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LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1921,

BY

PERCY STEDMAN,

M.B. (LOND.), D.P.H. (LOND.)

Rush & Warwick Printers, Leighton Buzzard.

TO THE

LEIGHTON BUZZARD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report for 1921. As you are aware, copies of it have to be sent to the Ministry of Health.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	2426
Population (1921)	6820
Number of inhabited houses (1921) ...	1814
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	1821
Rateable value	£30,957
Sum represented by a penny rate	£122

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total.	M.	F.		
Births	Legitimate	149	80	69	Birth Rate (R.G.)	22·7
	Illegitimate	6	2	4		
Deaths ...		92	47	45	Death Rate (R.G.)	13·4

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth — from sepsis ... Nil; „ other causes Nil

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—
Legitimate, 12. Illegitimate, Nil. Total, 12.
Rate per 1,000 births, 77·4.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	2

Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were 5 cases of diphtheria, 24 scarlet fever, 2 of enteric, 1 of encephalitis lethargica, and 1 of opthalmia neonatorum.

Diphtheria.

On May 14th, a boy, aged 5 years, was notified from Vandyke Road. The child had been staying in London, and had returned home. There was plenty of room for isolation in the house, and they wished the child to be kept at home. The case was a mild one, and the mother did the nursing.

On June 5th, the mother of the boy just mentioned fell ill with the disease. Both mother and boy were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Hers was a more serious case, the throat presenting a considerable amount of membrane. They both made a good recovery. The house was a modern one with every sanitary convenience.

On May 14th, another case was notified from the outskirts of the town—a boy, aged 6 years. There was plenty of room for isolation, and, as the mother had had nursing experience, they wished the boy to be kept at home. He made a good recovery. He attended the same school and was in the same class of the previous case.

The next case was a woman, aged 26, in another part of the town. She had been going daily to a town by train, and in all probability she caught the disease from a carrier on the railway. She was treated at home. She was a delicate person, and as a girl had had diphtheria. The house was quite up-to-date from a sanitary point of view.

The next case was on Dec. 23rd. A child of 10 weeks had come down on a visit a few days previously. There was plenty of room for isolation, and the case was treated at home.

Scarlet Fever.

On March 31st, a girl, aged 12 years, was notified. Curiously, the patient had the same complaint the previous year. There was plenty of room for isolation, and the case was treated at home. It was a mild one.

The next case was a child, aged 5 years. This was rather a severe case, and subsequently developed chorca. There were several other children in the house, but fortunately none of them contracted the disease. The case was treated in hospital, and the stay there was necessarily prolonged.

The next case was a child, aged 6 years, occurring at a milk-seller's business. It was removed to the hospital. The milk in the dairy was destroyed; the premises, including the milk-shop, were disinfected; and, for a time the milk business was conducted at different premises. No subsequent cases were traced to this source.

On August 11th, a girl, aged 5 years, was notified. She was removed to the hospital, making a good recovery.

On September 13th, two girls, aged 9 and 10 years, were notified from the same house; and, on September 14th, a girl, aged 9 years, was notified from the next-door houses. They were all three friends, and had been playing together. They were removed to hospital, making a good recovery.

On September 21st, a girl, aged 11 years, was notified. She had been at home from school for 12 days with a cold before developing the disease. She was removed to the hospital. The house in which it occurred was a shop.

On October 12th, a girl, aged 10 years, was notified. She was removed to the hospital.

On October 14th, a child, aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, was notified. She was removed to the hospital. There were 5 other children in the house, but none of them contracted the disease.

On October 17th, a woman, aged 23 years; a girl, aged 7 years; and a girl, aged 12 years, were notified from different parts of the town. The two children did not attend the same school, but two days previously they had attended a fair. They were all three removed to the hospital and made good recoveries.

On October 2nd, a girl, aged 5 years, was notified. There was plenty of room for isolation, but the father being a school teacher, the case was removed to the hospital, where it was for three months, owing to developing complications.

