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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

KINGSCLERE

For the Year 1920.

PORTSMOUTH:

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1911

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

KINGSLERE

1911

PRINTED BY

THE KINGSLERE DISTRICT COUNCIL

1920.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT.

KINGSCLERE,

NEWBURY,

March, 1921.

TO THE KINGSCLERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in presenting you with my report for the past year, 1920. Two complete years have passed since the signing of the Armistice, and I am of opinion that we have now reverted to a normal rural district. To arrive at our population is difficult, but I am sure we are considerably below our pre-war census; I arrive at this conclusion partly from the fact that there are so many less children attending our Public Elementary Schools, in addition to which, families have been driven away by want of employment.

The year was an inclement one, for, although the rainfall, 32.46 inches on 158 days, was some four inches below the average of recent years, the summer was practically sunless, the month of July accounting for no less than 7.56 inches of rain, which prevented grain from maturing, and also ruined the hay crop. The character of your district in no way alters—purely agricultural—containing sixteen parishes, varying in altitude from 250 to 960 feet, with a variety of soil according to situation. The acreage is 45,986, of which 1,523 are inland water.

The Berks County Hospital, the Hants County Hospital, and the Newbury District Hospital, each gives valuable services to the residents of the area.

Poor Law does not increase, but all our aged look up their rights for old age pensions.

Vital Statistics.

Population, I cannot help thinking, is more than in the previous year, 8,172, but the Registrar-General estimates it at 8,158, both for births and deaths, so I intend working on his figures. Your pre-war population was 8,842.

Damp as the year was, it was healthy, and statistics show a great change, both as regards births and deaths, for they were the highest and lowest for many years.

Births, 202. Deaths, 83. Making births in excess 119.

Population. Total, 8158.

Kingsclere District, 4,840, Birth rate, 27.47 per 1000.

Highclere District, 3,318, Birth rate, 20.7 per 1000.

General Birth rate, 24.78 per 1000.

BIRTHS.

133 Kingsclere; 62 Males, 71 Females.

69 Highclere; 29 Males, 40 Females.

Of these 12 were Illegitimate, 7 in Kingsclere, and 5 in Highclere areas, six of each sex; one male died.

There is a difference of two Births between my returns and the Registrar-General's.

DEATHS, 83.

55 Kingsclere, 11.11 per 1,000 population.

28 Highclere, 8.43 per 1,000 population.

General Death rate 10.17 per 1,000 population.

Infant ,, 1.2 ,, ,,

Infant Death rate per 1,000 Births, 49.5.

15 persons died outside, belonging to area, and one inside not belonging to it.

9 inquests were held, 3 accidents, 2 suicides, 4 ordinary causes.

10 Infants died under 1 year—Two outside.

17 Persons over 70 years of age.

10 ,, ,, 80 years.

6 ,, ,, 90 years.

Cancer seems to me somewhat more prevalent than of latter years, yet no disease has been responsible for an excess of deaths.

Water is sufficient and good, but many samples hard, owing to the prevalence of chalk strata. Wells are chiefly in vogue—no waterworks—and considerable advantage is taken of the various streams, but I regret to say the pollution of the upper part of the Kingsclere one continues, some wrong-minded people using it as a general refuse dump. Notices have not abated this, and it is most difficult to trace the culprits, for the abuse takes place at night time.

Ashmansworth, at a high altitude, depends upon its pond and filter as in the past.

Drainage and Sewerage are satisfactory, and only Kingsclere St. Mary's has a sewerage system, considerably enlarged, and which is used by a large proportion of the inhabitants, the remaining using pail closets or privies—the latter are gradually being done away with.

Practically all the larger residences in the area have a septic system on their own properties. It is calculated there are some 1,100 pail closets, about 900 privies, and 200 W.C.'s on the 2,152 rateable premises. The cottagers still make heaps in their gardens of the contents of closets, and in due course dig it in. Any village can have the use of a scavenger's cart on applying for it, and Kingsclere has one pass through the area weekly. Drains have been put to Lord Carnarvon's cottage property, both at Crux Easton and Woodcott.

Inspection of District.

This is frequent, for both I and the Inspector of Nuisances are constantly in various parts, and call each other's attention to anything which may arise.

Together we made during the year six systematic inspections.

Lodging Houses and Offensive Trades.

There are none, neither are there any underground sleeping rooms.

Elementary Schools.

I do not think these are kept so clean as they used to be. Both the drinking and washing vessels have become dilapidated, and usually are found in the entrance lobbies among the children's coats, etc., certainly an unsatisfactory position for drinking water.

