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THE  
**Annual Report**

FOR THE  
OXENDON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
1920,

BY  
C. T. SCOTT, M.A., M.D.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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Market Harborough :  
Wilkinson, Printer, 64, High Street.

## REPORT.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report drawn up upon the lines requested by the Ministry of Health.

Population ...	}	Census 1911 ...	4276
		Estimated 1920...	4093

*Physical Features and Social Conditions.*—The area of the district is 32,991 acres, and includes 19 parishes. Most of the land is laid out for pasture but there has been an increase of ploughed land during the past few years. The country is generally of a widely undulating character with very little woodland, and lies at an average of 300 to 400 feet above sea-level; the upper reaches of the river Welland run along the border of the district from West to East. The occupation of the inhabitants is mainly connected with cattle grazing, but there are a considerable number residing in the district who work in factories in adjacent towns or in ironstone quarries outside the district. There are no trades or manufactures in the district likely to be deleterious to health.

*Vital Statistics.*—The total (nett) deaths belonging to the district was 51, a rate per 1,000 population of 12·4 (rate for 1919—14·5). One hundred and two births were registered including 54 males and 48 females, of whom 2 males were illegitimate; rate per 1,000 population 24·8 (rate for 1919—12·4). Infant mortality rate was 58·9 per 1,000 births (rate for 1919—58·9).

	Number.			Rate.
Births ... ..	...	...	102	24·8
Deaths ... ..	...	...	51	12·4
Infant mortality ... ..	...	...	6	58·9

Population (estimated) 4,093.

Amongst the causes of death were—heart disease 7, bronchitis 6, cancer 6.

*Poor Law Relief* for the year was £390.

*Hospital Accommodation.*—There is no hospital in the district but sufficient accommodation is provided in the neighbouring districts in Market Harborough, Kettering, Northampton, and Leicester. Three district nurses are employed who attend 13 of the 19 parishes.



*Water Supply* is from public and private pumps and springs. The quantity is adequate and the purity has been uniformly satisfactory.

*No River or Stream Pollution* has occurred.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—Disposal is by precipitation tanks and filters at Welford, Sibbertoft, and Sulby, by tanks and strainers at Marston, and by septic tanks in other villages.

<i>Closet Accommodation.</i> —Vaults	...	...	652
Buckets	...	...	152
Water Closets	...	...	224
			<hr/>
			1028
			<hr/>

Number recently converted to water closets    0

*Scavenging* is carried out by the occupiers in the main. A sludge cart is provided and the septic tanks are emptied periodically. the solids being deposited on neighbouring fields.

*Sanitary Inspection :*

- (a) Number of inspections made—1057.
- (b) Number of notices served  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{statutory—nil.} \\ \text{informal—33.} \end{array} \right.$
- (c) Result of notices—instructions executed.

*Premises under Council's control include :*

Slaughter-houses	...	...	8
Bakehouses	...	...	10
Cow-keepers' premises...	...	...	30

*Sanitary Alterations :*

- (a) Undertaken during 1920—3.
- (b) Requiring attention now—enlargement of Sewage Disposal Works to accommodate the new houses to be built.

*Schools.*—The sanitary condition and water supply is satisfactory. School closure was necessary on one occasion on account of infectious disease.

*Milk.*—Supply has generally equalled the demand ; on a few occasions it has been difficult for villagers to get milk owing to its all

being sent to the nearest town; the quality has been good. All cow-sheds are registered and inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector. No case of tuberculous milk was reported.

*Food Inspection* is under the County Council management; the bakehouses are in good order; there is no meat inspection under the local authority and no public abattoir.

Number of Slaughter-houses		1914.	Jan. 1920.	Dec. 1920
		10	8	8
	Registered	10	8	8
	Licensed	0	0	0
		—	—	—
		10	8	8
		—	—	—

*Notifiable Infectious Diseases* were only eleven during the year, as follows —

Scarlet Fever	...	...	6
Diphtheria	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	3
			—
			11
			—

The scarlet fever cases were four at Oxendon and two at Wilbarston, all were isolated at home. Two cases at Oxendon occurred in the same house at an interval of eight months; a case also occurred in this house six months previously; the disinfection had been very thorough on each occasion even amounting to stripping the walls and colour washing both bedrooms and living room. The source of infection in one case of diphtheria could not be traced, the other was imported; anti-toxin is provided by the Council and supplied by the Medical Officer of Health to the Medical Practitioners as required.

*Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.*—There were a few cases of influenza during February but of a comparatively mild type and with no fatality. There was an epidemic of measles at Marston in January necessitating school closure for three weeks.

