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**Contributors**

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# COSFORD RURAL DISTRICT, 1913.

*Suff*

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Cosford Rural District of the Cosford Union, during the twelve months ending the 31st December, 1913.

(NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COSFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.)

Population (1901) 11618, (1911) 11808, (Males 6035, Females 5773).

Area 48,572 acres. Number of persons per acre, 0.2.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,814. Number of Persons per Inhabited House, 4.1.

I. BIRTHS. There were 218 births registered in the District during the year (105 males and 113 females), making a birth-rate of 18.4 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates for the past five years were as follows:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Births.....	277	263	269	224	217
Birth-rates ...	23.8	22.6	22.7	18.9	18.3

Nett births belonging to the District were 217 (105 males, 112 females), or 18.3 per thousand.

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes, at all ages, belonging to the District was 147 (80 males and 67 females), making a death-rate of 12.4 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past five years were:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
Deaths.....	154	144	151	154	147
Death-rates ...	13.2	12.3	12.7	13.0	12.4

*Infantile Mortality.* The infantile mortality is again very low, the District having been almost entirely free from zymotic diseases during the year. There were twelve deaths amongst infants under one year of age, making a rate of 55.0 on the registered births. Three of these were due to bronchitis, one to pneumonia, two to diarrhoea and enteritis, five to debility or premature birth. The proportion of deaths under one year to births in the last five years was:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.
	68.5	79.8	74.3	58.0	55.0

The Notification of Births Act (1907) has not been adopted in the District.

*Infectious Diseases.* There were only four deaths (exclusive of tuberculosis) from infectious diseases during the year, making a rate .3 per thousand of the population. There were eight deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, and four from other forms of tuberculosis, or 1.0 per thousand. The deaths and death-rates from infectious diseases during the past five years were as follows:—

	Small pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Epidemic Influenza.	Erysipelas.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Other Tuberculous Diseases.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1909	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	9	3	15	1.2
1910	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	—	5	2	20	1.7
1911	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	14	3	24	2.0
1912	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	4	14	1.1
1913	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	8	4	16	1.3

Deaths from all other causes were 131, or 11.0 per thousand of the population. The deaths in this District caused by the principal diseases, and death-rates during the past five years were:—

	Bronchitis.	Heart Disease.	Injury.	Cancer.	Other Diseases.	Totals.	Death-rates.
1909.....	21	20	7	6	97	151	12.9
1910.....	16	14	5	11	80	131	11.2
1911.....	11	15	2	12	91	144	12.1
1912.....	10	13	8	14	99	144	12.1
1913.....	15	2	9	14	91	131	11.0

III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT. The total number of infectious diseases notified in this District under the Act during 1913 was 3, or .2 per thousand of the population. Eighteen cases were notified under the Tuberculosis regulations. The cases during the past five years were:—

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Continued Fever.	Diphtheria.	Memb. Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Tuberculosis.	Totals.	Per Thousand of Population.
1909	—	25	—	8	—	2	—	6	—	41	3.5
1910	—	1	—	9	—	2	—	—	—	12	1.0
1911	—	8	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	11	.9
1912	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	16	1.3
1913	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	18	21	1.7

*Smallpox.* There were no cases of smallpox during the year.

*Scarlet Fever.* None.

*Diphtheria.* None.

*Typhoid Fever.* This was only a suspected case in a two-year-old child at Lavenham. The serum test was negative, and subsequent developments did not confirm the suspicion.



*Erysipelas.* There were two cases notified, one at Hitcham and one at Lavenham.

*Tuberculosis.* There were 18 cases of tuberculosis notified during the year, 6 pulmonary, and 12 other forms. There were 12 deaths from tuberculosis, 8 pulmonary, and 4 from other forms of the disease. All cases are visited both by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances on notification, and where necessary subsequent visits are paid. Leaflets are distributed and patients instructed as to the nature of the infection and the proper precautions to be taken with regard to the sputum, &c. In fatal cases, disinfection by Formalin of the houses is afterwards carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, who gives instructions as to cleansing the rooms.

*Anthrax.* None.