On October 31st, a girl, aged 14 years, who went to domestic service, was notified. The mother had, a few days previously, been staying at a house in London where a case of scarlet fever occurred. The case was removed to the hospital.

On December 1st, a boy, aged 4 years, was notified. He was removed to the hospital.

On December 5th, a girl, aged 9 years, was notified, and removed to the hospital.

On December 9th, 2 cases were notified from the same house, both boys, aged 9 and 4 years. They were removed to the hospital.

On December 20th, a boy, aged 5 years, was notified. He was treated at home.

On December 21st, a girl, aged 3 years, was notified, and removed to the hospital. She did not attend school.

On December 23rd, a boy, aged 4 years, was notified from a public house. He was removed to the hospital.

On December 31st, a girl, aged 8 years, was notified, and removed to the hospital. It was a large house, with 7 other children, but none of them contracted the complaint.

Enteric.

On May 26th, a married woman, aged 24 years, was notified. The house was on the public water-supply, and there were no sanitary defects. The woman had not been out of the district, and it was impossible to trace the cause of the disease. She was removed to the hospital, and made a good recovery.

On June 20th, a woman, aged 31 years, was notified from another part of the town. The house was on the public water-supply, and the sewerage connected. The woman had not been out of the District, and no cause of the disease had been traced. She was removed to the hospital, and made a good recovery.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

On May 27th, a boy, aged 5 years, was notified as suffering from encephalitis lethargica. The father was in the army. The

There is a permanent matron, who resides there, and the administration is on the best lines. It is a thoroughly well equipped hospital—quite up-to-date in every respect—and quite able to deal with all cases that occur or are likely to occur in the Urban District.

Specimens are sent to the Clinical Research for microscopic and bacteriological examination.

There is a resident trained nurse in the town for general nursing, medical and surgical.

The infectious diseases are nursed in the local isolation hospital. The Health Visitor also visits the homes, and gives instruction and advice.

There are two midwives resident in the town, and there are others on the boundary of the District.

Patients with tuberculosis can attend at the Dispensary, which is conveniently held at Luton, and they can be admitted to the Mogerhanger Sanatorium.

Children can be treated in the Royal Hospital at Aylesbury, fever cases at Grovebury, and small pox cases at the Small pox Hospital in the District.

There is a motor ambulance, which is a great convenience and comfort in the removal of cases.

The Council grants supplies of antitoxin.

Infant Welfare.

An Infant Welfare Centre is conducted in the town, a lady health visitor being present each week. She is assisted by local nurses and several ladies in the town. It is very popular. The Medical Officer attends.

Milk Supply.

The milk supply is obtained from the Urban District and the Eaton Bray and Wing Rural Districts. Inspections of the supplies, premises, and the cow-sheds have been made. The milk is of good quality. The outside sheds from which the milk supply is derived have also been inspected.

Water Supply.

The town has a plentiful supply of water, which is supplied from the Council's waterworks in Stanbridge Road.

The water is pumped from a bore-hole, 200 feet in depth, in the lower green sand into a storage tank.

The following are the results of the analysis of the water taken during the year:—

(I.) CHEMICAL.	Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Total solids (dried at 120° C.)	31.30	21.91
Combined chlorine	2.10	1.47
equivalent to Na Cl	3.46	2.42
Nitric nitrogen	0.02	0.01
Nitrous nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.0092	0.0064
Albumenoid nitrogen	0.0026	0.0018
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.035	0.025
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to $CaCo_3$) ...	18.0	12.6
Permanent hardness...	5.2	3.7
Total hardness	23.2	16.3

(II.) BACTERIOLOGICAL (cultural and microscopical).

Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates, incubated at 20-22° C. for 3 days ... ...=	38 per c.c.
Average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates, incubated at 37-5° C. for 2 days ... ...=	5 per c.c.
B. Coli	not found in 100 c.c.
Streptococci	,, ,, ,, 30 c.c.
B. Enteriditis Sporogenes	,, ,, ,, 100 c.c.

