

[Report 1895] / Medical Officer of Health, Nelson Borough.

Contributors

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NELSON,

14TH JANUARY, 1896.

To the Chairman of the Health Committee.

SIR,

I have pleasure in placing before you my Annual Report as to the health and sanitary condition of the Borough, and shall adopt the plan I have pursued in previous years, viz., giving you first the formal birth and death rate for the past twelve months.

The number of births registered in 1895 was 784 (405 males, 379 females), which, calculated on a population of 30,000, gives an annual birth-rate of 26.1 per 1,000.

The deaths registered during the same time numbered 425 (221 males, 204 females), which gives an annual death-rate of 14.1 per 1,000; this includes premature births (16), and cases submitted to the Coroner (19). The deaths of children under one year totalled 123, giving a death-rate of 16.3 per cent., calculated on the number born during the year.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the deaths occurred in the borough :—

Deaths under 1 year...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	Under 5 years,
„ over 1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	196.
„ „ 5 years	„	15	„	...	...	...	18	Over 5 years,
„ „ 15 „	„	25	„	...	...	...	22	
„ „ 25 „	„	65	„	...	...	...	133	
„ „ 65 „ and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	56	

Total 425

I enclose a detailed list of the causes of death, and the ages at which death occurred. Under the “ Notification of Infectious Diseases Act ” there have been reported 114 cases of Scarlet Fever, 23 Cases of Diphtheria, 12 Cases of Enteric Fever, 2 cases of Puerperal Fever, and 5 cases of Relapsing Fever. In these cases the Health Superintendent took the necessary steps to prevent the spread of the contagion, notifying the schools where they had been attending, so that other members of the affected family might not be in attendance, supplying disinfectants, seeing the drains and ashpits were in order, &c.

I am pleased to say we had no special epidemic until the last quarter, when Whooping Cough became rather prevalent. This not being notifiable, I am unable to give you any idea as to its extent. I may also say we escaped Small-Pox, although our neighbour Trawden had a few cases, which were taken to our Small-pox Hospital at Catlow for treatment.

We have had more or less Scarlet Fever all year, but not developing into a serious outbreak. We had most cases in the month of July (16), lowest in October (2). Of the Diphtheria cases, 12 occurred in the first quarter and in the second quarter we had only one case. Only two cases of Puerperal Fever were reported during the year. In my Autumn Report I referred to the fact that although Diarrhoea had played sad havoc in some of the neighbouring towns we got off well. I don't think any of the other cases require special mention.

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We have had a plentiful supply of good water during the year. No noxious or offensive trade has been reported to me, nor has any complaint been made under the "Dairies and Cow-sheds' Act." In my report for the *second* quarter I alluded to the Smoke Nuisance and concluded by saying "that although we may not be as good as we could wish, I felt we were as well off as any other manufacturing town of similar proportions in the Country.

Through the kindness of Mr. Priestley I am enabled to say that no less than 393 complaints of nuisances have been investigated and in most cases abated, even without Statutory notice ; 282 privies and 270 cesspools have been reported for alteration to water closets.

The Borough Engineer, the Health Superintendent, and I visited six mills where we found the privy accommodation unsatisfactory, and notices have been served for their amendment.

Seven houses have been visited and reported as unfit for habitation, and in two cases legal proceedings have been taken and an order obtained for their closure, which is now effected.

One case of smoke nuisance, two cases of overcrowding, also two seizures of unsound food have been dealt with, without legal proceedings,

The scavenging is still very efficiently carried on by the Corporation, the ashes being deposited at tips, and the animal and vegetable garbage treated at the refuse destroyer. The common lodging house continues to be well managed, and no complaints have been made therefrom. Mr. Ball, Borough Surveyor, informs me that 53 streets have been paved at a cost of £7,000, embracing 8,014 yards of main sewers, and about 5,000 yards of branch drains. Various streets, including a portion of Railway Street, Carr Road, Every Street, and Dial Street have been re-paved, and main intercepting sewers laid in Carr Road and Barkerhouse Road. The sluuge pressing plant at the Sewage works has been completed during the year. Plans have been passed for 583 buildings, which gives some idea of the growth of the place, and concurrently with the growth, I think, Sir, you may feel confident that Sanitation is receiving the attention it deserves.

I am, Sir,

Yours Obediently,

A. P. MILLAR.

Nelson Corporation. *Lane*

1895.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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A. P. MILLAR, M.D.,

NELSON.