*Plague.* There have been no cases of plague in the District. The carcase of a diseased rat, caught at Lavenham on June 2nd, was sent up to Whitehall for examination, and pronounced not to be infected with plague. There have been two more campaigns against rats, on the same lines as the previous ones, *i.e.* with the payment of a penny a tail. One commenced on the 2nd December, 1912, and continued to the 31st March, 1913. The total number of rats destroyed was 20,620, at a cost of £85 18s. 4d. The second commenced on October 20th, 1913, and is to continue to the 31st March, 1914.

All cases of infectious diseases notified are visited and isolated as far as circumstances will allow. Disinfectants are supplied, and when the case terminates a thorough disinfection is carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances. Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free by the Council to medical men practising in the District, for use amongst their poor patients, on application to the M. O. H.

#### IV. WATER SUPPLY.

*Hitcham.* The work in connection with the new wind-driven pump at Hitcham, over which, as mentioned in my last report, there was considerable delay, has been at last completed. The site has been fenced round, and the gearing machinery covered in, and the pump is now working satisfactorily. This was done at a cost of £310 19s. Whilst the work was in progress there were 65 days on which water had to be carted round the parish. This entailed an expenditure of £29 16s.

*Whatfield.* A scheme for the improvement of the water supply of Whatfield has been accepted by the Council. The proposal is to pump water by an oil engine from the existing well into two elevated tanks, from which the water can be drawn alternately and distributed by means of mains and stand-pipes. The reason for having two tanks to be used alternately is to allow time for the iron with which the water is impregnated, to oxidise and precipitate, and by this means get rid of the unpleasant taste.

*Wattisham.* The Parish Council of Wattisham, with an idea of increasing the existing water supply, caused a deep pit to be dug in a waste piece of ground close to the public well, and near an open ditch. Owing to the grave danger of contamination by percolation, the Council has issued instructions for the pit to be filled in.

*Bildeston.* Nothing further has been done to improve the character of the water in the public well at Bildeston, which is still unsatisfactory.

The following villages are mainly dependent on ponds for their water supply: Aldham, Brettenham, Kettlebaston, Milden, Naughton, Nedging, Thorpe Morieux, Preston and Wattisham. Those villages possessing public wells are: Bildeston, Cockfield, Elmsett, Groton, Hitcham, Lavenham, Lindsey, Monks Eleigh, Polstead, Whatfield and Wattisham.

*Water Analysis.* I have analysed eight samples of drinking water during the year, five of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

**V. SEWERAGE.** The sewerage of the District is practically unaltered since my last report. It was found necessary to relay about twenty yards of pipe sewer in Chapel Street, Bildeston, which was in bad condition. A portion of the brick culvert in Water Street, Lavenham, burst during a severe storm in the summer, and has been re-arched. The only three villages that have public sewers are Boxford, Bildeston and Lavenham. These all discharge into the neighbouring streams.

*Scavenging.* Public scavenging is carried out only at Lavenham (at a cost of £38 per annum), where it answers very satisfactorily. It would be a great advantage if it could be adopted in the other large villages in the District.

*Closest Accommodation.* There are three types of closet—water closets, pail closets, and vault privies. The approximate numbers being w.c. 60, pail closets 639, vault privies 1892. During the year 15 vault privies have been converted into pail closets, and no new privies have been constructed.

**VI. HOUSES AND COTTAGES.** Twenty-three cottages have been repaired and cleaned, in addition to work done under the "Housing, Town Planning Act." There were six cottages erected,—all by private enterprise. Three cases of overcrowding were abated.

