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Borough of Nelson.

Medical Officer's

REPORT

FOR 1903.

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NELSON,

25th, JANUARY, 1904.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough. In giving you the record of the births and deaths, I find the births registered for the year were 772, (404 males, 368 females) which, with a population of 35,000, gives an annual birth-rate of 22 per 1,000. The deaths, including premature births, (25) and inquest cases (22) and 4 which occurred in public institutions out of the district, numbered 433, (209 males, 224 females) which gives an annual death-rate of 12·3 per 1,000.

The deaths of children under one year including premature births numbered 108, which gives a death-rate of 13·9 per cent; calculated on the number born during the year, excluding the premature births (25) the rate is 10·7 per cent.

The following table epitomises the ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year	...	...	...	...	108	} 151 deaths under 5 years.
„ of 1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	43	
„ 5 years	„	15	„	...	22	} 282 deaths over 5 years.
„ 15 „	„	25	„	...	21	
„ 25 „	„	65	„	...	156	
„ 65 years and over	...	...	...	...	83	

I enclose a detailed list of the causes of death, and the ages at which they died.

Under the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act," there have been reported 210 cases of Scarlet Fever, 15 Enteric Fever, 30 Diphtheria, 23 Erysipelas, 2 Puerperal Fever, and 14 Small Pox. In the Enteric cases, closed buckets with disinfectants for the reception of the excreta were supplied and regularly removed to the Refuse Destructor. The Small Pox cases were at once removed to the Small Pox Hospital at Catlow, the houses they left disinfected and fumigated, the clothing taken to the Steam Disinfector, all contacts that were willing re-vaccinated, and those that refused kept under observation a fortnight. 10 of the Small Pox cases occurred in the first quarter of the year, 2 in the second, 1 in the third, and on Christmas day.

I told you in my report for the September quarter, that I had had a confidential letter from the Medical Officer of Health for Blackpool, saying he had been acquainted from several towns that Small Pox had broken out amongst some who had been visitors at Blackpool, and gave me the name and address of a husband and wife in Nelson, who had been staying in a house where one of the reported cases had been lodging. I found the husband was suffering from Small Pox, and had him removed to Hospital the same day. Every precaution was taken to prevent the extension of the Disease, and I am pleased to say, with admirable results, no further case having occurred. The case that was reported on Christmas Day was evidently brought here, as the family had only come to reside in Nelson a fortnight previous. I have no serious accidents or fires to report.

Mr. Priestley has kindly condensed for me the following details of the work done in the Sanitary Department: -

NUISANCES,—199 Complaints of Nuisances have been received and investigated.

NOTICES.—Abatement of Nuisances has in the majority of cases been secured by an intimation to the persons responsible, but 121 Statutory Notices have been served, dealing with the following matters:—

- 76 Defective Sink Waste Pipes.
- 30 Mills without Proper Sanitary Conveniences.
- 29 Ashpits without proper Doors and Coverings.
- 18 Water Closets blocked.
- 18 Keeping Poultry or Pigeons in back yards.
- 7 Premises without proper W.C. or Ashpit accommodation.
- 4 Accumulations of Filth.
- 1 Smoke Nuisance.
- 1 Defective Drain.

MILL CLOSETS.—Notices have been served for alterations and additions to the Sanitary conveniences in connection with 30 tenement factories and the work is being slowly proceeded with.

UNSOUND FOOD.—No unsound food has been seized during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.—One summons has been issued during the past year for failure to notify Scarlatina and a fine of ten shillings including costs was imposed.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 19 Slaughter Houses within the Borough. No new licences have been granted this year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.—The Common Lodging House has changed hands during the year and is now under new management.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—Permission has been granted for the establishment of a new business of Tripe Boiling during the year. There are now three offensive trades carried on in the borough.

SCAVENGING.—Scavenging and Cleansing are carried out by the Corporation Staff. All ashes and refuse are burned at the Destructor which continues to work well. During the year, 6,432 loads of ashes, 3,982 tubs of garbage, 154 loads of market refuse, and 3,437 loads of light refuse, (giving a total weight of 6,657 tons, 15 cwts, 2 qrs.), have been treated. 1,104 miles of streets have been swept, and 17,824 gullies cleaned.

WORKSHOPS.—The whole of the workshops have been inspected, measured, and registered during the year, the general condition thereof being satisfactory. There 239 workshops: 70 being Domestic, 78 Men's Workshops, and 91 Ordinary.

Classified according to Trades as follows:

Bakers 54; Tailors, 19; Dressmakers and Milliners, &c., 84; Shoemakers and Cloggers, 40; General, 42.

A permanent Disinfecting Station, fitted with an Alliot and Paton's L. size Steam Disinfector has been completed and is now in use with good results. This has been urgently needed for some years.

Thanks to MR. B. BALL (Borough Engineer), I am able to state that during the year plans have been approved for the erection of 156 houses in addition to shops and other classes of buildings, while exactly 138 houses have actually been completed and certified as fit for habitation. At the end of the year the empty houses numbered 59, a decrease of 30 since Christmas, 1902, which gives a total annual increase of 168, and taking the inhabitants at an average at 4.7 per house an increased population of 690. The paving of 43 streets has been completed at a cost of £11,610, while there are now 41 in the hands of the contractors, and notices have

been issued for the paving of 30 more at an estimated cost of £9,163. In connection with the Sewage Disposal Works a Local Government Board Inquiry has been held for power to borrow £25,000 for the completion of the works and the purchase of about seven acres of land. Already four percolating bacteria beds 60 feet in diameter and 7 feet deep, and one 100 feet in diameter of the same depth have been completed and put in operation. These five are a portion of a complete scheme proposed by the Borough Surveyor and are capable of dealing with 638,400 gallons of sewage per day, and according to the analyses and reports of the Chief Inspector of the river Ribble Watershed Committee are giving excellent results.

We have had a plentiful supply of water during the year and I am able to say the first reservoir in the Ogden valley is practically completed and will increase our storage capacity by 50,000,000 gallons which will for a considerable time ensure consumers within our water limits a good and plentiful supply of pure water.

RAINFALL FOR 1903.

January	4.03
February	5.39
March.....	5.87
April	2.91
May	2.62
June ...'.....'	2.41
July.....	3.73
August	5.45
September	5.29
October	10.54
November	3.20
December	2.33
Total	53.87

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

A. P. MILLAR.

Causes of Death in Nelson at different ages for the year ending December 31st, 1903.

Ages at Death.			Under—1		Under—5		Total under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 65		65 and over		Total of 5 yrs. and upwards		Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions beyond the Dist.	
Cause of Death	SEXES.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Smallpox			2	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Measles			..	..	5	1	5	1	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever			2	2	..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough			..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diphtheria & Memb. Croup..			..	..	..	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Enteric			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Other continued			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic Influenza.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea			1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Enteritis			1	3	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Puerperal Fever			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Septic Diseases.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis			..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	10	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases ..			4	1	..	3	4	4	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	4	15	..
Cancer, malignant disease....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..
Bronchitis			11	10	5	4	16	14	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	1	7	5	17	..
Pneumonia			4	2	3	..	7	2	1	1	..	..	11	..	..	11	12	23	27	..
Pleurisy			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	2	..	11	3	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver			..	..	..	5	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..
Veneral Diseases			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth.....			14	11	..	..	14	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of parturition.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	15	6	..
Inquest { Accidents			..	1	2	1	2	2	1	..	1	..	9	..	..	6	..	6	18	..
Suicides			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Natural Causes.....			..	1	2	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	1	2	5	3	..
Old Age.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	2	..	..
Brain Disease			2	..	2	..	4	..	1	..	1	..	5	..	..	9	10	16	5	..
Rheumatic Fever.....			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	3	..
Infantile Complaints			20	13	1	2	21	15	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other causes			1	..	3	..	4	..	2	..	4	13	18	..	..	3	5	18	31	1—aged 23 yrs. 1—aged 53 yrs. 1—aged 58 yrs.
All causes.....			62	46	23	20	85	66	10	12	7	13	72	81	34	49	123	155	..	..