Methley Urban District Council.

Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

1925.

Methley Urban District Council.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
METHLEY,
NR. LEEDS,
June 7th, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health:
C. C. HARGREAVES, M.B., D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the Methley Urban District Council.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	3,492	
Population	4,732	(1921—4,573).
No. of Inhabited Houses ..	1,010	(1921—944).
No. of Families	1,133	(1921—1,110).
Rateable Value	£34,731	
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£145	
Houses with Two Families ..	80	

The chief Industry is Coal Mining which finds employment for at least 75 per cent of the male population.

Extracts from Total Statistics of the Year.

The Births and Deaths Rates, based on the population of 4,732, are as follows :—

		TOTAL	M.	F.	
Births :	Legitimate	99	54	45	Birth Rate 21.9
	Illegitimate	5	2	3	
Deaths :		48	27	21	Death Rate 10.1

The average Births and Deaths Rates during the last 5 years are 20.9 and 10.7 respectively, which figures, compared with 1925, indicate an increase in the Birth Rate, and a decline in the Death Rate.

No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—Nil.

Deaths of Infants : Under one year of age per 1,000 births :—

	Males.	Females,	
Legitimate	3	Nil	Total 3
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	

Rate per 1,000 births=28.9.

Remarks on Total Statistics : "The Birth Rate" for 1925 viz. : 21.9, against 20.2 for 1924, shows an increase.

The Rate for England and Wales=18.3, against 18.8 last year.

Death Rate : 1925, from all causes=10.1, against 10.4 last year. This includes : 5 tuberculosis (all kinds), 5 from cancer, 7 from cardio-vascular diseases, 11 from respiratory diseases other than tuberculosis.

The Death Rate for England and Wales=12.2.

Infantile Mortality : The Death Rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births is 28.9, which, I am pleased to say, shows a very marked decrease compared with the rate of 64.5 in the previous year, and 102.2 in 1923. The decrease in the infantile mortality rate is in my opinion due to the absence of epiedmic diseases, such as measles, whooping cough, etc., which in children under 1 year of age, are particularly fatal. From my attendance at the Child Welfare Centre I find that a greater interest is being taken by mothers in the health of their babies than in any previous period, and together with the practical help of the nurse and Child Welfare Committee, very much useful information is acquired by the mothers, as is seen in the recorded lower infantile mortality figures.

Infectious Diseases. (*Notifiable*).

	Total Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	Nil.
Diphtheria	2	1	1
Scarlet Fever ..	9	5	Nil
Enteric Fever ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever ..	1	1	Nil
Erysipelas	12	Nil	Nil

From the above table there appear to have been less cases of scarlet fever than in former years, and these were of a very mild type. The majority of these have been isolated in their own homes without any fear of further spread of the disease. The notified cases of Erysipelas were all of a very mild type. From the above table of infectious diseases there was only one death, viz., from diphtheria, and this case was of a virulent nature, and the patient died at home.

An epidemic of Scarlet Fever occurred in the early part of 1922, but there were no deaths and there have been no outbreaks since. During the last 5 years there have been only 2 deaths from Diptherhia.

Measles : There was no unusual amount of this disease during the year.

Whooping Cough : There was no serious outbreak of Whooping Cough.

Summer Diarrhoea : There was only a small amount of this during the late summer.

Influenza : A moderate amount of influenza during the latter part of the year, but not of a serious type.

Tuberculosis : Thirty-five new cases were reported, and many were of a very early and incipient nature. There were 5

deaths. Cases are sent by local practitioners to the Tuberculosis Officer of the District at Pontefract. This Officer decides the form of treatment of most benefit, and some are recommended for sanatorium and some for domiciliary treatment ; and in one case where there was over-crowding, an open-air shelter was provided by the West Riding County Council.

The number of cases reported is the largest during the last 5 years : but the number of deaths notified is not in excess of the average during this period, when the cases reported were considerably less.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum : There were no cases reported and no deaths.

Mortuaries : The provision of a well-equipped and up-to-date mortuary, by the Local Authority, still proves useful.

Water Supply : There has been an adequate and constant supply of water throughout the whole area, and over 3 miles of distributing water mains have been scraped. Complaints have been made with regard to the inconvenience caused by the discolouration of the water, in consequence of the scraping of the water mains, but by a judicious system of flushing of the mains during the night it is hoped to effectually remedy this. The supply of water continues to be obtained from the Wakefield Corporation in bulk.

