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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR

1919.

BY

LANCELOT NEWTON,

M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Huntingdon Rural
District Council.

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Alconbury Hill,

Gentlemen,

*I beg to submit my Annual Report for the
Huntingdon Rural District for the year 1919.*

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

LANCELOT NEWTON,

M. O. H. Huntingdon

Rural District.

April 7th, 1920.

REPORT

ON THE

Huntingdon Rural District for 1919.

The figures on which the calculation of the statistics in this report are made, are supplied from the General Register Office, Somerset House.

Population.

The population for calculating the birth rate, is given as 6460, a decrease of 533 from the previous year; the figures for calculating the death rate are 6201 an increase of 40 for the same period.

The Huntingdon Rural District, comprising 26 parishes, is situated on a clay subsoil, except where the gravel accompanies the streams, is undulating in character and may be described as purely agricultural. The proportion of grass to arable roughly estimated is one of the former to two of the latter.

Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate.

One hundred and twenty-two births allocated to the district—62 males and 60 females—make a birth rate of 18.8 per 1000 of population.

The number of illegitimate children was 12 that is 9.6 per cent of the total number.

The number of births supplied to me by the different registrars was 116, so that 6 escaped local registration.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths registered was 74 subtracting 3 of this number, as persons belonging to other districts, and adding 23 persons belonging to this district but dying elsewhere makes a total of 94 making a death rate of 15.15 per 1000 of population.

Infant Death Rate.

Nine deaths of infants under one year of age give a death rate of 73·7 per 1000 births. Three of these deaths were of immature children and the remainder were from chest trouble at ages varying from 3 to 10 months.

There were no deaths of illegitimate children.

Zymotic Death Rate.

Three deaths from diphtheria make a Zymotic death rate of ·48 per 1000 of population.

For calculating the amount of poor law relief there are no figures available to which I have access.

Hospitals.

The Huntingdon County Hospital, the Peterborough Infirmary and Addenbrooks Hospital Cambridge, all out of the district, afford gratuitous treatment, both for inpatients and outpatients. The County Hospital taking the cases from the Southern division of the County and the Peterborough Infirmary the Northern division.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply.

A table on page 14; prepared by the Inspector of Nuisances, shows the water supply of each village

A fresh supply is under consideration for the village of Little Raveley

No action has been necessary during the year in consequence of any contamination.

Rivers and Streams.

All drains eventually discharge into the nearest watercourse.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Brampton and Hartford are the only two villages with any real attempt to a proper system of drainage. In each case the sewage is collected into settling tanks before discharging into a stream and are periodically emptied. The drainage of the rest of the district can only be described as patch work but when the sewage does find its way into a stream it is practically harmless, being so far distance from the next village. As will be seen in the next paragraph on Closet Accommodation the pail system is practically universal.

Closet Accommodation.

In the few cases in which the water closet is the system used, care is taken that they do not discharge directly into the stream. Practically the whole district is served by the pail system and so each household acts as its own scavenger.

Scavenging.

Brampton is the only village which has a public scavenger and his duties might be more zealously performed.

Special Byelaws were made for Sawtry to ensure more prompt removal of house refuse but there has been no occasion to take action

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Eighteen schools were visited and the washing accommodation was found to be none too satisfactory.

I have made a house to house inspection of the whole district in company with the Inspector of Nuisances. The results arising therefrom will be found in the Inspector's Report on page 15.

Food.

Milk.

The number of milksellers in the district is 40, all of whom are registered. Five of the 40 send their milk away to be sold, the remainder distributing it locally.

The number of inspections made was 77, of which 4 were during milking hours. The premises of all were found in a satisfactory condition.

Milk (Mothers' and Children) Order 1918 was under the Food Control Committee. The number of applications for extra milk was almost a negligible quantity.

Other Foods.

It was only necessary on one occasion to condemn some bacon. This was voluntarily destroyed by the retailer without any legal proceedings.

Bakehouses.

The number is 12, and all were found in a clean condition.

Slaughter Houses

Are all private, and with one exception, at Leighton, were found in a satisfactory condition.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases. Scarlet Fever.

There were nine cases of scarlet fever notified, viz. :—

5 cases at Hartford in 3 houses.

1 case at Brampton 1 house.

3 cases at Woodwalton 3 houses

Two of the cases at Hartford were contracted in Huntingdon.

Diphtheria.

Twenty-four cases of diphtheria were notified and were distributed as follows:—

1 case at Sawtry.

1 „ Upton.

1 „ Great Raveley.

3 cases at Great Stukeley in 1 house.

3 „ Abbots Ripton 3 houses

1 case at Brampton.

9 cases at Alconbury 6 „

1 case at Easton.

1 „ Ellington.

1 „ Spaldwick.

2 cases at Hartford. 2 „

It is very apparent that these 24 cases had no immediate connection with each other, for with the exception of the cases at Alconbury, they all occurred in different houses and at varying ages.

