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KINGSCLERE
WHITCOURT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

KINGSCLERE

For the year 1915.

PORTSMOUTH:

HOLBROOK & SON, LTD., PRINTERS, 154-155, QUEEN STREET.



1915.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT.

THE ROOKERY,

KINGSCLERE,

20th February, 1916.

TO THE KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

1915 has gone, and it behoves me to make a report to you on the sanitary conditions, etc., of our area during this most notorious of years owing to the great European War. But few troops have been billeted in the area, and then only for an occasional day or night. A military convalescent hospital has been in existence in the village of Kingsclere, whilst at Highclere a hospital for wounded officers has been conducted, but neither of these has effected the area, with the exception of one case of scarlet fever. Several deaths of residents without have been reported amongst soldiers.

Last year in making my return, I did not deduct from our estimated population, but now I am subtracting 842, not quite ten per cent., and I am yet of opinion a somewhat

large quantity have joined the colours, many never again to return to England.

The general condition of the various villages has not altered, but each contains empty cottage property, and there certainly is no necessity for building such. Not a single residence of any description has been erected during the year, with the exception of two small bungalows at Tadley.

Sickness has been unusually light, and the year compares favourably with any of the past score, when one takes into consideration recently both tuberculosis and ophthalmia neonatorum have been added to notifiable diseases, and before this report reaches you will be added measles and German measles. Would that venereal disease had also been added—the biggest scourge of the present day.

Well do I remember, some forty odd years ago, it being notifiable among recognised prostitutes in London, who then were under police supervision and examined weekly by a doctor. This Act remained in force some eighteen months, but was hounded down by public sentiment.

Confidential restrictions would have to be made to apply to both sexes.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria again stands out at the head of notifiable diseases, but with a considerable reduction in its number. Three isolated cases occurred in the first half of the year, then, in July, an outbreak occurred among children attending Headley School, which I closed, and had cleaned and

renovated, and a new place found for the deposit of effete matters.

The closing lasted a fortnight, when holidays commenced. All children in the district, whether attending school or not, and many adults were swabbed, among them being two carriers. However, the ailment continued in the area, so I came to the conclusion I had not arrived at the seat of origin, so I called upon the manager of a local place of worship, which I found many of the children attended. Here the prayer and hymn books are stored, and given out when required. At my request they were all destroyed, and I hope this action has eradicated the disease.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the spring, and I had to close several schools. Five infants died of it.

Scarlet Fever.

Eleven cases occurred chiefly in the spring, the infection being contracted from a neighbouring Rural District, where several of these children attended schools.

One case occurred in a soldier, who was treated in your Isolation Hospital.

Erysipelas.

Nine cases notified, with one death.

Tuberculosis.

Seven cases of tubercle of lung and two of other organs, of which three lung cases and one other died. Shelters are provided and all cases kept under observation.

Mumps.

Mumps was most prevalent at latter part of year, attacking persons of all ages.

You will remember in last year's report I suggested a system of scavenging for Kingsclere. This matter was considered and circulars distributed to the residents, but the response in favour was so small that for the present the matter is in abeyance. I am still of opinion arrangements should be made for the supply of disinfectants to our public elementary schools.

Your birth rate, although war time, shows an improvement, 166 births; 90 of these males, 76 females; and among these, 12 deaths, or 72.2 per 1,000 children born, and half of these twelve infants' deaths were under one month, but, unfortunately, nine were males.

Maternity and infantile welfare is now a problem under serious consideration, and no doubt in due course will have a beneficial effect.

Your death rate is slightly higher, but due to war troubles, 114, and of these, 61 had attained the age of 65 or more. No special diseases claimed an unusual amount of sufferers. It will be interesting here to note that in the District Parish Infirmary no less than sixteen persons died, averaging close on fourscore years.

Your Isolation Cottage Hospital continues most serviceable, 10 cases of diphtheria and 9 of scarlet fever being treated in it during the year. It has been enlarged by the addition of 4 more beds in separate ward.

Ten samples of water I examined, eight of which proved satisfactory, but the other two, from a very old family residence, were very polluted, so samples after having the wells cleaned out were sent to the County Analyst, who each time condemned them, so now the property is supplied from quite a different source, and wells covered in.

