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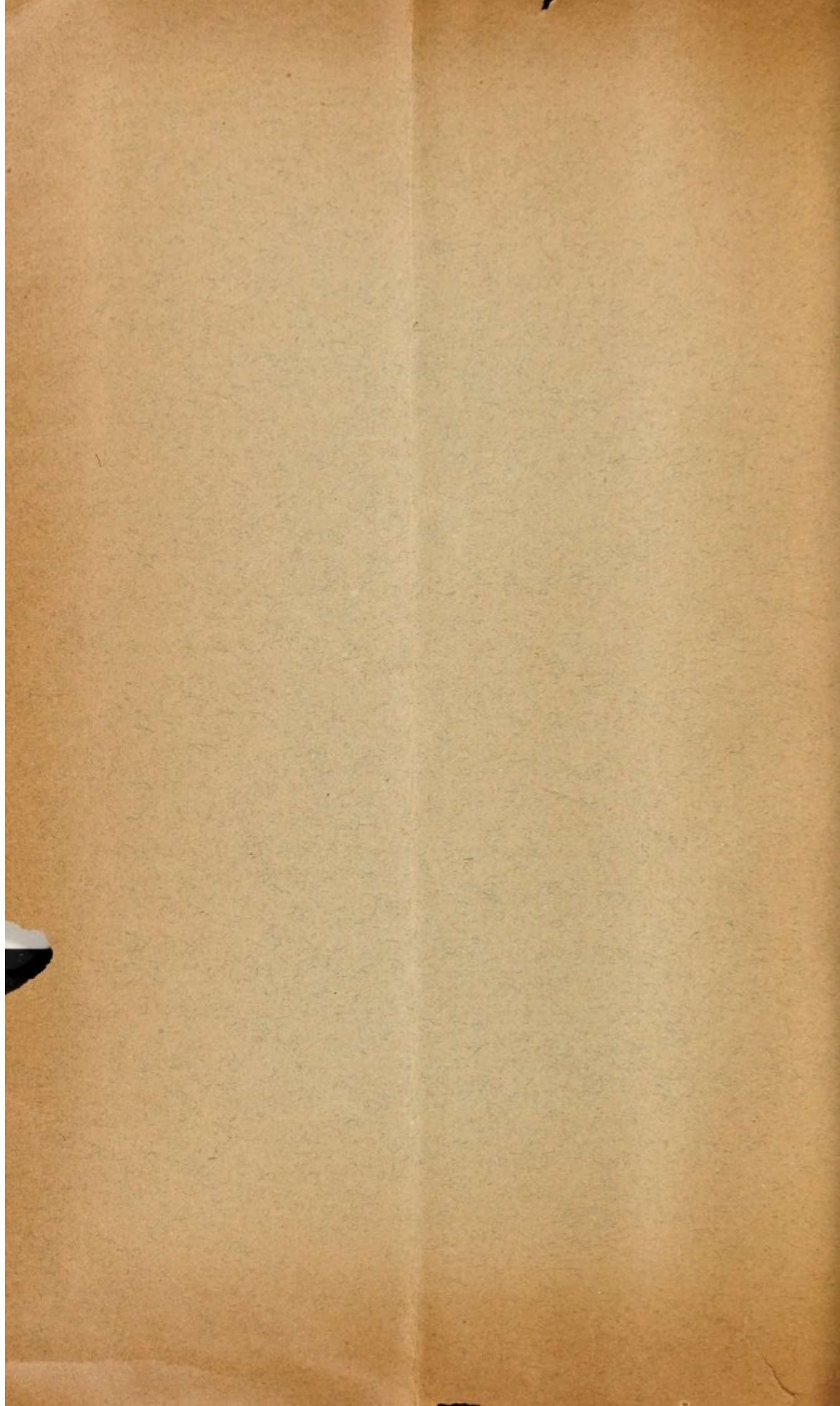
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OUNDLE
RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
1898.

OUNDLE AND THRAPSTON :
ALFRED KING AND SON, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS.



OUNDLE,

FEBRUARY, 1899.

To the Oundle Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I am glad to be able to lay before you a favourable report of your District during the past year.

I propose for the convenience of the respective County Medical Officers of Health, to speak of the whole District and then to treat the Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire parts separately.

The total number of deaths was 124, counting a due proportion of deaths in the Workhouse which is situated in the Urban District, giving a death rate of 13·4 against 13·5 in the previous year.

Of these no less than 58 were among persons over 65 years of age. Although this may seem to speak well for the healthiness of the neighbourhood, I fear it must be set down in a measure to the gradual depopulation which goes on in many of our agricultural villages. The young people going away for work elsewhere and the old remaining behind.

Two deaths were caused by Infectious disease, one from Scarlet Fever and one from Whooping Cough.

The figures relating to the ages and causes of death will be found set out in detail in the tables at the end of the report.