Remarks:—

Judged by the above results, this water may be regarded as of a very good quality.

The slight cloudiness of this sample is due to traces of iron.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works.

The sewerage system of the district gravitates to the works off King Street, and at four parts of the town the sewage is forced up by compressed air to higher points, from which it is able to gravitate.

The works, completed in 1895, consist of screening chamber, sedimentation tanks, and stationary filters. Most of the liquid sewage is purified by means of filters, and a part by means of land filtration.

The land at the works is cropped with osiers, and these have proved very profitable to the Council.

During the year two pail closets were converted into water closets, the water supply being available, but the sewer not extending so far they were drained into cess pits.

One of the old-fashioned "tipper" closets was converted into an up-to-date water closet.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is no pollution of rivers and streams in the town as there are no works that could cause such pollution.

About 90 o/o of the houses are connected with the public sewers, the remaining part comprising pail closets.

The scavenging is carried out by the Urban District Council, and each house is visited at least once a week, and oftener if required.

Disinfection.

A stock of disinfectants is kept at the Council Store Yard, Back Lane, and the public can have a full supply on application, which they take advantage of.

Disinfectants are put in the watering carts during the summer months, and are also supplied to dust bins. Premises are always disinfected after cases of infectious disease, and when cases have died of tuberculosis.

There are two common lodging houses, which are kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

Offensive Trades.

There is only one offensive trade in this District, that being a knacker's yard, which is quite away from the town, and is frequently inspected. It is paved, and the general conditions are good.

Elementary Schools.

The Elementary Schools of the town are as follows:—

Beaudesert,	Boys and Infants.
Bassett Road,	Girls and Infants.
Pulford,	Boys.
St. Andrew's,	Girls.

The above schools have been visited with regard to their sanitary accommodation during the year, and also at times when outbreaks of infectious disease have occurred. The sanitary accommodation is sufficient and in good order.

Slaughter-Houses and Bake-Houses.

There are 10 slaughter-houses in the District. All are well kept and are in a satisfactory sanitary state.

There are 12 bake-houses in the District, 2 of which are underground.

Factories and Workshops.

The principal factories in the town which employ a considerable number of hands are: an agricultural iron works, a wire works, tile works, glass works, laundry, and a boot factory.

There are also the gas works, and a large flour mill.

The principal workshops are:—Basketmakers, brushmakers, dressmakers, tinsmiths, builders and saddlers. Many of the workshops on the register comprise domestic workshops where only members of the family are employed.

During the year a glass works factory has been started, employing a considerable number of hands. Owing to the position, local conditions, namely, abundance of sand, were found to be suitable for the making of glass.

Unsound Food.

There was only one case of unsound food during the year.

On the market day, Tuesday, following the August Bank Holiday, two cases of mackerel were found to be unfit for food. Both cases had been delayed on rail.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1921.

1. General.

Number of Inspections	89
Complaints received	11
Nuisances detected without complaint	20
Notices served, 45; informal, 36; formal	19
Nuisances abated (a) by persons responsible	51
(b) by Council	Nil
Summonses taken out	Nil
Convictions	Nil

2. House Nuisances.

Roofs repaired	9
Spouts cleaned and repaired	7
Pavements repaired	2
Overcrowding abated	Nil
Dirty houses cleansed	4
Other defects remedied	Nil

3. Drains, W.C.'s, Privies, &c.

Total defects found	14
Drains cleaned, repaired, or ventilated	5
New Drains laid	2
W.C.'s constructed	2
W.C.'s repaired	5
W.C.'s supplied with water (formerly without)	2
Privies repaired	Nil

4. Water Supply.

Houses supplied with water during year (formerly without)	1
Samples taken for analysis, good 5, bad	Nil
Certificates granted (Rural Districts only)	Nil
Certificates deferred (Rural Districts only)	Nil
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, etc.	Nil
Wells cleansed or repaired	Nil
Wells closed	Nil

5. FOOD.

Seizure of unsound food, 0; details separately	0
Surrender of unsound food; details separately	1

6. SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Number on register	10
Number of inspections	30
Number of defects found	3
Number remedied	3

7. BAKEHOUSES.

Number on register	12
Number of inspections	24
Number of defects found	3
Number remedied	3

8. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Number of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk	15
Number of Cowkeepers	11
Number of Inspections	28
Number of defects found	8
Number remedied	6

9. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number on register	136
Number of inspections	64
Number of defects found	6
Number remedied	6

10. VARIOUS.

Removal of animals improperly kept	Nil
Visits of infected houses	23
Houses disinfected	38
Other items (e.g. Common Lodging Houses, Canal Boats, etc.), two Common Lodging Houses, inspections	4

Your obedient servant,

PERCY STEDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1921 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.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.						Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
			Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-Residents registered in the district.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1916	6197	151	151	22·3	113	18·2	15	6	6	39	104	16·7
1917	6574	101	104	14·1	109	16·5	17	9	10	96	101	15·3
1918	7369	117	117	15·8	118	17·9	14	9	6	51	113	17·1
1919	6924	145	147	20·3	74	10·6	12	5	8	54·4	67	9·6
1920	7200	158	159	22·1	85	11·8	8	12	9	56·2	89	12·3
1921	6820	153	155	22·7	94	13·8	7	5	12	77·4	92	13·4

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1921.

Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.													Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 upwards	
Diphtheria	5	1				1	1			1	1			2
Scarlet Fever	24			1	1	2	12	6	1	1.				22
Enteric Fever	2									2				2
Puerperal Fever														
Pneumonia	3					1					1	1		
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	1												
Encephalitis Lethargica	1						1							1
Tuberculosis :—														
(a) Pulmonary M 4										3	1			
(a) Pulmonary F 4														
(a) Pulmonary Total	8				1	1			1	3				
(b) Non-pulmonary M 2														
(b) Non-pulmonary F														
(b) Non-pulmonary Total	2													
Totals	46	2		1	2	5	14	6	2	10	3	1		27

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1921.

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	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes — Certified ...	91	11	3		2		6	14	55	
All causes — Uncertified ...	1									
Enteric Fever ...										
Small-pox ...										
Measles ...										
Scarlet fever ...										
Whooping-cough ...	1		1							
Diphtheria and Croup ...										
Influenza ...										
Erysipelas ...										
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) ...	4						3	1		
Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
Other tuberculous diseases										
Cancer (malignant disease)	10							4	6	
Rheumatic Fever ...										
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	12		1					2	9	
Organic Heart Disease ...	21				1			3	17	
Bronchitis ...	12	2							10	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	5	2	1					1	1	
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	1								1	
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	2	2								
Appendicitis and Typhlitis										
Cirrhosis of Liver ...										
Diabetes ...	1							1		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	1							1		
Puerperal fever ...										
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...	1	1								
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	5	5								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	2						2			
Suicide ...										
Other Defined Diseases ...	14				1		1	1	11	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...										
	92	12	3		2		6	14	55	

Infantile Mortality during the year 1921.

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. Certified ...	22	1			3	3	1	2	2	12
All Causes. Uncertified ...								1		
Small-pox ...										
Chicken-pox ...										
Measles ...										
Scarlet Fever ...										
Whooping Cough ...										
Diphtheria and Croup ...										
Erysipelas ...										
Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis, *not Tuberculous*								1		1
Convulsions ...										
Laryngitis ...										
Bronchitis ...								1	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...		1			1			1		2
Diarrhœa ...						1	1			2
Enteritis ...										
Gastritis ...										
Syphilis ...										
Rickets ...										
Suffocation, overlying ...										
Injury at Birth ..										
Atelectasis ...										
Congenital Malformations										
Premature Birth ...	2				2					2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...						2			1	3
Other Causes ...										
	2	1			3	3	1	3	2	12

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Cases. Notified.	Treated. At Home.	Treated. In hospital	Vision unimpaired	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
1	Sept. 14	Home	—	Un-impaired.	—	—	—