*Housing, Town Planning Act, 1909.* Mr. Bright commenced his work in the district on the 1st of April, as Inspector under the Act. Two additional parishes have been inspected, Monks Eleigh and Cockfield. The Inspector having visited each house under £5 rental, and reported to me, I have visited all those in which he found serious defects, and afterwards each case has been submitted to a Sub-Committee of the Council. As the work of this sub-committee had got considerably in arrears, I thought it better to get these arrears worked off before undertaking fresh inspections. This accounts for the small number of parishes inspected during the year. The parishes so far inspected are:—(1911) Aldham, Elmsett, Milden, Naughton, Nedging and Whatfield. (1912) Semer, Preston, Wattisham, Kettlebaston, Kersey, Lindsey and Chelsworth. (1913) Monks Eleigh and Cockfield. There are the following parishes still to be inspected:—Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Lavenham, Brent Eleigh, Bildeston, Thorpe Morieux, Hitcham, Polstead, Layham, and Hadleigh Hamlet. The results (1913) were as follows:—

Number of dwelling houses inspected.	Number of dwelling houses, which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders.	Number of closing orders made.	Number of notices served.		Number of dwelling houses, the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders.	Number of dwelling houses, which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	General character of defects found to exist.
				Section 15.	Section 17.			
241	4	4	4	3	4	5	2	Sealed windows in living & bedrooms. Bedrooms insufficiently lighted and ventilated. Dampness of ground floor. Insufficient bedroom accommodation. Bad condition of roofs.

19 Feb. 1914

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Colechester

Sir

Cosford Rural District-Sanitary Report-1913

Printer's Error

On Page 2. Section VI.

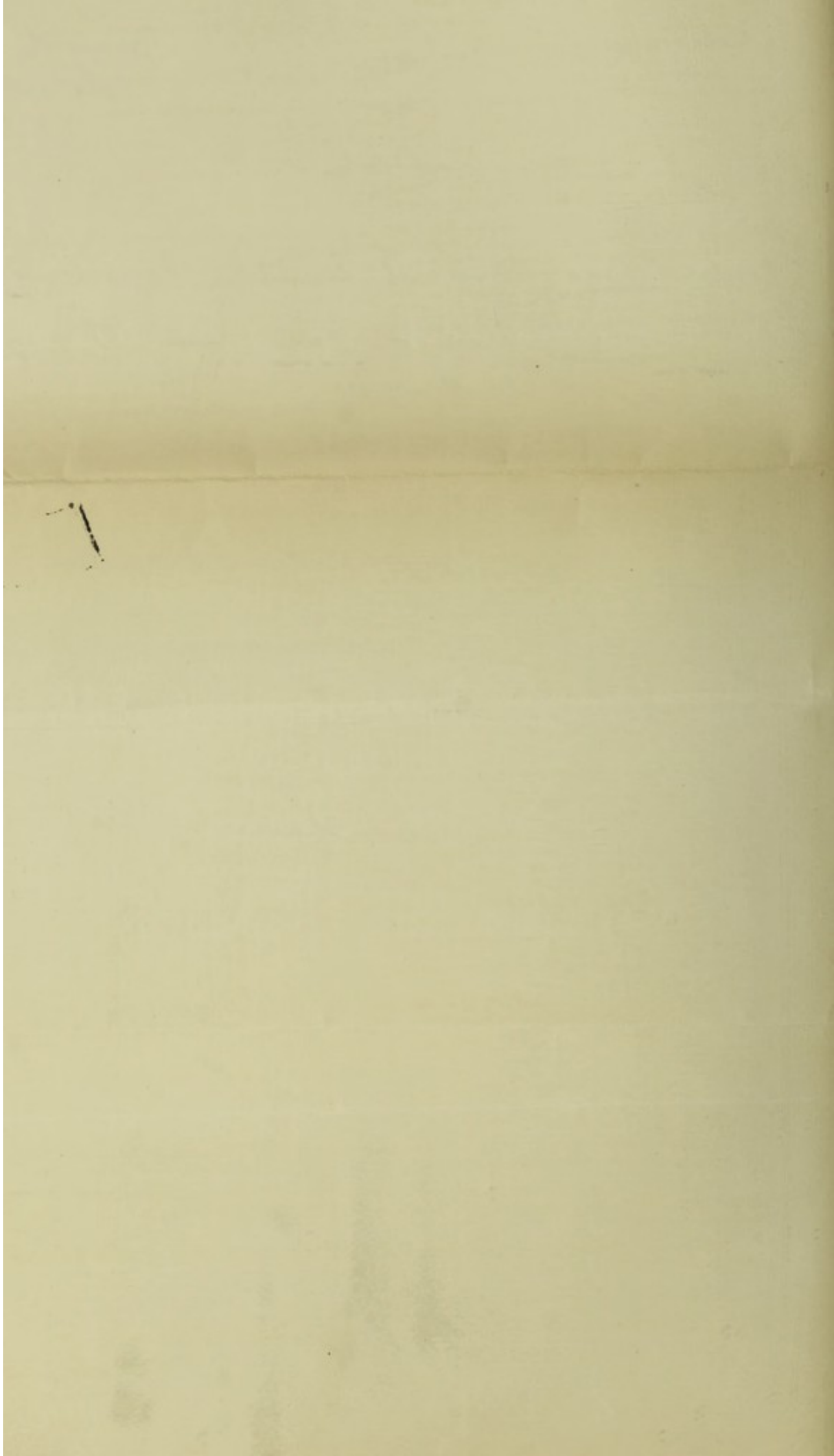
Housing, town planning Act 1909.

