ANNUAL REPORT

. . . OF . . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

. . . OF THE . . .

Pocklington Urban District Council

FOR 1925.

W. & C. FORTH, PRINTERS

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF POCKLINGTON.

SIR,

As Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Pocklington, I beg to submit to you the following Survey Report for the past five years included in which is the Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CHARACTER AND GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Pocklington Urban District is situated in the East Riding of Yorkshire, having a station on the North Eastern Railway between Hull and York. The total area of the District is 2564 acres, including 7 of water. The population in 1921 was 2642, and population estimated 1925, 2642. The number of inhabited houses in 1924 was 686, and the number of families or occupiers was 686. The rateable value was £12,790, the sum represented by a penny rate being £39.

The District forms part of the low country at the foot of the wolds. The surface is of loam soil, under this gravel, then the keuper marl, and under this bunter sandstone.

At the foot of the wolds the lias clays come to the surface above the keuper marl, the presence of the impervious lias clays on the edge of the chalk accounting for the springs which appear, and from these springs the water is obtained by the Pocklington Waterworks Company, supplying quite three-fourths of the houses in the town.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is almost entirely agricultural, and the local trades include brewing, malting, flour milling, rope and twine making.

The District for Poor Law purposes is in the Pocklington Union, and all ordinary cases of illness amongst the poor are treated in the Pocklington Workhouse Infirmary, or by out-relief in their own homes.

Cases necessitating operative treatment are sent to either the Hull Royal Infirmary or the York County Hospital.

There is as yet no Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases and no Sanatorium for the treatment of Consumption.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

During the year the number of births registered in the District

amounted to 50, being 9 less than the year previous, and giving a birth rate of 18·92 per 1000.

Of these 28 were males and 22 females.

Of the total births registered 4 were illegitimate, being at the rate of 8·00 per 100.

DEATHS.

During the same period the deaths of 35 persons have been recorded in the District, being 6 less than in 1924.

Of these deaths 27 were males and 8 females.

Of these 35 deaths registered 10 were of persons not belonging to the District, these occurring in the Pocklington Workhouse. 3 deaths of persons belonging to the District occurred in public institutions outside the District, so that, excluding those who did not belong to the District, the actual number of deaths belonging to the District is 28, giving a death rate of 10·52 per 1000.

The deaths of children under 1 year of age amounted to 6, being in the proportion of 101·67 to every 1000 births registered.

No death occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

		Total	M	F	
Births	Legitimate	47	23	24	Birth Rate (RG)
	Illegitimate	4	4	0	
Deaths		23	16	7	Death Rate (RG)

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth	From Sepsis	Nil
	From other causes	1

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births .... 101·67

Legitimate....5 Illegitimate....1 Total....6

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (Gastro Enteritis) under 2 years of age	1

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

5 cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever....5 Tubercular Meningitis....Nil Pneumonia....Nil

The number of cases admitted to Hospital was 4.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There have been no noteworthy causes of sickness in the District during the past year, and the health generally has been exceptionally good during the past 5 years.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

Professional Nursing in the Home.
(a) General.

There are no general arrangements for Nursing in the District made by either the County or Local Authorities, but many people avail themselves of nursing help from the East Riding Nursing Association, which can be obtained by joining the Association on payment of a small annual subscription, and a weekly subscription if a nurse is employed. The nurses, however, are really mostly trained for

monthly nursing, of which they do a large proportion in the District.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

There are no arrangements for the nursing of infectious disease, and these cases, if of the milder type such as measles, cough, &c., are nursed by relatives, or capable women who are untrained. Quite a large proportion, however, are moved to Driffield Isolation Hospital.

There are no arrangements made for nursing in the District either by the County or Local Authorities, and there are no voluntary workers. A large number of families safeguard themselves for nursing by subscribing to the East Riding Nursing Association. In the case of well-to-do persons they get a nurse from Nursing Institutions in Hull or York.

An Orthopædic Hospital has been opened at Kirby Moorside in the North Riding, where cases of cripple children are admitted on applying to the County Authorities.

MIDWIVES.