Antitoxin, supplied by the County Council, was used in all the cases. Four of the cases were fatal. For the last quarter of the year arrangements were made to admit all cases of infectious diseases into the Isolation Hospital at Huntingdon, eight beds being reserved for that purpose.

Measles.

Sixty-five cases of measles were notified, 45 of these were at Brampton, and the remaining 20 in the following villages, viz. :— Ellington, Upwood, Hamerton, Hartford, Easton, Spaldwick, Great Raveley, Alconbury, King's Ripton, and Little Stukeley. The Schools were closed at Brampton, but not until after the disease had got a fair start, and there was a decided diminution of attendances. Notification of measles ceased to be compulsory at the close of the year, and for the practical good afforded it need never have been introduced.

Notification of School closure is always promptly sent by the County School Medical Officer, but too late to be of practical value.

Whooping Cough.

The Schools were closed at Woodwalton, Conington and Hamerton, on account of whooping cough. There were no fatal cases.

Influenza.

There were four fatal cases notified under the heading Influenza, which was prevalent throughout the district. It is practically impossible to give the case fatality. The district has never been quite free from it. Isolated cases keep cropping up eventually leading to outbreaks on a larger scale.

Pneumonia.

There were only seven cases notified, of which four were fatal.

Malaria.

Two cases of malaria in ex-Soldiers were reported. No cases of dysentery.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

There was one case of this disease, which proved fatal. The girl was in service, and was removed to the County Hospital, where the disease was recognized. Efforts to ascertain its origin were unsuccessful.

Tuberculosis

The treatment of all forms of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council. The County Medical Officer being appointed Tuberculosis Officer, Every case notified has the offer, if suitable, of Sanatorium treatment, either at Ipswich, in beds, reserved for the purpose, or at Papworth Hall Tuberculosis Colony, Cambs. There were 13 cases notified, of which four were fatal.

Venereal Disease.

This is entirely under the management of the County Council. Beds for cases requiring them are reserved at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Small Pox.

There were no cases notified. Two contacts were reported, but did not develop the disease. Vaccination, by the Medical Officer of Health, was not called for. Although, as mentioned in a previous part of this report, beds are secured for the treatment of infectious diseases at the Huntingdon Isolation Hospital, cases of small pox have still to find a lodging. Figures, kindly supplied to me by the Vaccination Officers, show that the number of cases obtaining exemption certificates is on the increase, and consequently the risk of small pox is greater.

Cancer.

There were 13 deaths registered from this disease, which were distributed as follows :—

Parishes.	Sex.	Age.
Brampton	M. 2 F.	68. 71. 69.
Buckworth	F.	63.
Ellington	M.	80.
Hartford	2 M.	60. 67.
Great Raveley	F.	64.
Sawtry	M. F.	61. 73.
Upwood	F.	73.
Woodwalton	M. F.	82. 63.

Anthax and Rabies.

There were no cases of anthrax or rabies reported.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

This is entirely in the charge of the County Council and I am given to understand that further developments are in progress.

Ophthalmia Neo-Natorum.

There was only one case reported which was removed to the County Hospital for treatment and, I was informed, successfully.

Sanitary Administration.**Officers.**

The Officers are two in number, viz :—the Medical Officer and Inspector of Nuisances. The latter officer also acts as Designated Officer under the Housing and Town Planning Acts and as Executive Officer to the Food Control Committee.

Hospital Accommodation.

Details of the Hospital Accommodation are given on page 5

Adoptive Acts.

Parts of Public Health Amendment Acts 1890 and 1907. Infectious Diseases Prevention Act 1890. Notification of Births Act 1907. Local Act for Sawtry for Private Scavenging and Prevention of Nuisances Act 1908. Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order Act 1906.

Bacteriological Examination.

All examinations are carried out at the County Health Office by the County Medical Officer. No examinations are reported from the Public Analyst.

Housing.

At the commencement of the year the Housing Committee met and as a result of several meetings a scheme was drawn up to erect 126 houses, which was eventually approved by the Ministry of Health.

The following table gives the number of houses to be erected in each parish. The figures in the first column give the full number of houses in the schemes and in the second column the number for which tenders have been accepted and the work is in progress.

Table showing the total number of houses for each parish.

Parishes.	No. in scheme.	No in course of erection.	
Alconbury	8	8	
Alconbury Weston...	4	4	
Barham	—	—	landlord to build.
Brampton	10	6	
Buckworth	4	2	
Conington	—	—	none required.
Coppingford	—	—	none required.
Easton	4	—	site still unsettled.
Ellington	6	—	
Steeple Gidding	6	—	
Hartford	6	6	
Hamerton	—	—	by landlord.
Leighton	—	—	by landlord.
Great Raveley	6	6	
Little Raveley	4	4	
Abbott's Ripton	4	—	
Wennington	4	—	
Kings Ripton	4	—	
Sawtry All Saints	8	6	
Sawtry St. Judith	8	6	
Spaldwick	6	4	
Great Stukeley	4	4	
Little Stukeley	4	4	
Upton	4	4	
Upwood	10	8	
Woodwalton	8	8	
Woolley	4	—	site still unsettled
	<u>126</u>	<u>80</u>	

In the parishes of Barham, Leighton and Hamerton the landlords have agreed to erect the necessary number of houses.

