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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE
PUBLIC HEALTH OF MIRFIELD,
FOR THE YEAR 1921,

BY

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Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health,

Certifying Factory Surgeon for Dewsbury.

Medical Officer of Health

FOR MIRFIELD.

Members of the Mirfield Urban District Council, 1921-22.

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LESLIE J. MILNE, M.D., M.A.

LAWRENCE PICK, M.B.

The Seventeenth Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health for Mirfield.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with instructions issued by the Ministry of Health, Annual Reports of a full and detailed character (to be called Survey Reports), will only be required at intervals of not more than five years. The report for 1920 is to be treated as a Survey Report, and that of 1921 is the first Ordinary Report.

(1) VITAL STATISTICS.

The area of Mirfield consists of 3,394 acres.

POPULATION.—The census of 1921 was taken on 19th June, and the population was found to be 12,330 an increase of 419 since the 1911 census.

There are 3,301 inhabited houses 2,876 of which are working-class, thus the density of the population is less than four persons per house.

The General District Rate is 7s. in the £. A 1d. rate produces £213 12s 0d. and a 7s. rate £17,942 8s. 0d.

As was to be expected, the trade boom which followed after the War, gave place to such a slump as this country has never known, and the result has been short-time and unemployment.

(2) EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births.—232 births were registered during the year, viz :—115 boys and 117 girls. This gives a birth-rate of 18.8 compared with 22.1 for the previous year.

The birth-rate for England and Wales is 22.4.

There were 11 illegitimate births, 5 boys and 6 girls. Twenty-one still-born children were buried with a doctor's or a midwife's certificate.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered was 161, viz:—78 males and 83 females. The actual number of deaths which occurred in Mirfield was 148, but 17 residents died outside the area, and 4 non-residents in the district, so that the corrected number is 161.

The death-rate is 13.05 compared with 11.6 for the previous year and 12.1 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN MIRFIELD U.D. 1921—

(CIVILIANS ONLY.)

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Causes of Death	Males	Females
All Causes	78	83	15 Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years)	1	
1 Scarlet fever		1	16 Appendicitis and typhlitis		2
2 Influenza	2	4	17 Cirrhosis of liver	1	1
3 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	4	18 Acute and chronic nephritis	3	1
4 Other tuberculous diseases	2	1	19 Puerperal sepsis...	0	0
5 Cancer, malignant disease	6	6	20 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition ...		1
6 Rheumatic fever...	2	1	21 Congenital debility and malformation, pre- mature birth	5	4
7 Diabetes	1	3	22 Suicide	1	1
8 Cerebral hæmorrhage,	5	8	23 Other deaths from violence	4	1
9 Heart disease	6	14	24 Other defined diseases	18	21
10 Arterio-sclerosis ...	1	1	25 Causes ill-defined or unknown		1
11 Bronchitis	11	4			
12 Pneumonia (<i>all forms</i>)	5	4			
13 Other respiratory diseases	1				
14 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1				

	Males	Females
Deaths of infants under 1 year Total	14	5
Illegitimate	—	—
Total Births	115	117
Legitimate	110	111
Illegitimate	5	6

Population - - 12,330.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Out of a total of 232 births, 19 infants died under one year of age, viz:—14 boys and 5 girls. This gives an infantile mortality of 81.4 per thousand births, compared with 78 for the previous year and 83 for England and Wales.

Infantile mortality for the last ten years:—

1912	—	80	1917	—	75
1913	—	88	1918	—	53
1914	—	93	1919	—	101
1915	—	80	1920	—	78
1916	—	88	1921	—	81

(3) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

CASES NOTIFIED OR OTHERWISE ASCERTAINED—

Scarlet Fever, 4. Diphtheria and Mem. Croup, 7.
 Enteric Fever, 1. Pneumonia (primary and influenzal), 7.
 Encephalitis Lethargica, 1. Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1.
 Erysipelas, 3. Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 17.
 Other Forms of Tuberculosis, 2.

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL—

Diphtheria, 5. Scarlet Fever, 4. Other, 3.

TOTAL DEATHS—

Scarlet Fever, 1. Erysipelas, 1.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case notified—kept at home—vision un-impaired.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In 1919 and 1920 Scarlet fever and Diphtheria were fairly prevalent, viz: 54 and 14 in 1919, and 21 and 52 in 1920; but 1921 again reverts to the small number of notifications such as we had in 1916 to 1918 when only 8 cases of Scarlet fever and 15 of Diphtheria were notified in the three years.

The following is the whole list of notifications for 1921:—

Scarlet fever	... 4	Encephalitis	} 1
Diphtheria	... 5	Lethargica	
Erysipelas	... 3	Ophthalmia	} 1
Pneumonia	... 8	Neonatorum	

LIVERSEDGE AND MIRFIELD JOINT INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL AT CROSSLEY
(70 BEDS).

Only twelve Mirfield cases were treated in the Infectious Hospital during the year, viz: Scarlet fever 4, Diphtheria 5, Erysipelas 2, Pneumonia 1.

One Scarlet fever case died a few days after admission of septic thrombosis and gangrene of the arm.

A horse ambulance is kept at the Hospital.