Inspection of Schools I made whenever I deemed necessary. Always before a closing order, during which period I have the School both disinfected and cleansed. Headley School is overcrowded, more labour now being employed in that area, and the closets are far too near the buildings. The school roof requires repair.

The following closures I made:—

Headley, in March for colds, and later on for Influenza.

Crux Easton, for Scarlet Fever, both in the Summer and also in the Autumn.

Woolton Hill, for Scarlet Fever in October and November.

In the early part of year I circulated Hand Bills re precautions to be taken to avoid Influenza.

Milk.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Act of 1918 has not been brought into force, nor is it likely to be now for some time to come, but we have adopted the 1907 Model Regulations of the Local Government Board.

Dairies are regularly inspected, and also Milk Shops, and vessels used.

The supply of milk to Expectant Mothers and Children under five years of age has been liberally supplied by the County Medical Officer, but in future this distribution is to be handed over to Local Authorities. Milk is readily obtainable all over the area, but varies considerably in winter in quality, owing to the different classes of feeding

by cow-keepers. Parts of the district sell a quantity to the United Dairies Company.

I have not come across a tubercular cow for some years. There are 96 cow-keepers.

Bakehouses, 10, are also systematically inspected, and I have no complaint to make.

Slaughterhouses, 3, the same as have been in existence many years.

Waters. Six samples were sent to the County Analyst—all good for domestic use.

New Houses. Only one at Newtown.

Old Houses. Five pulled down.

Closing Orders, 7—4 Kingsclere and 3 Highclere Districts.

Nuisances.

I took out one summons for the keeping of pigs, and accumulation of filth in proximity to other people's residences, and obtained a conviction.

In another instance I found a quantity of breeding pigs close to an elementary school, and at once had them removed to a reasonable distance.

Many more pigs seem to me to be kept in the district again, but not allowed within 60 feet of houses.

Rats have become a perfect plague, and so far but slight success in exterminating them has been obtained.

Improvements have at last been carried out in connection with the overflow of manure water at Field Gate farmyard.

Unfortunately, we have neither public nor swimming baths so much longed for.

Concerning the Dust Nuisance in Kingsclere main streets, I am continually being asked by parishioners why I don't take stronger steps to have it abated. I am convinced it has become injurious to public health, for no one living in these streets can have windows opened even for ordinary ventilation, and the amount of motor traffic

along them has much increased of late. We have now several permanent lorries plying along daily and the number of motors must be many scores daily both ways. The argument of fish destruction can but be small for villages and even hamlets north and south have tarred roads closer to streams than our main roads are, and surely public health is our first consideration. I hope you will place a strong representation to the County Council for steps to be taken forthwith, otherwise parishioners state they intend sending a petition to the Ministry of Health.

Under the Food and Drugs Act, all samples sent to the County Analyst proved unadulterated.

Infectious Diseases notified, 72.

Diphtheria. This disease, which in past years has caused so much anxiety, has been much less frequent. 8 cases, 4 of which were isolated ones, the remaining 4 in our Stoneyheath area, and I traced them to have originated in Ramsdale School. I corresponded with Dr. Moore, M.O.H. for Basingstoke, and after consultation he closed this School, for several cases also had developed in his area. Sad to relate, one of my patients died in Hospital at the end of the sixth week from rapid paralysis.

Scarlet Fever. 18 cases. The majority of these were at Crux Easton and Woodcott. Here I traced contact with others suffering during a Fête at Faccombe. The first patient, a child, aged 12, was treated at home, and there was great neglect of proper precautions, hence the disease gradually spread to children attending Crux Easton School, for I had no less than eleven in this area.

Pneumonia. 2 cases, one of which died.

Puerperal Fever. 1, recovered.

Encephalitis Lethargica, 1, in a young woman, aged 22, who had an outdoor life as assistant to a carrier. Her symptoms commenced with Influenza, developing this ailment some fortnight later. She was treated by her doctor for some considerable weeks, and in due course he

notified to me she had completely recovered. I made a special report at the time on this case.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. One case.

Erysipelas. 7 cases, all of whom recovered.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 7 cases, several of which have undergone Sanatorium treatment, and three have been provided with Shelters. Also one case of Tubercle of hip, which is being treated at the Treloar Home at Alton.

Malaria. 2 cases, both ex-Soldiers.

Chicken-pox. 24 cases, practically all among School children.

This concludes my list of notifiable diseases, but I had several outbreaks of Whooping-cough and one of Influenza.

Measles broke out in Tadley School in the end of October, having been conveyed by children returning from Hopping.

I did not trace a case of return-Scarlet fever.

