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CREDITON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1915

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1915

TO THE CREDITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1915, but it will be a very short one, as we have been instructed that owing to the war we are not expected to enlarge on work that in present circumstances can't be done.

I think, under present circumstances, it is useless to proceed with The Housing and Town Planning Act in the way it should be carried out, as improvements ordered to be done would be lost sight of before the end of the war, and it is not a wise policy to request landlords to make alterations when they have sufficient reason on their side why they can't carry them out, as that policy only tends to undermine the authority of the Council. Of course, this does not apply to alterations that are vital to the health of the inhabitants.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The number of births during the year was 52, against 45 of last year, or an average of 14.3, which is better than the previous year, but not so good as years before.

Birth rate for 1915	...	...	...	14.3
" " " 1914	...	...	...	12.4
" " " 1913	...	...	...	18.6
" " " 1911	...	...	...	15.3

The number of deaths during the year was 79, rate 23.9 : like nearly all districts, the death rate was high.

Death rate for 1915	...	...	...	23.9
" " " 1914	...	...	...	18.1
" " " 1913	...	...	...	21.1
" " " 1912	...	...	...	19.5

12 of these 79 deaths took place in February, which month was very fatal for the old and young—7 over 70, 2 infants, making 9 out of the 12.

For the year, 6 deaths under 1 year ; the rate as follows :—

Rate of infant mortality for 1915	...	115.3
" " " " 1914	...	44.4
" " " " 1913	...	65.2
" " " " 1912	...	117.6
" " " " 1911	...	53.5

DEATHS.

Tubercle claimed 8 ; Cancer 5 ; Violent Deaths 2—both very old—from slight accidents.

Those over 65 that died in the town were as follows :—

13 over 80	8 from 70 to 75
11 from 75 to 80	14 „ 65 „ 70

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were 2 deaths from Measles, and no others.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 34 cases, divided as follows :—

Diphtheria 2	Tubercle 15
Scarlet Fever 11	Erysipelas 5
Enteric 1	

The Enteric case was imported, and drain and water at her home in Crediton found good.

The drains where both cases of Diphtheria occurred were found bad, and have been now done.

One case of Scarlet Fever was removed to the Exeter Isolation Hospital.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

There appears to be enough at the present time for the working classes, but I am afraid some would not pass The Housing and Town Planning Act. There are still

frequent inquiries for better-class houses, and they are likely to become more frequent, as the war must increase the class of people requiring a cheap and good education, which can be got here.

HOUSE REFUSE.

This is removed once a week.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been inspected, and were found kept good.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There was very little fault to be found with the way they are kept, but some require structural alterations—not that I should recommend it to be done, because after the war the Council would be wise to build a public one.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Are clean and well kept.

DRAINS.

Some improvement has been made, but I strongly advise the Council to make an order that no drain opened for alteration or repair should be closed without a certificate from the Surveyor. My reason for this is because, in an old town of this description, there must be still some poor private drains left, and this was found to be the case with the cases of Diphtheria notified.

Yours faithfully,

LESLIE POWNE,
DEPUTY M.O.H.

Crediton, August 1st, 1916.

Appended are the various statistical tables.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.
Name of District—Crediton Urban.

Year.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.				Of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.	No.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.			No.	Rate.		
1910	3970	68			62	15.6	7		7	102.9	55	13.8
1911	3640	60	56	15.3	57	15.6	1	15	3	53.5	71	19.5
1912	3640	71	68	18.6	73	20.0		4	8	117.6	77	21.1
1913	3640	51	46	12.7	70	19.2	7	3	3	65.2	66	18.1
1914	3640	45	45	12.4	54	14.8	9	6	2	44.4	51	14.0
1915	3305	52		14.3	79	23.9	11	3	6	115.3	79	23.9