The drainage and water supply is to be decided for each site, and as it will necessarily vary as to whether there is a public supply of water, and whether any existing sewers can be utilized.

The Designated Officer gives the number of houses for the district as 1647; 1318 of them being for the working class, including non-agricultural workers.

From information from the Food Control Office, a small decrease of the population may be anticipated.

Overcrowding will be dealt with when the new houses are available for occupation. It may be anticipated that there will be a general shifting of the tenants in each parish.

It will be a difficult matter to decide who shall occupy the new houses, but overcrowding should certainly have first claim. The houses vacated will then be at liberty for occupants of houses which are unfit.

In compiling this report, it has been somewhat difficult to keep one's information to the year in review, but I have endeavoured to do so as far as possible, although one's knowledge of the work done in the first three months of 1920 must, in some degree, have influenced my report of that done in 1919.

LANCELOT NEWTON,

M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

M.O.H. for Huntingdon Rural District.

ALCONBURY WESTON,

1920.

Water Supply, 1919.

Parish.	Quantity.	Quality.
Abbots Ripton ...	One pond. Sufficient.	Poor.
Alconbury ...	Two public pumps. Sufficient	Fair.
Alconbury Weston ...	Two public pumps. Sufficient	Poor.
Brampton ...	All private wells. Sufficient	Fair.
Buckworth ...	Three public wells. Sufficient	Fair.
Barham ...	One public pond. Sufficient	Poor.
Easton ...	One public pump. Sufficient	Good.
Ellington ...	Three public pumps. Sufficient	Good.
Leighton ...	Three public pumps. Sufficient	Fair.
Spaldwick ...	Two public pumps. Sufficient	Good.
Woolley ...	One public pump. Sufficient	Indifferent.
Hamerton ...	One public pump, one pond. Sufficient	Fair.
Steeple Gidding ...	One public pond. Sufficient.	Indifferent.
Sawtry ...	One public reservoir. Sufficient	Fair.
Woodwalton ...	Two public pumps. Sufficient	Fair.
Conington ...	One public pond. Sufficient	Fair.
Upwood ...	Two public pumps. Sufficient	Fair.
Great Raveley ...	One public pump. Sufficient	Good.
Coppingford ...	One public pump. Sufficient	Fair.
Little Raveley ...	One public pond. Short	Bad.
Upton ...	One public pond. Sufficient	Indifferent.
King's Ripton ...	Two public ponds, Sufficient	Indifferent.
Little Stukeley ...	Three public pumps. Sufficient	Fair.
Great Stukeley ...	Private wells and pumps. Sufficient	Fair.
Hartford ...	Private wells. Abundant.	Fair,
Wennington ...	One public pond. Sufficient	Indifferent.

F. FORTESCUE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

ALCONBURY WESTON,
1920.

To L. Newton, Esq., M.O.H.

DEAR SIR,

Herewith I append summary of work carried or caused to be done during 1919.

1.	Parishes inspected	...	...	...	...	26
2.	Houses, premises, &c. inspected	...	...	...	...	917
3.	" " re-inspected	...	...	...	...	106
4.	Earth Closets caused to be repaired	...	...	...	...	9
5.	Public Drains, &c. cleansed, repaired or flushed	...	...	...	...	31
6.	Private Drains repaired after notice	...	...	...	...	10
7.	" " " without notice	...	...	...	...	4
8.	Public pumps, wells, &c. repaired	...	...	...	...	6
9.	Private " after notice	...	...	...	...	4
10.	" " without notice	...	...	...	...	5
11.	Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	...	...	31
12.	" repaired under Town Planning Act. (Sec. 15, 3)	...	...	...	...	36
13.	Ashbins repaired after notice	...	...	...	...	2
14.	Milksellers registered	...	...	...	...	40

I am Sir,

Yours respectfully,

F. FORTESCUE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

**Causes of Deaths in Huntingdon Rural District,
1919.**

	Male.	Female.
All Causes (Civilians only)	43	51
1. Enteric Fever	—	—
2. Small Pox	—	—
3. Measles	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Diphtheria and Croup	—	3
7. Influenza	3	1
8. Erysipelas	—	—
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	2
10. Tuberculosis Meningitis	—	—
11. Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—
12. Cancer, Malignant disease	7	6
13. Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14. Meningitis	—	1
15. Organic Heart Disease	6	5
16. Bronchitis	5	3
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	1	3
18. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
19. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years).. ..	—	—
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
21a. Alcoholism	—	—
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	—	1
23. Puerperal Fever	—	—
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever	—	—
25. Congenital Debility, &c.	—	2
26. Violence apart from Suicide	1	1
27. Suicide	—	—
28. Other Defined Diseases	17	22
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—
Special Causes (included above)		
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		
Illegitimate	4	5
Total Births	62	60
Legitimate	55	55
Illegitimate	7	5
Population for Birth Rate	6460	
for Death Rate	6201	