The number of births for the same period was 178, giving a birth rate of 19·07.

The prevention and treatment of Tubercular disease or consumption is a subject which has been brought prominently before the public during the past year. This is owing to the fact that it is now believed to be due to infection got either from another human being or from animals afflicted with Tubercular disease.

The duty of combating with this most important disease rests to a large extent with the Sanitary Authority. Improved and better ventilated houses, subsoil drainage, and more care to prevent the sale of Tubercular meat, and especially milk from tainted cows, seem the main lines upon which we should work.

I drew your attention to that subject in previous reports, and also pointed out certain localities in which the disease seemed to be indigenous especially Elton and Southwick ; I am sorry to say they still show the same story.

The total number of deaths from the disease was 12 ; these are fairly well distributed, but there are several cases in the two villages mentioned above.

The number of deaths from Cancer was 11. Here again we find it more common in certain localities, especially I think in the valley of the Nene, among low lying villages close to the river. I would suggest this as an interesting subject for collective investigation in the County.

The question of providing an Isolation Hospital was again brought before you, and at my suggestion referred to the County Council.

HUNTS.

That part of the District situated in the County of Huntingdonshire comprises the villages of Elton, Gidding and Winwick. The population is given as 1407. The number of deaths was 15, giving a death rate of 10·6, of these 5 were from consumption. No death took place from infectious disease.

Infectious Disease.—A Mild epidemic of German Measles was seen at Elton, and there have been some cases of true Measles at Winwick. Infectious disease gave little trouble.

Slaughter Houses.—The Slaughter Houses in the District—two in number—were inspected and found satisfactory.

Closets.—The Closets in use are almost entirely uncemented pits. I question whether they do much harm in Gidding and Winwick as they are sunk in impervious clay.

Winwick.—As the result of the usual inspection of villages I drew special attention to Winwick. A number of houses have no drainage, and several of the houses and premises attached are in a bad condition. Orders were made to abate the several nuisances complained of.

The water supply is bad but the only remedy appears to be to improve storage.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The population of the Northamptonshire portion of the District is estimated at 7805, the number of deaths in the year was 109 giving a death rate of 13·9, the births in the same time numbered 145. Of the deaths 2 were caused by Infectious Diseases and 7 by Consumption.

Sixty-seven cases of Scarlatina were reported but only one proved fatal which shews the mildness of the disease.

King's Cliffe.—Special attention was directed to King's Cliffe. It is the largest and most important place in your District, it has a

population of 1,200 with a tendency I understand to increase rather than decrease as most of our villages do.

There has been but little Infectious Disease during the years that I have held office, and I believe it has always had a good reputation in that respect.

But the death-rate is higher than in the rest of the District. The years 95, 96, 97, give an average of 18 per 1000, as against 14 per 1000 for the whole District, and last year the rate was 20·8.

Oundle Urban District some twenty years ago, before proper drainage and water supply were introduced, had a similar high death-rate. What is the rate now? The death-rate for the Oundle Urban District for last year was only 8 per 1000.

Bad sanitary conditions do not always mean a large amount of Infectious illness, but they do mean a high death-rate and a considerable amount of illness of one kind and another.

On a previous occasion I directed attention to the insanitary condition of the place, but it was not until after a visit from one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board that the matter was by their direction seriously taken up.

I made a special inspection of the whole village, and by your order a report was drawn up by the Sanitary Inspector. In the course of this report he says: "The greater part of the houses on the top side of Park Street are practically without water for drinking purposes."

The greater part of the house drains in the village are merely gullies made in the rock, with no outlet. The house slops are getting away in the crevices of the rock, and polluting the surrounding soil. A few of the closets are on the pail system, but the majority are uncemented pits, some of which remain unemptied for years. Samples of water taken from 20 public and private wells were submitted to analysis, and of these 9 were utterly condemned.

The matter can be summed up in a few words: There is no drainage and no good water in King's Cliffe. The clear course is to take steps to provide both. Happily there is an ample supply of good water just outside the village, which could be laid on without great expense.

Nassington.—A case of Typhoid was seen at Nassington in February, the public water supply opposite the patient's house was tested and found impure, a notice to that effect was posted. Several private wells were sunk in consequence.

Bulwick.—Measles was imported into Bulwick in May, and subsequently spread to Blatherwick. The Schools in both villages had to be closed.

Warmington.—Scarlet Fever was prevalent in Warmington to some extent during a great part of the year, but of a mild type.

An inspection was made of some insanitary cottages, one of which was closed, and alterations effected in the others. An improvement in the School drains was also made.

Ashton.—Cases of Diphtheria and Erysipelas were seen last April in a house at Ashton, which had a bad record for infectious disease, cases of Membranous Croup and Septic Sore Throat having been noticed in previous years. The premises were thoroughly examined and reported upon, and extensive alterations in the closet arrangements made. The house now seems healthy.