There are no Midwives practising on there own account in the District, and none are employed or subsidised by the Authorities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.
Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

A Centre has been opened in the District by the County Authorities. Infants are weighed and examined by a competent nurse, and advice given to nursing and expectant mothers.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis are notified, and, when consent is given, are sent either to the County Sanatorium at Raywell near Cottingham, or some other Sanatorium, by the County Authorities, the patient being previously examined by the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.

These are catered for free of charge to the individual at the Hull Royal Infirmary and the York County Hospital, these arrangements being made by the County Authorities.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

I.—Tuberculosis.

Raywell Sanatorium, near Cottingham, has accommodation for 29 Adults and 14 Children. If no beds are vacant the County Authorities provide a bed either at Withernsea or Aysgarth Sanatoriums, and in some cases will advance up to £2 per week to the patient at some other Sanatorium, under certain conditions.

II.—Maternity.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but a few cases amongst the poor are admitted into the Lying-in Ward at the Workhouse Infirmary.

III.—Children.

There is no Hospital for Children in the District, but they are sent, when it is necessary, to either the Hull Infirmary or York County Hospital.

IV.—Fever.

The Isolation Hospital at Driffield is available for the more serious types of infectious disease. It has 28 beds and 6 cots.

V.—Smallpox.

A Smallpox Hospital is provided by the County Authorities at Shipton, near Market Weighton, which has been considerably extended.

There are no other Hospitals, and no Hospital is provided by the Authorities which is situated in the District.

The only institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the District is under the Poor Law, a lying-in ward in the Workhouse, and a Children's Home in connection with the Workhouse but in a separate building.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.

A motor ambulance is provided by the County Authorities to convey infectious cases from the District to the Driffield Isolation Hospital, a distance of 17 miles.

(b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

No ambulance facilities are provided, but the Poor Law Authorities would provide a car or cab in necessitous cases, otherwise the person would have to hire.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological examinations are made for any Medical Practitioners in the District by the Clinical Research Association, and diphtheria antitoxin is provided free for either prophylactic use or general treatment. 3 bacteriological examinations have been made during the year.

List of Adoptive Acts, Byelaws, and Local Regulations relating to the public health in force in the District, with date of adoption:—

(a) Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Order and Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886.

(b) Private Street Works Act, 1892.

(c) Parts II., III., and V. of the Public Healths Acts Amendment Act, and all the Sections of the Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The Pocklington Waterworks supply quite three-fourths of the District with water, which is carried through iron pipes from Little Givendale, slightly over two miles from Pocklington.

The water rises in the dale where the chalk of the wold country and the impervious lias clays meet; it is of a high standard of purity, and cannot get contaminated in any part of its course.

The rest of the water supply is obtained from shallow wells, these generally being good, and having no obvious source of contamination.

No new wells have been made during the past year, but two wells where the water was unsafe have been closed.

Twenty-five houses have been connected to the water mains during the year.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is no river pollution, four-fifths of the drainage being treated and filtered, giving a good effluent.

The Privy, W.C. and Closet Accommodation in the District.

Nearly half of the houses are provided with water closets, the other half having combined privies and ashpits.

The approximate number of privies in the District is 270, pail closets 3, water closets 290, but this is purely an approximate calculation.

The removal of house refuse, and the cleansing of closets, ashpits, and privies in the District is done by the Urban Council, on notice being given by the occupier, a small charge being made, just sufficient to cover the expense of cleansing and removal. This arrangement answers well.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Dwellinghouses inspected	48
" notices served	2
New houses built	23
Have Building Byelaws been adopted?	No
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	All
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of Phthisis	All
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious diseases	0
Dwellinghouses found overcrowded	0
Privies converted to W.C.'s	6
" " pail closets	0
Offensive trades inspected	1
Total number of nuisances found	16
" " abated	14
Water supplies—	
Houses newly supplied with water mains	25
New wells made	0
New bore wells made	0
Wells closed, water unsafe	2
Samples of water sent for examination	0
Water certificates granted for new houses	0
Dairies and Cowsheds—	
Have Regulations been adopted?	Yes
Number of dairies and cowsheds on register	7
Number of cows	39
Visits to cowsheds ....each	3
" dairies ....each	3
Defects found	2
" remedied	2
Slaughterhouses—	
Number on register	9
Visits to ....almost daily	
Number of defects found	0
" " remedied	0
Unwholesome Food Condemned—	
Meat	6
Fish	0
Fruit	0
Other Foods	0
Common Lodging Houses—	
Number on register	1
Visits to	4
Number of defects found	1
" " remedied	1
Canal Boats inspected	0