There was neither Dysentery nor Trench fever.

Bacteriological aid is always at hand from the County Laboratory, and is freely availed of.

Antitoxin is always at hand for Practitioners.

Disinfection always takes place on the notification of Infectious Diseases, and in cases of removal to Hospital the Sanitary Inspector remains behind to perform immediate disinfection, an arrangement having now been made that a relative shall come in the ambulance with the patient, and be returned home at the Council's expense. From Head School Teachers I always receive notices of suspected ailments of children absent from school.

Rabies and Anthrax were unheard of.

In cases of verminous persons, one can generally arrange for them to be cleansed at the Workhouse.

Notification of Tuberculosis I believe to be both regular and prompt.

Your Isolation Hospital fulfils all demands upon it, and during the year I treated in it eight cases of scarlet

fever and four of diphtheria. Your resident staff consists of one Nurse.

Small-pox at an emergency could be treated in the separate block till a Tent was erected in the meadow.

The following Acts, etc., are in force:—

1. Model Building Bye-Laws.
2. Notification of Infectious Diseases.
3. Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order of 1885, and Amended Order, 1886.
4. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Model Regulations, 1907, as issued by the Local Government Board.
5. Urban Powers, Section 44, Public Health Act, 1875.

Your Workhouse and its Infirmary are great assets, the inmates thoroughly comfortable, well nursed, and looked after.

Four children were born and eight deaths took place in the Infirmary.

Housing.

Various meetings of Committees have been held, several of which I attended. My last report was made to the Ministry of Health early in April.

The following houses were decided to be built, and are in course of erection:—

Kingsclere	...	...	10
Burghclere	...	...	4
Higclere	...	...	2
To be built in due course:—			
Kingsclere	...	...	6 in the more rural area.
Wolverton	...	...	2
Tadley	...	...	4
Ecchinswell	...	...	2
East Woodhay	...	...	6

These latter ones will have the advantage of the great reduction in the cost of materials.

In the remaining Parishes, Baughurst, Hannington, Ashmansworth, Crux Easton, Ewhurst, Litchfield, Newtown, Sydmonton, and the two Woodcotts, it is not deemed necessary to build, for the Populations are fluctuating and small.

Overcrowding, of which I had four instances, was only temporary. The general standard of houses is fair, and many are of old-fashioned type. Where there is unfitness it is chiefly due to dilapidations, frequently caused by the tenants or their children in the cases of large families, and these are chiefly inside destruction of walls. We still have some eighteen cottages not fit for residences, and steps will be taken during the coming year to have them either repaired or demolished.

We have no unhealthy areas, for practically all is rural, and even hamlets, are small.

No common lodging houses. Some tenants have individual lodgers, but no steps have been legally necessary.

Vans and tents are absent, but one old man and his wife persisted in living in a shed. This has been burnt down, and they are now living in a cottage, and re-erection on their old spot will not be tolerated.

The purchase of the six cottages in Duke Street for demolishing is a great asset to the future safety of the main road from Basingstoke to Newbury.

Staff engaged are the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

I enclose various statistical returns.

In conclusion, I think your area, which is both picturesque and clean, compares favourably with our neighbours.

and remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

REGINALD MAPLES,

M.O.H.

TABLE I.—BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Provisional Figures:—Populations estimated to the middle of 1920 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.

	Birth rate per 1,000 Total Population	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
		All Classes	Enteric Fever	Small Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteric under 2 years	Total Deaths under One Year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes of Death	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Deaths	
England and Wales	25.4	12.4	0.01	0.00	0.19	0.04	0.11	0.15	0.28	0.48	8.3	80	24.3	92.2	6.6	1.2	
96 Great Towns (including London) Populations exceeding 50,000	26.2	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.22	0.04	0.14	0.16	0.31	0.43	10.4	85	31.3	92.2	7.1	0.7	
148 Smaller Towns, (Census Populations 20,000 to 50,000)	24.9	11.3	0.02	0.00	0.19	0.03	0.10	0.14	0.27	0.38	7.8	80	16.5	93.2	5.3	1.5	
London	26.5	12.1	1.01	0.00	0.22	0.05	0.17	0.22	0.30	0.47	9.5	75	44.8	91.2	8.6	0.2	

TABLE II.

Causes of Death in Kingsclere Rural District, 1920.