Line 3. For "Each house under £5-rental"  
read. "Each house under £8 rental".

Yours faithfully  
Oscar Thompson

Medical Officer of Health





The cases of overcrowding at Whatfield, Elmsett, Naughton and Kettlebaston, are impossible to deal with until further accommodation is provided under the Housing, Town Planning Act. Defects were found to exist in 147 cottages, and up to the end of the year 64 notices have been issued to remedy these defects. During the year repairs to 89 cottages have been effected. Four closing orders were made during the year. Two of these are not yet operative. One is unoccupied, and the other is used by a single man for sleeping only. The parishes in which more housing accommodation is required are:—Elmsett (6), Whatfield (4), Naughton (4), Kettlebaston (10). The number required for Whatfield was originally six, but two have been built during the year by a private owner. All these houses should have not less than three bedrooms and two downstairs rooms. It is advisable that the front room should be smaller than the back room, as experience shews that however much accommodation there may be in the front room the occupiers persist in crowding into the back room, and keeping the front one as a parlour in which to store the best furniture. The cooking stove should be in the back room, which would be the living room. The erection of the proposed new cottages at Whatfield has not yet been commenced. The purchase of the land has not been actually completed, but a Local Government Board Enquiry has been held and the sanction given for the necessary loan. The question of a water supply for the cottages has been blocking the way, but as the Council has now adopted the new scheme for utilizing the water from the public well, there seems no reason why the work should be further delayed.

VII. FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT. The factories and workshops were all inspected during the year. The bakehouses are all above ground and are all inspected half-yearly. Four notices were served for the cleansing of workshops, and half-yearly notices for lime-washing on all the bakehouses. The outworkers premises (38 in number) at Lavenham, Boxford and Polstead, were all inspected during the year. The work was found to be carried on under satisfactory conditions. Twenty-seven outworkers were engaged in horsehair weaving, and the rest in tailoring. Notice was served on Messrs. Laycock at Lavenham to provide an outside staircase to one of their workshops as an additional exit in case of fire, but has not yet been complied with. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, has not been adopted in this District.

VIII. CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT. Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order. One fresh dairy has been registered at Lavenham, making sixteen. All have been inspected during the year and found satisfactory. Only four of these send milk away. The rest is all consumed locally. The cows are habitually grazed on grass land. There are no milkshops in the District. The difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of milk appears to be on the increase in all the parishes, and this shortage in the supply of such a necessary article of diet for children appears to me to be a question scarcely second in importance to the proper housing of the people.

IX. SLAUGHTER HOUSES. All were inspected and found satisfactory.

X. ISOLATION HOSPITAL. None.

XI. SCHOOLS. The Public Elementary Schools were all inspected during the year. The principal infectious diseases amongst the children were chickenpox, measles, mumps and whooping cough. I did not advise the closing of any school.

