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LYTHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION OF LYTHAM

During the Year 1915.

BY

GEORGE BARLOW,

M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.R.C.P., Lond.

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

STATISTICAL AND GENERAL SANITARY MEMORANDUM, 1915.



Population of District	...	...	...	1881	...	4121
Do.	Do.	...	...	1891	...	4656
Do.	Do.	...	...	1901	...	7185
Do.	Do.	...	...	1911	...	9451
Do.	Do.	...	...	*1915	...	10075

*Estimated to the middle of the Year.

Occupants per occupied House	4.4
Occupied Houses	2250

Birth Rate per 1,000 per annum	12.4
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Death Rate—General	15.4
Do. Zymotic	.8
Do. Respiratory (exclusive of Phthisis)	2.8
Do. Phthisis	.8
Do. Infantile, per 1,000 Infants born	56

Rateable Value	...	...	...	1884	...	£28,196
Do.	Do.	...	...	1894	...	£31,832
Do.	Do.	...	...	1904	...	£63,143
Do.	Do.	...	...	1915	...	£78,591

REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1915.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
LYTHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Owing to Dr. Fisher having joined the Colours, and my appointment as Acting Medical Officer of Health, I have to present to you the accompanying Report upon the work of the Health Department during 1915, partially conducted under the supervision of Dr. Fisher.

Owing to the war, large numbers of troops have been billeted in the town during the year, which has thrown upon the Sanitary Department a large amount of work which it is impossible to particularize in this report.

I am greatly indebted to Mr. Yates, the Inspector of Nuisances, for his valued assistance in preparing this report.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BARLOW,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.



I estimate the population of Lytham to be 10,075, exclusive of visitors. You will observe that no increase in the population is shown this year, because any increase will have been neutralised by the number of men from Lytham that have joined His Majesty's Forces.

The Ward distribution is as follows:—

North-East Ward	...	...	...	...	2838
North-West Ward	...	...	...	...	1508
South-East Ward	...	...	..	...	1318
South-West Ward	...	...	...	...	4411

					10075

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during 1915 was 125, viz:—54 boys and 71 girls, and the birth-rate was 12.4 per 1,000. Below is a table showing how the 125 births were distributed in the various wards, where they are arranged alongside the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, so as to show the relation borne by the infantile mortality to the number of births in each sub-division of the town.

	Population	Births	Rate per 1000	Number of Deaths of Infants under One year of age.	Proportion per 1000 births
N.E. WARD ...	2838	54	19	4	74
N.W. WARD ...	1508	11	7.3	2	181
S.E. WARD ...	1318	14	10.6	0	0
S.W. WARD ...	4411	46	10.4	1	21
WHOLE DISTRICT	10075	125	12.4	7	56

MORTALITY.

The District Registrar's returns show that the number of deaths which actually occurred in Lytham was 150. This figure includes 10 visitors, whose deaths have been allocated by the Registrar General to the districts to which they belong; 16 deaths of Lytham residents who died elsewhere have been assigned to this district. The nett mortality has been 156, viz: 71 males and 85 females, and the death rate works out at 15.4 per 1,000 per annum. Of the above deaths, 12 took place in the Cottage Hospital and 6 at the Fylde Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital. The scheme for the distribution of transferable deaths is working well.

Seven infants died during the first year of their lives, a proportion to the number of births of 56 per 1,000. This infantile mortality, compared with our past experiences, is very satisfactory; but for the deaths of two infants from premature birth, the figures would be very low indeed.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz:—Small Pox, Measles, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa and Fever, were responsible for 8 deaths out of the gross mortality, thus giving a Zymotic disease of .8 per 1,000 per annum.

The total number of notifiable diseases, apart from Measles, was 72.

With regard to non-notifiable cases, Measles, Whooping Cough, etc.

(N.B.—Measles did not become a notifiable disease in Lytham until January 1st, 1916).

I have ample reason for stating that the incidence has been considerably below the average. Now that Measles has become notifiable, I shall be able to give more correct records, and need not depend, as heretofore, for information on my colleagues, and the Headmasters of the Elementary Schools, as regards this disease. To assist in ascertaining whether a local outbreak of infectious disease is taking place in an Elementary School, a special record is kept showing the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria which occur in any school, and it is easy to determine what part any of them appear to be taking in the spreading of these diseases.

Wherever possible, patients suffering from infectious disease are removed to the Fever Hospital; this year 70 out of 72 cases were thus dealt with, in addition to 5 military cases. I am satisfied that the Hospital is conducted in an efficient manner, and the authorities have been able to admit every patient we have had occasion to send.

House disinfection after an infectious case has been carefully attended to; walls, furniture, etc., are sprayed with a strong solution of Formalin and rooms fumigated with Formalin in gaseous form. Wall papers are stripped; and rooms re-disinfected and re-papered. All infected bedding and clothing are removed to the steam disinfector for sterilisation.

Table II. at the end, shows how all notifiable cases were distributed throughout the various Wards.

SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever has been notified on 41 occasions. The history of Scarlet Fever shows that its malignancy is decreasing and it is probably due to improved sanitary conditions that the severity of the type has greatly modified during recent years. No deaths have resulted from this disease.

Thirty-nine patients were removed to the Joint Hospital, and in all cases that were not removed, careful isolation at home was practised, and afterwards the house was disinfected and all bedding, clothing, etc., removed to the Steam Disinfector; during the progress of the disease the house was visited and a supply of disinfectants provided free of cost.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The incidence of Enteric Fever has been below the average. Two deaths have occurred from this disease, and the number of notifications was 5. In one case no definite cause could be ascertained. The other 4 cases occurred in the same house, which was occupied by a family of Belgian refugees. The mother had Enteric Fever in December, 1914. in a neighbouring district and it was proved, beyond doubt that she acted as a "Typhoid-Carrier." We sent away

specimens of the blood, faeces and urine for bacteriological examination, and the result of the examination showed the presence of Typhoid Bacilli. It is gratifying to know that the family has removed from the district. The Medical Officer of Health of the city to which they have gone to reside was notified by us, in advance, of their removal.

All cases were removed to the Fylde Joint Hospital.

DIPHThERIA.

Unfortunately, the outbreak of Diphtheria which occurred in 1914 has continued through the present year, but I am glad to be able to report a reduction of 50 per cent. in the number of cases notified and also in those which had a fatal termination. There have been 26 cases, with 5 deaths; the houses involved were 20. The mortality is 19 per cent. The incidence of the disease was fairly equally distributed throughout the town, and 16 children attending Elementary Schools were affected, and some of the remaining cases occurred among members of the same families above or below the school age. No adequate reason can be assigned for the continuance of the disease; unless the infection was spread by some unrecognised cases which were acting as carriers. With a view to ascertaining if this were the case, 54 swabs were taken from the throats of children attending one of the elementary schools, but bacteriological examination revealed no positive results, and I can only surmise that some undetected cases must have been the cause of the disease. Antitoxin has been used on 18 occasions, and in every instance at the earliest possible opportunity, and 60 tubes (of 2,000 units each), have been supplied free of charge.

Bacteriological examinations were made on 84 occasions.