There were no cases of overcrowding.

All disinfections are done as rapidly as possible, and goods destroyed when necessary, as we have no large disinfecting chamber, and it is more economical. 7 lots were destroyed, and in 32 instances the Sanitary Inspector disinfected at my request.

Would that we had public baths and wash-houses. One is more convinced than ever after this long spell of examining army recruits.

Systematic visiting and also special visits have been regularly carried out both by myself and your Sanitary Inspector, and much work have we performed when together.

Concerning Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies, etc., I have nothing fresh to suggest.

The year was one of the wettest on record, being 43:61 inches in 136 days.

Appended are five most interesting tables.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

REG. MAPLES, M.O.H

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1910	8,500		175	20.58	91	10.6			13	76.05	91	10.06
1911	8,842		181	20.47	87	9.83		3	12	66.23	90	10.17
1912	8,842		172	19.4	86	9.72		2	13	75.5	88	9.95
1913	8,842		185	20.8	93	10.5		9	15	81.5	102	11.3
1914	8,842		144	16.28	114	12.89	3	4	15	104.16	115	13.11
1915	8,000		166	20.75	106	13	2	10	12	72.2	114	14

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 45,986. Total population at all ages, 8,842, at Census of 1911.
Total families or separate occupiers, 2,152.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY						Total cases removed to Hospital		
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Kings clere	High-clere							
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	28	2	6	12	4	4	...	...	26	2	...	...	...	10	...	...	...
Erysipelas	9	...	...	...	...	4	4	1	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	11	...	2	5	3	1	...	...	2	9	...	...	...	9	...	...	...
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7	...	...	...	3	2	1	1	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	58	3	8	19	10	11	5	2	41	17				19	...	...	...

Cottage Isolation Hospital in Eechinswell Parish.

Sanatoria—Nil.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1915.

CAUSES OF DEATH	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes { Certified ...	112		2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Uncertified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	5	2	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza ...	8	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	4	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	8	...
Meningitis ...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease ...	13	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	9	1
Bronchitis ...	11	1	2	...	...	...	...	2	6	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	5	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides) ...	3	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases ...	18	1	...	...	...	1	5	2	9	3
Diseases defined as Sencetus ...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	8
Totals ...	112	12	6	6	4	3	9	11	61	16

TABLE IV.—INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.
Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes—Certified ...	3	2	...	1	...	...	3	3	...	12
(Small Pox)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
(Tuberculous Meningitis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
(Diarrhoea)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlying	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at birth	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(Congenital Malformations)	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3
Premature Birth	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other causes	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	3	2	...	1	...	...	3	3	...	12

Nett Births in the year : Legitimate, 156. Illegitimate, 10.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 10. Illegitimate Infants, 2.

TABLE V.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the year 1915.

		Number of		Abatement Notices		Nuisances Abated after Notices by		Nuisance Remaining Unabated
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority	
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	26	26	21	5	21	3	2
	Structural Defects ...	7	7	7	2	5	...	2
	Over-crowding ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Unfit for Habitation	2	2	2	...	...	...	2
	Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dairies & Milkshops	85	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cowsheds...	31	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bakehouses ...	29	2	2	...	2	...	...
	Slaughter-houses ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ashpits and Privies	71	71	28	5	28	3	2
House Drainage	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	53	53	53	...	53	...	...
	Water-closets ...	5	5	5	...	5	...	...
	Defective Traps ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Faults ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Water Supply ...	13	13	13	2	11	2	...
	Pigsties ...	18	18	18	...	18	...	...
	Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Smoke Nuisances ...	3	3	3	...	3	...	...
	Other Nuisances ...	137	32	32	...	30	...	...
Inspections of New Buildings ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...		488	233	184	14	177	8	8
						1		
Complaints received ...						...		
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...						...		
Samples of Food taken for Analysis						...		
" " found Adulterated						...		
" of Water taken for Analysis						4		
" Condemned as Unfit for Use						4		
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.						7		
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed						34		
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease						3		
Schools ditto ditto						...		
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease						...		
Convictions ditto ditto						...		
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things						...		
Convictions ditto ditto						...		