Ravensthorpe Motor Ambulance is available for non-infectious and accident cases.

TABLE SHOWING TOTAL DEATHS UNDER AGE-GROUPS (IN MIRFIELD).

Under 1 year of age -	-	-	16
1 year and under 5 years	-	-	3
5 years and under 15 years	-	-	8
15 " " 25 "	-	-	5
25 " " 65 "	-	-	50
65 years and over	-	-	66
Total			148

PHTHISIS.

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified was 14

There were only two notifications of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The number of cases from Mirfield treated at the Huddersfield Tuberculosis Dispensary was:—

	Males	Females	Total
(1) New cases	12	19	31
(2) No. of cases sent to Sanatorium ...	3	3	6
(3) Deaths	2	2	4
(4) Total number of patients under treatment on 31st Dec., 1921	35	37	79
(5) Home Visits paid by Health Visitors	172	30	202
(6) Home Visits paid by Dispensary Nurses	39	18	57

The total number of cases still on the Register is 113, viz :
Pulmonary, 74; Non-Pulmonary, 39.

I fear that many cases of Tuberculosis are still un-notified. Sometimes the first intimation I get, is when the patient is sent to a Sanatorium. Sometimes the death certificate is the only notification. This is not the way to arrest the spread of this terrible scourge.

(4) CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No disease was specially prevalent during the year.

**(5) SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS,
HOSPITALS, and other Institutions avail-
able for the district.**

MIDWIVES' ACT AND DISTRICT NURSES.

The West Riding County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the 1902 Midwives' Act.

Mirfield is now well provided with three fully trained nurses holding the C.M.B. and in addition two certified though not fully trained midwives. The Mirfield Nursing Association has proved an unqualified success. During the year 1921 the nurses attended 118 Maternity cases, 45 of these without any doctor in attendance. When the public realize that the nurses are fully qualified to undertake these cases alone, they will surely no longer employ the un-certified and un-skilled woman, who charges practically the same fee as the nurse, and is bound to have a doctor present to take the whole responsibility of the case.

During the year the three nurses made 8,787 visits upon 557 patients.

Financially the Association has been well supported by the public, £636 18s. 5d. having been collected during the year. The Peace Memorial Committee also handed over to the Association £396 6s. 2d. and after furnishing the Nurses' home at 6, Wilson Road, it has been found possible to invest in £500 4% Funding Loan. It is the ambition of the Association to raise enough money to buy a suitable Home, which might also be used for Maternity cases. Hitherto no grant-in-aid has been received from the Supervising Authority.

HEALTH VISITING AND SCHOOL NURSING.

Although only 232 births were registered, there were 244 notified. Miss Davieson made 194 first visits, 1057 re-visits, 71 pre-natal visits and 175 special visits.

Unfortunately we lost the services of the School Nurse for two or three months towards the end of the year, as she was sent off to the Typhoid Epidemic at Bolton-on-Dearne.

SCHOOL NURSING.— Schools visited, 82; Children examined, 1853; Excluded, 16.

HOME VISITS.— Number of Visits, 280; Verminous Cases, 125; Other Cases, 164.

GLAXO DISTRIBUTED.— Cost Price, 2078 cartons; Half-Price, 118 cartons; Free, 972 cartons.

Miss Davieson also paid 202 visits to Tuberculosis patients.

“The Robert Swire Memorial” has not yet been opened as a Child Welfare Centre, although it is over two years since it was so generously given.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :

Day Nurseries.	None.
School Clinic.	West Riding C. C.
Tuberculosis.	Huddersfield Tuberculosis Dispensary.
V. D.	Dewsbury Infirmary.

HOSPITALS :

(1) Tuberculosis	Several provided by W.R.C.C.
(2) Maternity	Leeds Maternity Hospital.
(3) Children	Mirfield Memorial Hospital, Dewsbury and Huddersfield Infirmaryes.
(4) Fever	Crossley Infectious Hospital, 70 beds.
(5) Smallpox	Crossley Infectious Hospital, 30 beds.
(6) Other	Private Hospital at College of Resurrection.

No institution provided for unmarried mothers or illegitimate infants in the district.

St. Agnes' Home accommodates about 18 girls (mostly orphans).

(6) LABORATORY WORK.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are conducted at the County laboratory at Wakefield.

Anti-diphtheritic serum is supplied free to doctors for necessitous cases, but most cases are sent to the hospital.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 (in exercise of powers vested under Contagious Diseases Animals Act, 1878), revokes D. C. & M. Orders of 1879.

P. H. A. A., 1907. Sec 27 & 33, Part II & Part III---

9th November, 1909.

P. H. A. A., 1907. Part VI.--17th January, 1921.

P. H. A. A., 1890. Part III.--1st July, 1891.

(7) SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

TABULAR SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING
THE YEAR, AND ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE P.H.A. etc.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

Number of Privies with open Middens,	5.
„ „ Pail or Tub Closets,	45.
„ „ Privies with covered Middens,	1,239.
„ „ Waste Water Closets,	101.
„ „ Water Closets,	1,538.

- Number of Privies re-constructed during 1921; (a) as w.c.'s 20;
 (b) others, Nil.
 „ „ Additional Closets provided for old Property;
 (a) as w.c.'s 5; (b) others 1 privy.
 „ „ Closets constructed for new houses; (a) as w.c.'s 71;
 (b) others Nil
 „ „ Bins, 492.

	No. of Privies	No. of W.C.'s.	No. of Waste W.C.'s.	Tub or Pail Closets.
Eastthorpe Ward ...	220	439	29	5
Hopton Ward ...	273	258	39	30
Battieford Ward ...	352	457	30	6
Northorpe Ward ...	394	280	3	4
	1,239	1,434	101	45

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS —

- Total number of Inspections made in 1921, 2,633.
 „ „ „ Informal Notices served in 1921, 233.
 „ „ „ Statutory Notices served in 1921, 13.
 „ „ „ Nuisances in hand at close of 1920, 35.
 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ 1921, 27.
 „ „ „ „ reported during 1921, 211.
 „ „ „ „ abated during 1921, 219.
 „ „ „ „ Summonses or other legal proceedings, Nil.

MILK SUPPLY—

- No. of Samples, taken by Officer of S.A. for analysis under F. & D.
 Acts, 3.
 No. of Samples taken by Officer of S.A. for analysis,
 Adulterated, Nil.
 No. of Samples taken by Officer of S.A. for bacteriological
 examination, Nil.
 No. of Cowkeepers in district (including five for own use
 only), 40. No. registered 40.
 No. of Cowkeepers who are Milk Sellers also, 17.
 No. Purveyors only, 4.
 No. of Cowsheds, 53. No. of Inspections in 1921, 108.
 Approx. No. of Milch Cows in District, 240.
 No. legal proceedings under D.C.M. orders. Nil.

OTHER FOODS—

- No seizures or prosecutions during 1921. Nil.
 No. of Slaughterhouses—Registered 7; Licensed 9.
 No. of Inspections during time of slaughter, 276.
 No. of Bakehouses on Register, 8. No. of Inspections during
 1921, 29.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS—

- No. of Workshops, etc. on Register, 68.
 No. of Inspections during 1921, 77.
 No. of Smoke Observations, 132.

SCAVENGING—

No. of loads on Tips, 4,722 ; Land, 1,873 ; Total 6,595

COST :	Men's Wages	...	...	...	848	8	3
	Team Labour	...	...	...	1,216	3	3½
	Tips ...	...	...	...	61	8	6
					<hr/>		
					2,126	0	0½
	By removal of Trade refuse and salvage	...	...	...	40	12	0
					<hr/>		
					£2,085	8	0½

C. H. SCHOLEFIELD,
Sanitary Inspector.

(8) PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector will receive a contribution to their Salaries from the Exchequer Grant, after January, 1922.

The school nurse is appointed by the County Council.

A contribution is expected from the Council towards Maternity Nursing.

LESLIE J. MILNE, M.D., M.A.—M.O.H.
CHARLES H. SCHOLEFIELD—Sanitary Inspector.
MISS E. DAVIESON—School Nurse.
G. WHITEHEAD—Veterinary Surgeon.

(9) HOUSING.

Eight new houses were completed during the year 1920, and 73 more were added during 1921. These are now occupied, and 26 others have since been completed.

A large number of the tenants are recently married or newcomers to the district.

There are still a great number of houses which should be demolished, as they are unfit for human habitation.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—(a) Total, 73 ;
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme, 71.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES—INSPECTION.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), 61.
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, 61.

3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, 3.
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, 46.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers, 35.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act, 1919.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, 2.
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—
 - (a) by owners, 2.
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners, 2.
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations 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, Nil.
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 section 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders, 3.
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.

(10) METEOROLOGY.

Rainfall at Cote Wall, Mirfield, 1921.

<i>Months</i>	<i>Minimum Tempera- ture.</i>	<i>Maximum Tempera- ture.</i>	<i>Rain</i>		<i>Months</i>	<i>Minimum Tempera- ture.</i>	<i>Maximum Tempera- ture.</i>	<i>Rain.</i>	
			<i>No of Days.</i>	<i>Amount in inches.</i>				<i>No. of Days.</i>	<i>Amount in inches.</i>
Jan....	36·13	47·5	21	5·29	July	44·28	76·2	7	0·80
Feb...	32·19	40·21	3	0·57	Aug.	49·8	68·17	16	4·83
Mar...	34·0	45·18	18	1·75	Sept.	43·26	63·17	7	1·5
April	32·4	47·25	9	1·3	Oct.	41·8	65·15	12	2·3
May	36·19	52·3	15	1·54	Nov.	31·9	44·29	10	2·38
June	41·21	67·28	2	0·14	Dec.	34·12	48·4	21	5·61

Total days of rain 141.

Total rainfall 28·01 in inches.

This compares with 190 days and 41.28 inches in 1920.

(11) FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Two cases of anthrax and one of chrome poisoning were reported on during the year.

Only 536 young persons were examined in the Dewsbury District compared with 1237 in 1920.

Tables C & D have been forwarded.

LESLIE J. MILNE,

Medical Officer of Health.