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water), 2,552.
Total population at all ages, 3,640. } At Census,
Total families or separate occupiers, 996. } 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1915.
Name of District—Crediton Urban.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Number of Cases Notified.							
	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 (C) Plague (P)								
Diphtheria (includ- ing Membranous Croup)	2			1		1		
Erysipelas	5			1		2	1	1
Scarlet Fever ...	11		2	8	1			
Typhus Fever ...								
Enteric Fever ...	1					1		
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)								
Puerperal Fever ...								
Cerebro-spinal Men- ingitis								
Poliomyelitis ...								
Ophthalmia Neona- torum								
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	8		1	2	2	1	2	
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	7			2	5			
Totals ...	34		3	14	8	5	3	1

Arrangements have been made with Exeter Sanatorium if case unable to be isolated at home.

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at death during the Year 1915

Name of District—Crediton Urban.

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 Years	2 and under 5 Years	5 and under 15 Years	15 and under 25 Years	25 and under 45 Years	45 and under 65 Years	65 and upwards		
All causes { Certified Uncertified	79	6	1	4	2	1	6	11	48	15	
Enteric Fever											
Small-pox											
Measles	2			2							
Scarlet Fever											
Whooping Cough											
Diphtheria and Croup ..											
Influenza	5			1					4	1	
Erysipelas											
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	5					1	3	1		1	
Tuberculous Meningitis...	2				2						
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1						1				
Cancer, malignant disease	5						1	1	3		
Rheumatic Fever	1							1		1	
Meningitis											
Organic Heart Disease ...	8							1	7	2	
Bronchitis	9	3	1						5		
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1			1						1	
Other diseases of respiratory organs											
Diarrhœa and Enteritis...											
Appendicitis and Typhlitis											
Cirrhosis of Liver											
Alcoholism											
Nephritis and Bright's Disease... ..	3							1	2		
Puerperal Fever											
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition											
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	2	2									
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2								2		
Suicide											
Other Defined Diseases...	24	1					1	6	16	8	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	9								9	1	
Totals	79	6	1	4	2	1	6	11	48	15	

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1915 in the
Credton Urban District.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One
Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 Year
All Causes { Certified { Uncertified	1	1	1		3	2			1	6
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough... ..										
Diphtheria and Croup										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis										
Abdominal Tuberculosis										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)										
Convulsions		1			1					1
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis			1		1	2				3
Pneumonia (all forms)										
Diarrhoea										
Enteritis										
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations										
Premature Birth	1				1					1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus								1		1
Other Causes										
Totals	1	1	1		3	2			1	6

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 44 ; Illegitimate, 8.

Nett Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants, 5 ; Illegitimate Infants, 1.

TABLE IV

Infant Mortality in the Year 1912 in the
 County of Essex, Ontario
 (First Report on Infant Mortality in Ontario)

Age Group	Sex	Total	Males	Females	Remarks
Under 1 Year	Male				
	Female				
1 Year to 2 Years	Male				
	Female				
2 Years to 3 Years	Male				
	Female				
3 Years to 4 Years	Male				
	Female				
4 Years to 5 Years	Male				
	Female				
5 Years to 6 Years	Male				
	Female				
6 Years to 7 Years	Male				
	Female				
7 Years to 8 Years	Male				
	Female				
8 Years to 9 Years	Male				
	Female				
9 Years to 10 Years	Male				
	Female				
10 Years to 11 Years	Male				
	Female				
11 Years to 12 Years	Male				
	Female				
12 Years to 13 Years	Male				
	Female				
13 Years to 14 Years	Male				
	Female				
14 Years to 15 Years	Male				
	Female				
15 Years to 16 Years	Male				
	Female				
16 Years to 17 Years	Male				
	Female				
17 Years to 18 Years	Male				
	Female				
18 Years to 19 Years	Male				
	Female				
19 Years to 20 Years	Male				
	Female				
20 Years and Over	Male				
	Female				
Total					

The data in this table are based on the reports of the registrars of births and deaths in the County of Essex, Ontario, for the year 1912.