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Contributors

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The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF GREAT DRIFFIELD,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1920.

POPULATION. The Census number in 1911 was 5676, estimated 1920, 5688.

The average number of persons per inhabited building is 4.19. Total families or separate occupiers 1343.

General character of the District :—A Market town the centre of a large Agricultural district, and the chief occupation of the inhabitants is trade in connection with Agriculture.

Amount of Poor Law Relief. The numbers of persons from Great Driffield Urban District who received Poor Law Relief during the year 1920 are as follows :—

Out-door, 179 (includes 17 also relieved in Poor Law Institution and 1 in Asylum.) Poor Law Institution, 150 (includes 17 also relieved out-door.) Asylums, 22 (includes 1 also relieved out-door.) Training Ship, 1—total 370. Less persons counted more than once, 18—Net total 352.

VITAL STATISTICS. The number of births and deaths registered during 1920 show that there were 138 births and 87 deaths compared with 101 births and 72 deaths for 1919.

Of the births there were 72 males and 66 females. The birth-rate 24.26 per 1000.

The birth-rate for England and Wales was 25.4 per 1000.

For the ten years 1901 to 1910 the average rate was 23.9 per 1000 for Driffield.

There were 14 illegitimate children born, 4 boys and 10 girls, equal to 10.14 p.c. of total births.

Of the deaths there were 42 males and 45 females.

The death-rate was 15.29 per 1000, in 1919 it was 13.6 per 1000. For England and Wales the rate was 12.4.

INFANT MORTALITY. The death-rate per 1000 births under one year 57.96, last year it was 89.1.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH WERE—

			Rate in 1920.	1919 per 1000.
Measles	-	2	0.35	
Influenza	-	1	0.17	0.36
Erysipelas	-	1	0.17	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		5	0.87	
Cancer	-	7	1.23	1.68
Meningitis	-	1	0.17	
Organic Heart Disease	-	19	3.34	2.37
Bronchitis	-	2	0.35	1.28
Pneumonia	-	1	0.17	0.18
Nephritis	-	4	0.70	0.54
Congenital Debility	-	4	0.70	0.91
Violence	-	2	0.35	
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	0.17	
Other defined Diseases		38	6.68	5.11

Sanitary Circumstances of the District. Water. A supply of pure water is available from the Town Waterworks, which is unaffected in quantity by drought, and the quality is excellent as has been proved by analysis; 510 houses are supplied from this source. Another source is from wells and bore-wells, which have been analysed and found to be of good quality, but sometimes become contaminated after heavy rains from surface pollution when the pumps are out of repairs. If after repairs there are still complaints, tap water is substituted. The number of these is 260.

Drainage and Sewerage. All houses have drainage into the Main Sewers. The sewage is disposed of by passing over filter-beds ultimately entering the Driffield Canal.

The Driffield Beck and Canal are polluted by the smaller streams which find their way into them, but not so much as to affect fish life, except in the quality of the fish.

Closet Accommodation. Pail Closets and Water Closets are what are used. Pail Closets 1272, and ashes are added to them, which are cleansed weekly by Scavengers.

The number of Water Closets is 250.

Scavenging. Public Scavengers remove nightsoil and house refuse once a week in covered Carts to the Country; such refuse is sold for Agricultural purposes.

Ashpits and cesspools are cleansed once a month.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. Tabular Statement.

No. of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of section 17 of the Act of 1909	-	-	-	46
No. of dwelling-houses found unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	5
No. of dwelling-houses made fit for habitation without formal representation	-	-	-	5
No. of representations made to Local Authority with a view to making of Closing Orders	-	-	-	Nil
No. of Closing Orders made	-	-	-	Nil
No. of dwelling-houses in which the defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	-	-	-	5
No. of dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation	-	-	-	Nil
General character of defects found to exist—				
Dampness due to defective roofs, spouting, and bad ventilation.				
Dwelling-houses inspected	-	-	-	46
New houses built	-	-	-	None

INSPECTIONS.

Dwelling-houses inspected	-	-	-	46
„ Notices served	-	-	-	5
Have Building bye-laws been adopted ?	-	-	-	Yes 1874
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	-	-	-	13
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	-	-	-	4

Premises and Occupations. DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS :

Have Regulations been adopted ?	-	-	-	Yes
Date of adoption	-	-	-	1913
Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on Register	-	-	-	20
„ Cows	-	-	-	98
Visits to Cowsheds	-	-	-	114
„ Dairies	-	-	-	114
Defects found	-	-	-	6
„ remedied	-	-	-	6

SCHOOLS. The Sanitary conditions are good.

The water supply is from the Driffield Waterworks.