Causes of Death					Males	Females
CIVILIANS ONLY.						
ALL CAUSES					35	48
1	Enteric fever
2	Small-pox
3	Measles
4	Scarlet fever
5	Whooping cough
6	Diphtheria and croup	...	...	1	1
7	Influenza	...	...	...	1
8	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...
9	Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
10	Tuberculous meningitis	...	...	...	...
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	1	1
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	4	4
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...
14	Meningitis	...	...	...	...
15	Organic heart disease	...	...	5	7
16	Bronchitis	...	...	3	2
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	...
18	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	3	...
19	Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...
20	Appendicitis & typhlitis	...	...	1	...
21	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	1
21A	Alcoholism	...	...	...	...
22	Nephritis and Bright's disease	...	...	2	...
23	Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	...	...	...	...
25	Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	2	4
26	Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	2	1
27	Suicide	...	...	1	1
28	Other defined diseases	...	...	9	20
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	1
Special causes (included above)						
	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
Death of Infants under 1 year of age					Total	4
					Illegitimate	1
TOTAL BIRTHS					91	113
Legitimate					85	107
Illegitimate					6	6

Population—For Births and Deaths—8,158.

TABLE III.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1920.

		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 ...	30	30	30	8	22	8	...
	Structural Defects ...	245	245	...	163	...	163	82
	Over-crowding ...	4	4	4	2	2	2	...
	Unfit for Habitation	18	18	...	18	...	...	18
	Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Dairies & Milkshops	40	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Cowsheds...	96	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Bakehouses ...	30	2	...	2	...	2	...
	Slaughter-houses ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
	Ashpits and Privies	72	72	71	...	71	...	...
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	23	16	23	4	12	4	...
	Water-closets ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	No Disconnection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Faults ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Water Supply ...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pigsties ...	14	14	...	...	14	...	...
	Animals improperly kept	1	1	...	1	...	1	...
	Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...		612	402	128	199	121	181	100
Complaints received ...						15		
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...						...
Samples of Food taken for Analysis						...		
" " found Adulterated						...		
" of Water taken for Analysis						6		
" Condemned as Unfit for Use						...		
PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.								
Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved or Destroyed						2		
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease						26		
Schools ditto ditto						4		
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease						...		
Convictions ditto ditto						...		
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or Things						...		
Convictions ditto ditto						...		

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

Is there any scarcity of houses—and where?—Yes, Kingsclere, Burghclere, Highclere, Ecchinswell, E. Woodhay, Tadley, Wolverton.

Number of new houses built in 1919?—1. General Character?—For Workmen.

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated?—Yes, at above places.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of the Housing Regulations, 1910?—William T. Jelf.

Are records submitted to L.A. at each meeting?—Yes.

	Number.
Houses Inspected	1043
SECTION 17—	
Dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	18
Representations made ... ..	...
Closing Orders made	7
Houses made habitable without Closing Orders	163
Houses made habitable as result of Closing Orders ... ..	...
Houses demolished ... ..	...
Houses unfit but still occupied	18
SECTION 15—	
Defects reported	245
Defects remedied	163
Notices served	82

Many houses were inspected twice or more times.

TABLE IV.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	8158
(2) General death-rate	10·17
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	·62
(4) Infantile mortality	1·2
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	1829
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	1530 about
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	1

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	200
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	200
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	18

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	128
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	200
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	128
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	None
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	None

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	200
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) by owners	128
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	None

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	7
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	None
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None

8.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Nil.

TABLE V.
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Samples taken during the year ended 31st December, 1920, in the Rural District of Kingsclere.

Article	Genuine	Adul- terated	Article	Genuine	Adul- terated
Arrowroot ...	...	..	Margarine ...	...	..
Baking Powder ...	...	..	Milk of Sulphur ...	...	..
Beer ...	...	..	Mustard ...	...	..
Bread ...	...	..	Milk ...	2	..
Butter ...	1	..	New Milk ...	...	..
Cheese ...	...	..	Sep. Milk ...	...	..
Citric Acid ...	...	..	Nitre, Spirit of ...	...	..
Cocoa ...	...	..	Paragoric ...	...	..
Coffee ...	...	..	Pepper ...	...	..
Condensed Milk ...	1	...	Prunes ...	...	..
Cream of Tartar...	...	..	Quinine, Sulphate of ...	...	..
Demerara Sugar ...	...	..	Rhubarb, Tin. of ...	...	..
Flour ...	1	...	Sal Volatile ...	...	..
Ground Ginger ...	...	..	Seidlitz Powders ...	...	..
Honey ...	...	..	Skim Milk ...	1	...
Ice Cream ...	...	..	Sweets ...	...	..
Jam ...	1	...	Tea ...	...	..
Lard ...	1	...	Whiskey ...	...	..
Laudanum ...	...	..	
Malt Vinegar ...	...	..	
			Total ...	8	Nil