Cases of Scarlet Fever were also seen in the parish, but did not spread beyond the two houses first attacked.

Polebrook.—Polebrook has had a large amount of infectious disease during the year. Measles broke out in the summer, requiring the Schools to be closed, and after the summer holidays again, requiring the closing of the Schools and the Post Office.

The brook in this village is a foul recurring nuisance every summer. I think the drainage of the place is a matter which should receive careful consideration at an early date.

Lutton.—The question of the water supply of Lutton was again brought before you. Situated as it is on the high clay land, like many of the Huntingdonshire villages, it is almost impossible to find a good spring. Improved storage of rain water would seem to be the only remedy.

Southwick.—An insanitary house was reported at Southwick, in which there is a case of Tubercular Disease. Alterations have been made, but I question whether anything will make it a sanitary dwelling.

Slaughter Houses.—An inspection of the Slaughter Houses in the District was made by the Sanitary Inspector and reported as satisfactory.

Closets.—The Closets throughout the District are chiefly on the old uncemented pit system, with the exception of the villages of Thorpe, Achurch, and Hemington, which have pails or cemented pits.

Water.—Nine samples of water were brought to me by the Inspector to be tested, seven of these were found to be satisfactory.

Vaccination.—There is not much opposition to Vaccination in the District. It is to be hoped the new laws will work satisfactorily.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT, B.A., M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health Oundle Rural District.

TABLE OF DEATHS

5

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. (See Note 5 on Back).

[illegible]

**Area and Population of the District or Division
to which this Return relates.**

Area in Acres, 67,538.

Population (last Census), 9384.

„ (Estimated to middle of 1898) 9193.

Death Rates.	{	General 13.4	{	per 1000 Population, esti- mated to middle of 1898.
		Infant (under one year of age) 89.8		{ per 1000 Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B,
attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

C. N. ELLIOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 6th, 1899.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,

(B) Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Oundle Rural District ;
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										FEVERS.						Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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State here whether " Notification of Infectious Disease " is compulsory in the District. Yes. Since when ? 1891. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick in the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated ; or if not within the District, state where it is situated. No Hospital.

One case of Typhoid Fever removed to Stamford Infectious Hospital.

THESE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE

CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE 10TH OF JANUARY 1900 AT THE

No.	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Cause of Accident	Result	Remarks
1	John Smith	25	M	Engineer	Overlooked signal	Minor injury	See report
2	James Brown	30	M	Conductor	Slipped on stairs	Broken leg	See report
3	William Jones	22	M	Fireman	Tripped over coal	Head injury	See report
4	Robert White	28	M	Brakeman	Missed step	Wrist sprain	See report
5	Thomas Black	35	M	Engineer	Incorrect signal	Collision	See report
6	Charles Green	20	M	Conductor	Wrong track	Derailment	See report
7	Edward Hall	27	M	Fireman	Ignored warning	Fire	See report
8	Frank Adams	32	M	Brakeman	Left door open	Passenger injury	See report
9	George Baker	24	M	Engineer	Exceeded speed	Derailment	See report
10	Henry Clark	29	M	Conductor	Wrong signal	Collision	See report
11	William Evans	21	M	Fireman	Ignored alarm	Fire	See report
12	Robert Foster	31	M	Brakeman	Missed stop	Passenger injury	See report
13	Thomas Gibson	26	M	Engineer	Incorrect signal	Collision	See report
14	Charles Harris	23	M	Conductor	Wrong track	Derailment	See report
15	Edward King	33	M	Fireman	Ignored warning	Fire	See report
16	Frank Lewis	25	M	Brakeman	Left door open	Passenger injury	See report
17	George Miller	28	M	Engineer	Exceeded speed	Derailment	See report
18	Henry Nelson	30	M	Conductor	Wrong signal	Collision	See report
19	William Phillips	22	M	Fireman	Ignored alarm	Fire	See report
20	Robert Reed	34	M	Brakeman	Missed stop	Passenger injury	See report
21	Thomas Scott	27	M	Engineer	Incorrect signal	Collision	See report
22	Charles Stewart	24	M	Conductor	Wrong track	Derailment	See report
23	Edward Taylor	32	M	Fireman	Ignored warning	Fire	See report
24	Frank Turner	26	M	Brakeman	Left door open	Passenger injury	See report
25	George Walker	29	M	Engineer	Exceeded speed	Derailment	See report
26	Henry Young	31	M	Conductor	Wrong signal	Collision	See report
27	William Ziegler	23	M	Fireman	Ignored alarm	Fire	See report
28	Robert Zimmerman	35	M	Brakeman	Missed stop	Passenger injury	See report
29	Thomas Ziegler	28	M	Engineer	Incorrect signal	Collision	See report
30	Charles Ziegler	21	M	Conductor	Wrong track	Derailment	See report

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE RAILROADS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK