, Halton Shields, Chollerton, Sandhoe, and Haydon Bridge. In all these districts it was necessary to close the schools. 6 deaths have been caused, 4 being in the Bywell sub-district, and 1 each in the Allendale and Hexham sub-districts, and of these, 5 deaths were those of children under 5 years of age; the sixth case was that of an adult aged 32, whose death was said, by a coroner's jury, to have been due to this cause.

Whooping Cough.—Epidemics of Whooping Cough have led to school closures at Corbridge (Infants' Department), Allendale, and Sinderhope. It has been of a somewhat severe type, and has led to 6 deaths, 5 of them being in children under 5 years of age. Of the 6 deaths, 5 were in the Bywell sub-district, and 1 in the Allendale sub-district.

Diarrhœa.—6 deaths have taken place from Diarrhœa, 4 of these were in infants under 1 year of age. All these deaths were in the Bywell sub-district. Diarrhœa is a very fatal disease to young infants, and the common type of feeding bottle with its long indiarubber tube is doubtless responsible for many deaths. It is a remarkable fact that breast fed infants enjoy an almost complete immunity from Diarrhœa. I can see no measure likely to reduce the mortality from this disease, except the better education in domestic matters of working mothers. It is an appalling fact that of the children born, half the total number die in the first three years of life, and Diarrhœa is the disease most responsible for this mortality.

Scarlet Fever.—119 cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified during the year. No less than 107 of these have occurred in the

Bywell sub-district. As usual, Prudhoe and Mickley were responsible for most notifications, although Hedley, Corbridge, Stocksfield, Wylam, and Ovington each had a few cases. In the Hexham sub-district, there were only 7 notifications; in the Allendale sub-district only 4; and in the Chollerton sub-district 1. At no time in the whole district has there been any extensive outbreak such as would warrant school closure, the cases having been distributed pretty evenly throughout the various months of the year. None of the cases have been severe, and no death has been due to this cause.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, 115 notifications have been received, as compared with 96 cases last year, an increase of 19. This increase I believe to be apparent rather than real; the fact that the number of deaths this year is lower than at any time for the past fifteen years points in this direction. It is the rule now to take from any sore throat, where there is the remotest possibility of Diphtheria, a swab, and have it reported upon by a bacteriologist. Thus numerous slight cases, which would otherwise be overlooked, are discovered and duly notified. It is here fitting that the Northumberland County Council should receive a grateful acknowledgement of their goodness in providing for the examination of swabs for medical practitioners. It is a delicate process, and one in which long experience gives a verdict an amount of authority, which it could not have coming from any but a specialist. It is to be hoped that they will enlarge their contract with the Bacteriologist, so that Public Health authorities could, if necessary, take a swab from the throat of every child in a given class, or a given school. By this means one would get a control of these epidemics such as one has not at present. The 115 cases were distributed throughout all the four sub-districts, 35 being in the Allendale sub-district; 39 in the Bywell sub-district; 9 in the Chollerton sub-district; and 32 in the Hexham sub-district. Only 1 death took place—a child in the Bywell sub-district, only three weeks old. From all the sub-districts, except that of Chollerton, patients were removed into the hospital at Edgewell, 8 being from Bywell, 7 from Hexham, and 1 from Allendale. All these made excellent recoveries. These results are a striking testimony to the value of the antitoxin treatment, as previous to its introduction, I have known of cases where three children died in one house in the course of a week or two. To give the antitoxin treatment a fair chance however, early injection of the patient is absolutely imperative, and when treated on the first day of the disease, the death-rate is practically nil. Only one school was closed on account of this disease, that of the Shaftoe Trust, Haydon Bridge, which remained closed for a month at the beginning of the year.

Enteric Fever.—9 cases of Enteric Fever have occurred during the past year. 4 were in the Bywell sub-district, and 5 were in the Hexham sub-district, 1 of the former proved fatal. 2 of these cases were removed to the hospital, 1 from each of the sub-districts, and both cases recovered. It is very noticeable that every year some cases of Typhoid occur at Corbridge. I am inclined to think that there must be some connection between it and the out of date system of sewers, still to be found remaining here and there in Corbridge, viz., by old stone conduits. No doubt this matter will receive attention from the Council before long.

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

<i>School.</i>	<i>Date of Closure.</i>	<i>Cause.</i>
Shaftoe Trust, Haydon Bridge	15th Feb. to 15th March	Diphtheria.
Acomb National	... 5th March to 29th Mar.	Chicken Pox.
Horsley Provided	... 5th April to 26th April	Measles.
Eltringham Council	... 5th April to 26th April	Measles.
Mickley Council	... 13th May to 21st June	Measles.
Sinderhope Council	... 14th May to 7th June	Whooping Cough.
Great Whittington Council	... 18th May to 7th June	Measles.
Halton Shields Council	... 24th May to 14th June	Measles.
Chollerton Parochial	... 28th May to 21st June	Measles.
Sandhoe National	... 2nd June to 21st June	Measles.
Shaftoe Trust (Infant Dept.)	... 4th June to 28th June	Measles.
Allendale Town Council	... 12th July to 9th Aug.	Whooping Cough.
Ninebanks Council	... 1st Oct. to 25th Oct.	Chicken Pox.
Corbridge Council (Inf. Dept.)	8th Nov. to 6th Dec.	Whooping Cough.

Isolation Hospital.—During the year 1909, 27 cases of infectious disease have been removed to and treated in the Council's Isolation Hospital, at Edgewell, as compared with 9 and 6 for 1908 and 1907 respectively. Of these, 16 were cases of Diphtheria, 9 were cases of Scarlet Fever, while the remaining 2 were cases of Enteric. From the Bywell sub-district, 16 patients were admitted; from the Hexham sub-district, 10; and from the Allendale sub-district, 1. The whole of the 27 patients were discharged recovered. Mrs. Todd continues to act as matron with very satisfactory results to the Council, both from the point of view of finance and efficiency.

Sewerage.—The following improvements have been carried out during the past year. At Castle Way, Corbridge, about 250 yards of nine-inch defective sewer were taken up and relaid. About 35 yards of this were replaced by cast iron pipe, in order to withstand severe pressure. The manholes, inspection chambers, etc., have been provided where none existed before.

It is proposed to extend the main sewer for 300 yards at Catton with six-inch sanitary pipes, manholes, etc., for the purpose of draining existing property, and also three proposed villas.

At the Dene Building Estate, it is intended to provide a six-inch sewer, about 150 yards long, and to connect it with an existing sewerage tank, and put in the necessary filters.

At Broomley, an elaborate scheme is being carried out, to deal with the sewerage of the greater part of the township.

At Coal Lane, Ovington, about 250 yards of twelve-inch sewer, with the necessary manholes, etc., have been put in, thus doing away with a filthy open ditch. This has been the means of abating a long-standing nuisance. In this village, a large number of private houses have been connected to the sewer.

At Wall Mill Farm, about 120 yards of 12-inch sanitary pipes, with the necessary manholes, have replaced an old stone conduit, which was continually being blocked up, and was dangerous to cattle, etc.

At Wylam, about 30 yards of twelve inch sanitary pipes have been laid, to extend the sewer, which had previously a bad outlet, and was often choked up.

As regards Acomb, plans have been prepared by A. Dinning, Esq., for sewers and sewage disposal works, for the village and surrounding neighbourhood.

At Riding Mill and Broomhaugh, plans for sewers and sewage disposal works have been prepared by Messrs. W. Dixon & Son, engineers, Riding Mill, and these await a Local Government Board enquiry.

Water Supplies.—At Corbridge, a reservoir to hold 95,000 gallons has been provided, and the water pipes at the Shaw Well springs have been thoroughly repaired. A meter has been fixed to measure the water from the Beaufront supply, and the present service pipes have been tested and reported upon by Mr. Uttley. Some improvements have been effected to the pipes conveying water to the pants. On the south side, at Corbridge, several of the villas have an inadequate water supply.

At Wall, a new water scheme has been carried out after being approved of by the Local Government Board. In addition, a storage reservoir of 8000 gallons has been provided, and also 1110 yards of three-inch main laid from the reservoir through the village. Stand pipes and fire plugs have been fixed at various points on the distributing mains, and several houses have been provided with half-inch water connections.

At Allenheads, a new water supply has been provided, which supplies also Ropehaugh and Doves Pool. A reservoir to hold 10,000 gallons, and about 780 yards of 3" cast-iron pipe have been provided. Draw off stand pipes, fire hydrants, and sludge valves have been fixed at various points. Several premises have been provided with half-inch connections from the distributing mains. This will be a great boon, as the water has been in the past to carry a considerable distance.

The Haydon Bridge scheme is being rapidly pushed forward, and will, it is expected, be a valuable asset in helping to further develop this village.

Milk Supplies.—There are ~~132~~ dairies now on the register, as against 98 for last year. The cowsheds and dairies were frequently visited, and, when required, notices were served. These were principally to enforce the repair of defective floors in byres, and limewashing. Speaking generally, a marked improvement has taken place in the conditions under which milk is produced.

Factories' and Workshops' Act.—During the past year these have been duly inspected, and, in the great majority of cases, the requirements of the act have been fully complied with. The number of workers in factories and workshops in this district who labour under conditions inimical to health must be very small indeed.

Scavenging.—The scavenging of Prudhoe and West Wylam has, during the past year, been efficiently carried out, and very few complaints have been received. Over the rest of the district the occupier is the person responsible for the scavenging, an arrangement which in places like Corbridge, Wylam, and Haydon Bridge, works out with only moderate satisfaction. Throughout the district, with the exception of Prudhoe, there is a great want of satisfactory refuse tips.

GENTLEMEN,

This report is on the whole a satisfactory one. Before the next report is presented to you, great changes will have taken place in your district. Prudhoe and Mickley will have formed themselves by that time into a new urban district, the scheme for separation having received the sanction of the Local Government Board. This will be a great loss of rateable value to the district, whilst I think most will agree that the *personnel* of the Board will be the poorer by the removal of their representatives.

It only remains for me to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their ever ready help. Mr. Scott presides for the ninth time, and his record of public service is a very lengthy one. The sanitary staff is also much indebted to Mr. S. Pearson, Chairman of the Building and Sewage Committee, who is an expert in his own particular line. Few can appreciate the salient points in a plan so rapidly as Mr. Pearson. Mr. J. H. Nicholson, the clerk, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Waugh have also helped me in various ways. I desire to express my indebtedness to them.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. C. PENFOLD.