FOOD. Milk supply : the supply of milk is satisfactory, it is delivered twice daily. The East Riding Health Visitor sees that necessitous cases are provided with the statutory allowance.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES :

Number on Register	-	-	-	-	11
Visits	-	-	-	-	102
Number of defects	-	-	-	-	5
„ remedied	-	-	-	-	5
Unwholesome food condemned	-	-	-	-	Nil

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES :

Number on Register	-	-	-	-	2
Visits to	-	-	-	-	30
Number of defects found	-	-	-	-	5
„ remedied	-	-	-	-	5
CANAL BOATS	-	-	-	-	34

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were 31 cases of Infectious diseases compared with 37 last year, viz. :

Diphtheria	...	10	last year	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		11	„	11
Other forms of do.		2	„	2
Erysipelas	...	4	„	1
Scarlet Fever	...	3	„	7
Encephalitis Lethargica		1	„	—

There was one death from Erysipelas, 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, one from Encephalitis Lethargica.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases are promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital, unless there is every opportunity of isolating the cases at home in the larger houses, which from good nursing and attendance have proved quite satisfactory, no second case of the diseases having resulted. In cases of Diphtheria where Diphtheria Anti-toxin is freely supplied by the Urban District Council, and where swabs from the throat have been sent to the Clinical Research Association, London regularly, until a negative result is obtained, otherwise until that is so, people are perfectly willing to carry out the isolation as advised by the doctor in attendance.

No case of Enteric Fever occurred.

In all cases where a case is removed or cured of any infectious disease the Sanitary Inspector at once disinfects the house.

Venereal Disease. Cases are sent to the Hull Infirmary, York County Hospital, or Leeds Infirmary, where every case is attended to at once.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The East Riding County Council's Health Visitors visit such cases and order milk, &c.

A small home has been opened in Driffield with a few beds for lying-in cases.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION. The Work of the Sanitary Inspector.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	-	-	46
" notices served	-	-	5
New houses built	-	-	None
Have Building Byelaws been adopted	-	-	Yes, 1874
Dwelling-houses found overcrowded	-	-	6
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	-	-	13
Dwelling-houses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	-	-	4
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious diseases	-	-	None
Privies converted to W.C.'s	-	-	12
" Pail Closets	-	-	3
Offensive Trades inspected	-	-	1
Number of Nuisances found	-	-	68
" abated	-	-	68
Water Supplies. Houses newly supplied from Water Mains	-	-	14
New Wells made	-	-	None
New Bore Wells made	-	-	None
Wells Closed, water unsafe	-	-	None
Samples of Water sent for Examination	-	-	1

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Have Regulations been adopted	-	-	Yes
Date of adoption	-	-	1913
Number of Dairies and Cowsheds on the Register	-	-	20
Number of Cows	-	-	98
Visits to Cowsheds	-	-	114
" Dairies	-	-	114
Defects found 6 Remedied	-	-	6

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on Register	-	-	11
" Visits	-	-	102
Number of defects found	-	-	5
" remedied	-	-	5

UNWHOLESOME FOOD CONDEMNED.

Meat	-	-	None
Fish	-	-	None
Fruit	-	-	None
Other Foods	-	-	None

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Number on Register	-	-	2
" Visits made	-	-	30
No. of defects found	-	-	5
" remedied	-	-	5
Canal Boats inspected	-	-	30

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. The Driffield Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases in the Urban District, which has been enlarged very much, to the great benefit of the town according to statistics, but equally good for other districts but not so handy. It is an Isolation Hospital for the whole of the East Riding.

The Cottage Hospital for Accidents and Medical Cases.

Bacteriological and Chemical work is done by the Clinical Research Association, London, with whom the East Riding County Council have a contract to pay half for each sample or specimen, the Urban and Rural districts of the East Riding districts paying the other half. In all cases of Diphtheria, swabs are sent to this Association as a rule, also samples of blood in cases of Typhoid Fever and Sputa in Phthisis, which I think is a great boon to the East Riding of Yorkshire.

HOUSING. General Housing Conditions. There are 1343 houses with an average of 4.19 to each house. No new houses have been built during the year.

The population is probably about equal to pre-war conditions. It was considered that 30 new houses would be necessary. The Urban Council thought that 10 new houses would be sufficient with the re-construction of houses unfit for human habitation and some habitable but not in a proper Sanitary condition; from various reasons such as want of money, material and labour, they have been unable to carry out their project so far.

A site for the new houses has been provisionally secured, and I have no doubt the 10 new houses will be built, but owing to the present cost of materials and price of labour, the rents of such houses would be prohibitive for the class of people for whom the houses are intended.

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1919, 20.

Number unfit for human habitation, 6.

Number of houses made fit for human habitation without formal representation, 14.

Number of houses which after making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation, none.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

G. BURGESS.

DRIFFIELD,

JULY 17TH, 1921.