*Tuberculosis.*—Five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified of which three were imported into the district in an advanced condition; there was only one death from tuberculosis (pulmonary).

*Small Pox.*—No case. No vaccinations were made by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Regulations of 1917.

*Maternity and Child Welfare.*—There is no Health Visitor employed by the Council. Mothers and Infants are visited by the County Health Visitor. There is no maternity and child welfare centre in the district. There are now three Nursing Associations in the district, one new one having been started during the year. These associations provide one nurse-midwife each and attend to 13 of the 19 parishes. There is still need for at least one other association.

No case of puerperal fever or ophthalmia neonatorum were reported.

*Sanitary administration.*—Staff—Sanitary Inspector.

*Infectious Hospital.*—Arrangements have been made whereby infectious cases can be transferred to a neighbouring isolation hospital when necessary.



## HOUSING.

### *I. Shortage*—Estimated shortage of houses 70.

Council building plan stood on December 31st, 1920 thus :—

	<i>To be erected.</i>		<i>In course of erection.</i>		<i>Occupied.</i>
Ashley	4	...	4	...	4
Braybrooke	6	...	4	...	2
Clipston	12	...	4	...	0
Farndon	4	...	4	...	0
Marston	4	...	4	...	4
Oxendon	6	...	6	...	0
Sibbertoft	8	...	5	...	1
Sutton	4	...	4	...	4
Stoke Albany	12	...	6	...	0
Weston	4	...	4	...	0
Welford	6	...	0	...	0
	—		—		—
	70		45		15
	—		—		—

### *II. Overcrowding.*

- (1) Extent ... 3 cases.
- (2) Cause ... Lack of houses.
- (3) Measures taken—see I.

### *III. Fitness of Houses.*

- (a) General standard about 500 out of 1,200 houses have four rooms or less, the remainder more.
- (b) Character of defects :—crowded areas and dilapidated houses.

### *IV. Unhealthy Areas* :—1 at Welford, crowded area being improved.

### *V. Bye-laws* :—Never yet sanctioned by Ministry.

## APPENDICES.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics. Year ended 31st December, 1920.

## 1.—GENERAL.

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	4093
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	12·4
(3)	Death rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	2·6
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	58·9
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	1171
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	?
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	15

## 2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(I.) *Inspection.*

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	409
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	409
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	20
(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	...	...	...	...	

(II.) *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers

7

(III.) *Action under Statutory Powers.*

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

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	1
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## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	20
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a)	by owners ... ..	7
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	0

## C. Proceedings under section 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &amp;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 ... ..	2
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	None
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1 block

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.—Nil.

CHARLES T. SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

# OXENDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## Sanitary's Inspector's and Surveyor's Report for 1920.

Parishes.	Population.	Houses in course of erection & occupied under Housing scheme	Over Crowding.	Defective Houses Reported.	Defective Drains.	Defective Closets.	Defective Pigstys.	Accumulation of Manure, etc.	Uncleaned Houses.	Slaughter Houses.	Registered Dairies and Cowsheds.	Out-workers.	Out-workers.	Factories.	Sewer Tanks and Outfalls.	Bakehouses.
Arthingworth ..												1st Half.	1st Half.			
Ashley ..	4			1							2					1
Brampton ..											2					
Braybrooke ..	6			1	2		6	2			6	2	2			1
Clipston ..	2			3	2	2				2	4					1
Dingley ..																
East Farndon ..	4			4	6				1		6					
Kelmarsh ..											1					
Marston Trussell ..	4				1	1					1					
Hothorpe ..																
Oxendon ..	6				1	1					1					
Sibbertoft ..	2									1	1					1
Sulby ..																
Sutton Bassett ..	4															
Stoke Albany ..	6	2	2	3			2			1						1
Thorpe Lubenham ..																
Weston ..	4				1											1
Wilbarston ..			1		1					2				1		2
Welford ..				3	5	4	3	2	2	2	6	5	5			2
TOTALS ..	42	3	14	22	8	11	4	3	8	30	7	7	7	1		10

GENERAL.—During the year 1,057 Inspections have been made, with 409 Housing Inspections. Nuisances found have been remedied without statutory notices being served. The Houses reported defective were in several cases defective roofs, overcrowding will be abated when the new houses are completed. One Slaughter House has defective drainage, and refuse accumulation. Five Cowplaces were found defective, but defects were remedied. One Shoe Factory has been established at Wilbarston, the necessary sanitary arrangements have been provided. One Bakehouse required limewashing. Sewers and outfalls are in a satisfactory condition The water supply during the year has been ample—the sources of supply being springs and wells.

W. J. SMITH,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor.

February, 1921.

