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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

BOROUGH

OF

NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT,

For the Year 1918.

BY

STANLEY FOSTER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., Ed.,

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

E. A. SLATER, F.S.I., A.M.I.C.E.,

Acting Borough Sanitary Inspector.

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BOROUGH OF NEWPORT.

SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1918.

THE MAYOR (MR. COUNCILLOR F. E. WHITCHER).

MR. COUNCILLOR WADHAM (*Chairman*).

"	"	CROUCHER.
"	"	GODWIN.
"	"	GUNNER.
"	"	HILLS (MAJOR).
"	"	JOLLIFFE.
"	"	MUNDEN.
"	"	RUGG.
"	"	STEEL.
"	"	YELF (LIEUT.).

Town Clerk : MR. T. ROSS PRATT.

Medical Officer of Health :

STANLEY FOSTER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., ED.

Acting Sanitary Inspector :

E. A. SLATER, F.S.I., A.M.I.C.E.

*To His Worship the Mayor and to the Aldermen and
Councillors of the Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight.*

MAY, 1919.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the seventh year on the health of the Borough.

I must first of all express my relief on the return of Mr. Hudson from Military duties, without whose help lately it would have been almost impossible to have coped with the extra work. I consider from this report that the Borough is again to be congratulated on the satisfactory health of the inhabitants, notwithstanding the severe epidemic of influenza we had to contend with during the year, upon which I have made a special report.

I have much pleasure in mentioning that a refuse destructor has been erected at the Sewage Works, and is a valuable asset to this town. There is still the vexed question as regards the site of the Market Place. No doubt a more suitable place ought to be found, and I hope in the near future it will be seriously considered. We should then be, from a sanitary point of view, as up to date as possible, as every year brings home the importance of sanitation on the general health of the public, which no doubt to a great extent accounts for the greatly reduced number of infectious diseases.

This report has been abbreviated as far as possible by the request of the Local Government Board. I desire to acknowledge my grateful appreciation for the courtesy and consideration always shown me by the members of the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY FOSTER.

BOROUGH OF NEWPORT, I.W.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1918.

A. Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The principal influence affecting the general health have been those arising from the continuation of the war, and the natural anxiety, together with the increased cost of living, which has told hardly on very many.

B. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water has been again tested and found highly satisfactory.

A duplicate pumping plant has been installed. It is satisfactory in working, and will, we hope, enable us to meet all demands from the town and district for many years.

Chemical and Bacteriological report during the year. --
Nothing special.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There has again been no pollution of the river calling for notice.

DRAINAGE.

553 feet of 4in. or 6in. glazed stoneware pipe drain has been laid in place of old defective drains,

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Does not call for special comment.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The number of premises visited during this year was 922 ; the defects or nuisances discovered were 98. Statutory notices were issued in 1 case, but it was not found necessary to take any cases before the magistrates.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

There is no change to record.

The MARKET-PLACE has been repaired with concrete and is left in a sanitary condition each time after use.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—No complaints.

FOOD.

(1) MILK SUPPLY.—All dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops have been inspected and found in good order.

(2) OTHER FOODS.—About 3,891 lbs. of meat and other foods were voluntarily surrendered for destruction, having been found to be diseased or unsound and unfit for food.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—220 visits were made during the year.

WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, &c.

Nothing special to report.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

1. STAFF.

Mr. E. A. Slater is still acting as Sanitary Inspector in the place of Mr. Hudson, who is still on active service.

2. HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL, ASHEY.—Should cases of Small-pox arise, there is now provision made by the County Council for immediate isolation at Ashey School, which

has been altered by them for that purpose, and in view of the small percentage of infants now vaccinated in Newport, should there be, unfortunately, any cases, it would, in all probability, amount to a serious epidemic, and it is the duty of every official to convince all dubious parents of the value of vaccination.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (SMALL-POX PREVENTION) REGULATIONS, 1917.

The Board take this opportunity of informing Medical Officers of Health that arrangements have now been made under which supplies of lymph urgently required by them for the vaccination or re-vaccination under the above regulations, of persons who have been in immediate contact with cases of Small-pox may be obtained promptly and directly.

3. ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL ACTS OR GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

The following acts are in force in Newport :—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts 2, 3, and 5.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Appointment of Overseer and Assistant Overseer.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Part II.—Sections 25, 26, and 33.

Part III.—Sections 34 to 38, 45 to 47, and 51.

Part IV.

Part VII.—Section 86.

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910 (SEPTEMBER 2ND).

The number of dwellinghouses inspected was 27.

The number of dwellinghouses, which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation—nil.

The number of representations made by the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders—nil.

The number of closing orders made—nil.

The number of dwellinghouses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders—27.

The number of dwellinghouses for which demolition orders were made—1.

The number of dwellinghouses which, after the making of demolition orders, were demolished—1.

The general character of the defects found to exist were of the usual kind, *e.g.*, defective drains and damp rooms, defective floor and roofs, as will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's detailed report.

D. Prevalence of and control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

The following cases were notified during the year:—Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 9; Erysipelas, 4; Measles, 23; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 2; of this, 1 Scarlet Fever, and 7 Diphtheria were taken to hospital. These numbers contrast with 18 Scarlet Fever, 18 Diphtheria, 1 Enteric Fever, 4 Erysipelas, and 524 Measles last year.

E. Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.

Thirteen tubercular cases were notified, 12 being pulmonary and 1 Mesenteric Glands.

F. Investigation of other Diseases.

The Council's Venereal Diseases Scheme is now in working order, and cases, either rich or poor, can attend at the County Hospital for treatment, and medical men can send pathological specimens for diagnostic purposes.

It is satisfactory to note that the Venereal Diseases Act has been made applicable to the Isle of Wight. Under this act it is an offence for any person, other than a duly-

qualified Medical Practitioner, for reward either direct, or indirect, to treat any person for venereal diseases, or prescribe any remedy therefore, or give any advice in connection with the treatment thereof, whether the advice is given to the person to be treated, or to any other person, and severe penalties, including imprisonment up to two years may be inflicted.

We have had an epidemic of Whooping Cough, but it not being a notifiable disease, it is impossible to say the number of cases that have arisen ; there have been many serious cases, though only three deaths were recorded from the disease during the year.

G. Means for Preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.

An Infant Welfare Centre has been started in Newport, and is held weekly at the County Offices, Holyrood Street, where mothers derive a lot of useful information, and the progress, or otherwise, of the infants is kept well under observation.

SCHOOL NURSING.

A nurse has been appointed to assist Dr. McKay, and she gives her attention to cases that come under their observation.

H. Vital Statistics of the District.

The net deaths of civilians in the year amounted to 172—81 males, 91 females. The population for a death-rate, 11,090 being the figure supplied by the Registrar General, being a crude death-rate for Newport of 15.5 per 1,000, which compares with a death-rate for England and Wales of 17.6, the Newport rate being slightly lower than last year.

There were 204 births in the year, 101 boys and 103 girls, 82 boys and 92 girls being legitimate, 13 boys and 11 girls being illegitimate.

This gives a birth-rate on a population of 12,425 (the figure as supplied by the Registrar General) of 16.4 per 1,000, compared with a birth-rate for England and Wales of 17.7 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 11 deaths of infants under 1 year, 6 boys and 5 girls, which gives the low infantile mortality of 53.9 per 1,000.

The total number of deaths recorded in the Borough was 139. None have to be transferred away, whilst 33 residents of Newport died outside the Borough, leaving the net deaths belonging to the Borough 172, 81 of these being males and 91 females. The cause of their deaths are given in detail in Table 2.

TABLE II.

Causes of Death.					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES (Civilians only) ..					81	91
1	Enteric fever	..	..	..	—	—
2	Small-pox	..	..	..	—	—
3	Measles	..	..	..	1	1
4	Scarlet fever	..	..	..	—	—
5	Whooping cough	..	..	..	2	1
6	Diphtheria and croup	..	..	..	—	—
7	Influenza	..	..	..	15	11
8	Erysipelas	..	..	..	—	—
9	Pulmonary tuberculosis	..	..	..	5	5
10	Tuberculous meningitis	..	..	..	—	—
11	Other tuberculous diseases	..	..	..	—	2
12	Cancer, malignant disease	..	..	..	6	14
13	Rheumatic fever	..	..	..	1	—
14	Meningitis	..	..	..	1	1
15	Organic heart disease	..	..	..	12	16
16	Bronchitis	..	..	..	2	5
17	Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	5	7
18	Other respiratory diseases	..	..	..	—	—
19	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	—	—
20	Appendicitis & typhlitis	..	..	..	—	—
21	Cirrhosis of liver	..	..	..	—	—
21	Alcoholism	..	..	..	—	—
22	Nephritis and Bright's disease	..	..	..	6	6
23	Puerperal fever	..	..	..	—	—
24	Parturition, apart from puerperal fever	..	..	..	—	1
25	Congenital debility, &c.	..	..	..	3	1
26	Violence, apart from suicide	..	..	..	3	—
27	Suicide	..	..	..	—	—
28	Other defined diseases	..	..	..	19	19
29	Causes ill-defined or unknown	..	..	..	—	1
Special Causes (included above)						
	Cerebro-spinal fever	..	..	..	—	1
	Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ..					6	5
TOTAL BIRTHS					101	103
	Legitimate	..	..	..	88	92
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	13	11
POPULATION FOR DEATH-RATE ..					11,090	
POPULATION FOR BIRTH-RATE ..					12,425	

Special Report on Epidemic Influenza during the Year 1918.

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA DURING THE YEAR.

1918.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1st week	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
2nd week	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	8
3rd week	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	4
4th week	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	7
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	13	2	22

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA (AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION).

Age.	Sex.	
	Male.	Female.
0-5	1	0
5-15	1	2
15-25	2	1
25-35	3	0
35-45	3	5
45-65	1	1
65 and upwards	1	1
	—	—
Totals ...	12	10
	—	—

A slight epidemic commenced during July, and continued for about 14 days, only 1 death occurring.

Another and more serious and widespread epidemic commenced in the week ending October 19th, and continued in a more or less virulent form until the end of November.

No pathological or bacteriological examination of sputa were made. There is no evidence to show by what means the epidemic was introduced, but the primary cases were amongst the school children. The incubation period varied from two to three days, or even less. The onset is sudden, with chills, high temperature, and severe pains in the head

and back, and tenderness of muscles, especially of the legs and back. The symptoms usually abated in from three to four days. The breath is apparently infectious from the first onset. Transmission is by contact, and was intensified by the aggregation of susceptible persons in a confined atmosphere.

There were very few secondary attacks. There was no special evidence on any particular occupation, and the epidemic spread to all parts of the town.

Leaflets advising as to isolation, personal precautions, nursing, and general treatment were distributed to each house and large posters affixed to conspicuous boardings around the town. Notices calling attention to the seriousness and precautions to be taken for combating the disease were also published in the local newspaper.

All day schools were closed for 22 days, and day and Sunday schools were disinfected.

The majority of the places of worship, cinemas, public halls, and places of public resort were wet cleansed and disinfected.

Children under 14 years of age were excluded from cinemas.

The above methods, in my opinion, contributed largely in a rapid diminution of the disease.

No hospital treatment was provided.

NURSING.—The town was divided into districts, and local V.A.D. Nurses were employed in visiting patients' homes and advising and assisting in nursing and treatment of infected persons. Excellent progress was made, and this work largely helped to combat the epidemic.

No prophylaxis by vaccine was carried out.

Gargling of throat with permanganate of potassium and saline solution, and spraying of nasal passages was found to be very efficacious in preventing the spread of Influenza.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Sanitary Department,
 Guildhall,
 Newport, I.W.

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and
 Councillors of the Borough of Newport, I.W.*

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit to you a report of the work done in connection with the abatement and suppression of nuisances during 1918.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 922. On the premises visited, nuisances to the number of 98 were discovered. The work carried out includes house inspections, inspections of slaughterhouses, bakehouses, cowsheds, dairies, and milk shops, factories, workshops, workplaces, common lodging houses, schools, stables, and disinfection of rooms and clothing after infectious disease. Whenever insanitary conditions were found to exist, such action as was necessary for their removal was immediately taken, communication with the owner or agent being made upon the discovery of any sanitary defects, and particulars supplied of the works necessary to satisfactorily remedy the same.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE
 DURING THE YEAR.

No. of Inspections of Houses and Premises	...	922
„ Visits to Slaughterhouses	... ..	220
„ „ Dairies, Cowsheds, & Milkshops		11
„ „ Bakehouses	... ..	11
„ „ Factories	... ..	3
„ „ Schools	... ..	24
„ „ Stables, Piggeries, etc.	... ..	20
„ „ Common Lodging Houses	... ..	2
„ „ <i>re</i> cases of Infectious Disease...		127

NOTICES SERVED.

64 notices were served to abate the nuisances found, these being of a preliminary nature, or in the form of a letter. In 1 instance it was necessary to serve a statutory notice, which resulted in the nuisance being satisfactorily abated.

DETAILS OF OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT FOR
THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

DRAINS—

New drains (length in feet)	553
No. of stoneware gullies fixed	27
„ ventilating shafts	3
„ inspection chambers	12
„ fresh-air inlets	2
„ intercepting traps	3
„ new connections to sewer	7
„ drains unstopped	22
„ smoke tests applied to drains and soil pipes	69

WATER CLOSETS—

New pedestal W.C. pans	5
„ pans in W.C.'s	14
„ traps in W.C.'s	14
Water closets repaired	13
„ „ unstopped	10

MISCELLANEOUS—

New sinks provided	2
House roofs repaired	10
Yards paved or repaved	14
Rooms cleansed	1
Urinals repaired	1
Town water laid on	5
Wells filled in	1
Animals so kept	1
Overcrowding in dwellings abated	2
Slaughterhouses cleansed and lime-washed (4 times yearly)	10
Cowsheds and dairies cleansed and limewashed (twice yearly)... ..	20

FOODSTUFFS DESTROYED.

Carcases	...	...	...	...	2191 lbs.
Liver, lungs, etc.	...	...	...	...	648 lbs.
Tripe	...	...	...	...	619 lbs.
Corned beef	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	397 lbs.
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	3891 lbs.
					<hr/>

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

In all cases of serious infectious disease the drains of the houses where they occurred (except where they were known to be new and in good condition) were tested, and, where found to be defective, have been abolished and replaced with new watertight drains.

A survey has also been made of every house and premises where the drains have been reconstructed, and plans of such drains have been prepared and filed for future reference. These plans, of which 10 were made, form a valuable record of the drainage work done in connection with existing buildings in the town.

CONCLUSION.

In addition to the matters already set out, a considerable amount of time is, of necessity, taken up in keeping various registers and records, and I have to acknowledge the great assistance which I have had in this work from my assistant, Mr. Tee.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. A. SLATER, F.S.I., A.M.I.C.E.,
Borough Engineer,
Acting Borough Sanitary Inspector.