XII. SANITARY INSPECTIONS. Mr. Bright was appointed whole time Sanitary Inspector, and commenced his duties on April 1st, Mr. Fairchild having acted as temporary Inspector for the first three months of the year. Mr. Bright's report is as follows:—

Notices issued—Formal	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal	...	...	...	...	...	98
Total	...	...	...	...	...	101

131 Nuisances have been dealt with during the year as follows:—

Privies and cesspools repaired and new sanitary pails provided	...	...	...	9
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	3
Drains and sinks made, repaired and trapped	...	...	...	17
Ditches and bumby holes cleaned out and altered and yards cleaned up	...	...	...	11
Privies converted into pails and new pail closets built	...	...	...	15
Pig styes cleaned out and refuse heaps removed	...	...	...	8
Privy cesspools emptied and pails in cleaner state...	...	...	...	27
New privies built	...	...	...	—
Cottages repaired	...	...	...	20
Filthy houses cleansed	...	...	...	3
Ponds cleaned out, wells made, pumps repaired, etc.	...	...	...	2
Workshops cleaned...	...	...	...	4
Water spouts, etc., repaired and provided...	...	...	...	7
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	5
				131
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	11

XIII. SPECIAL REPORTS. None.

Legal proceedings were taken against the owner of a newly-built house at Aldham, for allowing it to be occupied without obtaining a certificate of water supply, but the magistrates failed to agree.

The Adoptive Acts in force in the District are:—Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. (Applicable Provisions by Section 50.) Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890. Both these were adopted in 1902.

The tabular statements of sickness and mortality in the District, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, are appended to this Report.

ALFRED THOMPSON,

Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I.—Cosford Rural District.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.		Births.		Total deaths registered in the district.		Transferable deaths.		Net deaths belonging to the district.			
	Unadjusted number.	Nett.	Number.	Rate.	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 per 1,000 net births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	11808	273	23.4	152	13.0	...	...	...	19	69.5	152	13.0
1909	"	277	24.6	154	13.2	...	...	...	19	69.5	154	13.2
1910	"	263	22.6	144	12.3	...	...	...	21	79.8	144	12.3
1911	"	269	22.7	151	12.7	...	...	...	20	74.3	153	12.9
1912	"	224	22.6	146	12.3	...	8	...	13	58.0	154	13.0
1913	11808	218	18.3	139	11.7	2	10	...	12	55.0	147	12.4

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) ... 48572

At Census in 1911—

Total population at all ages ... 11808  
 Number of inhabited houses ... 2814  
 Average number of persons per house ... 4.1

TABLE II.—Cosford Rural District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							
	At all ages.	At ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including membranous croup) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal-Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	6	...	...	2	4	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	12	...	3	3	4	2	...	...
Totals ...	21	1	3	5	8	4	...	...

Total cases removed to Hospital ... None.  
 Isolation Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c. ... None.

TABLE III.—Cosford Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

Cause 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	Ages									
		Under 1 year	1 & under 2 years.	2 & under 5 years.	5 & under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 and upwards.		
All causes { Certified Uncertified	144 3	10 2	2 ...	2 ...	5 ...	4 ...	24 ...	18 ...	80 ...	16 ...	
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Influenza ...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	8	...	...	...	...	6	1	1	...	...	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	
Cancer malignant disease ...	14	...	...	...	...	4	10	...	...	...	
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Organic Heart Disease ...	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	
Bronchitis ...	13	2	1	1	...	...	9	...	...	...	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Appendicitis & Typhlitis ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nephritis and Bright's disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	...	
Puerperal Fever ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Congenital Debility & Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	9	...	1	...	1	3	2	2	...	...	
Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
Other Defined Diseases ...	38	2	2	2	4	8	22	...	...	...	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	34	2	...	...	...	1	...	31	...	...	
All causes ...	147	12	2	2	5	4	24	18	80	16	

TABLE IV.—Cosford Rural District.

Infant Mortality during the year 1913.

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 1 year.
	All causes:	3	...	...	1	5	1	2	3	1
{ Certified ...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	3	1	2
{ Uncertified ...	1	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	8
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Esteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation, overlaying ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Injury at Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	4
Other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	3	...	1	4	1	3	3	1	12	...

Nett Births in the year { legitimate ... 208  
 { illegitimate ... 10

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants ... 12  
 { illegitimate infants ...