Drainage and Sewerage : The drains and sewers have been systematically flushed and disinfected during the year, especially in the Mickletown area, where, in the case of new houses the water-carriage system is forestalling the conservancy system, and the additions to the Sewage Disposal Works have been sufficient to maintain for the time being, a satisfactory effluent.

Closet Accommodation : The following are the approximate numbers and types of closet accommodation in the area :—

1.	Pail or Tub Closets	12
2.	Privies with Covered Middens	540
3.	Water Closets	200

As the state of the sewers will not allow for the general conversion of the conservancy system to the water carriage system, except in one or two isolated cases of closely-built areas, the only definite policy which is being followed for the substitution of privy middens is in the case of new houses where the water carriage system is being adopted. In recent years 80 new water closets have been erected.

Scavenging : The work of scavenging is carried out by the Council under the direction of the Surveyor. The work continues to be well and satisfactorily done. Dust bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles in all new houses.

Sanitary Inspection of Area : —

(*a*) The number of inspections made during the year, 351.

(*b*) The number of notices served during the year, 54, (Informal—51. Statutory—3.).

(*c*) The number of nuisances abated, 51.

Smoke Abatement : The Council are represented on the West Riding of Yorkshire Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

Schools : The water supply to the Mickletown Provided School has been recently augmented and no closure of the school has been necessary.

Inspection and Supervision of Food :

(*a*) **Milk Supply :** A good distribution and supply of wholesome milk has been maintained during the year.

(*b*) **Meat :** Systematic inspections of the meat at the slaughter-houses and shops have been made and there are 3 Registered slaughter-houses in the Council's area.

(*c*) **Other Foods :** There is one certified bake-house in the area and regular inspections have been made.

Sanitary Administration : Given in detail under Table C.

Public Health Staff : Dr. C. C. Hargreaves and Thos. Thompson, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Methley Voluntary Child Welfare Centre : As mentioned in a previous paragraph the continued reduction in the infantile mortality rate shows that excellent work is still done at this Centre. The mothers continue to attend regularly, and undoubtedly derive benefit from the advice given them regarding the feeding and welfare of their infants. I attend this centre (which is self-supporting) once a month.

Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District :—

Professional Nursing in the home :

(*a*) General—

A Nursing Association formed at the beginning of the year still continues doing good work, and the services of a qualified District Nurse obtained in the early part of the year have been of great benefit to the district in general and midwifery nursing.

(*b*) Infectious Diseases, Measles, etc. None.

Midwives : No employment, or subsidy, to practising midwives by the Local Authority.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—

	Name.	Situation.
Maternity & Child Welfare		Methley (Voluntary)
School Clinic ..	W.R. Education Authority	Oulton and Methley.
T.B. Clinic	W.R.C.C.	Pontefract T.B. Dispensary.
V.D. Clinic	General Infirmary ..	Leeds...

Hospitals partly supported by Local Authority :

Rothwell Joint Isolation Hospital. Rothwell.

Institutional provisions for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children :

None.

Ambulance Facilities :

(*a*) Infectious cases : Provided by Joint Hospital.
(*b*) Non-infectious cases and Accidents. Provided by local colliery owners, and also when required, the use of an ambulance belonging to the Castleford U.D.C.

Laboratory Work : West Riding County Laboratory, Wakefield. Full use of this Department has been made during the year.

List of adopted Acts, Bye-laws *re* Public Health in force in the District and date of adoption :—

(1) New Bye-laws are now in force, which have been submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Health.
(2) Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Regulations, October 22nd, 1906.
(3) Public Health Act, 1875.
Have not adopted any section of the Amending Acts.

Housing : 26 houses have been erected during the year, 6 by the Council and 20 by private enterprise ; all of these rank for subsidy under the Housing, etc., Act, 1923.

Number of new houses erected during the year :	
(*a*) Total	26
(*b*) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme ..	6
(*c*) By private enterprise	20
1. *Unfit Dwelling Houses* : (*Inspections*)—	
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	113

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regs., 1910, or Housing Consolidated Regs., 1925	113
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	21
2. *Remedy of Defects without formal notices*: Number of defective scullery houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ..	17
3. *Actions under Statutary Powers*:	
(*a*) Proceedings under Sect 3 of the Housing, Act, 1925.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served regarding repairs	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:—	
(*a*) By owners	Nil
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	Nil

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	41
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(*a*) By owners	Nil
(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of closing orders	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made ..	1
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ..	Nil

Tables and Forms: Tables C and D have been forwarded to the Authorities with copies of this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CLAUDE C. HARGREAVES,

Medical Officer of Health.