Smoke Abatement. There is little or no manufacturing in the District, therefore there

is no smoke nuisance. No atmospheric impurity readings are taken.

SCHOOLS.

There are 3 elementary schools in the District in one of which the sanitary arrangements are modern.

The Mill Dam.

This dam, situated at the west end of the town, was once used for holding up water to work a wheel for grinding purposes. It is not now used for this purpose and the old sediment remains with water running along the side of it for approximately half the length of the dam.

The sediment is never actually dry, causes an obnoxious smell in summer time, and harbours numerous flies and rats, and in my opinion is a menace to the Public Health. This condition, considering there is a public school of about 150 boys within a short distance, should be remedied.

I have reported it previously, but no material steps have been taken to put it in a sanitary condition.

Work of Sanitary Inspector during the year.

(1) Closet Accommodation.—During the year 6 closets have been converted to W.C.'s, and there are approximately 290 W.C.'s and 270 Privies in the District.

(2) Inspection of Places where Food is prepared.—The Food and Drugs Act is worked by the County Council, so that the only foods coming under my supervision are Meat and Fish. The supply of fish is wholesome and fresh, and the meat supplied by the various slaughterhouses is of a high quality, only 6 cases of unwholesome fish or meat having been recorded during the year. There are 2 fresh fish shops in the District, both of which are satisfactory.

(3) The Butchers' Shops and Slaughterhouses are systematically inspected, and are clean and in good order. The meat is of good quality. There are 9 Slaughterhouses in the District.

(4) All houses are disinfected after cases of infectious disease. Stoving by formalin and systematic spraying of a strong solution of Izal being the methods used.

(5) The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops, 7 in number, are systematically inspected, and are all in clean and sanitary condition. The utensils for carrying milk and the places where utensils are kept are clean and sanitary, and the quality of the milk is good.

Workshops and Workplaces.

These premises, 50 in number, have all been inspected during the past year, and the conditions were found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The Milk supplied in the District is generally wholesome, and the utensils for carrying milk and the places where utensils are kept are clean and sanitary.

(b) Meat Inspection.

(1) All Slaughterhouses are inspected daily, and all cattle, sheep and pigs inspected at the time of slaughtering, but no marking of carcases is adopted ; condemned meat is removed and destroyed at the gas works.

(2) There are no stalls.

(3) The Slaughterhouses are well managed and very clean. They were all registered before 1920.

The sanitary condition of the Bakehouses is good, and the methods of dealing with food are clean.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Officers of the Council are the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector, both part-time officers and whose salaries are contributed to under the Public Health Acts. There are no other public health officers, inspectors, health visitors, or special nurses.

HOUSING.

I.—General Housing Conditions.

The only shortage is of working class houses and this shortage is estimated at 30 houses.

The Council have prepared a scheme, and submitted the same to the Ministry of Health under "The Financial Provisions Act, 1924," and if approved it is expected that the above shortage will be met by private enterprise.

There are no important changes in the population.

II.—Overcrowding.

There are about 12 houses overcrowded, this being due to the above shortage, and at present cannot be dealt with as there is no alternative accommodation.

III.—Fitness of Houses.

(1)—*(a)* With the exception of about 20 houses the general standard is fairly good.

(b) The general character of defects were leaky roofs, windows not opening at the top, several floors in bad condition, and foul privies. The general defects were due in many instances to the neglect of the tenants, but also from lack of proper management.

(2) Notices were served under "The Housing Acts," and remedied without any action being necessary.

(3) No difficulties were found in remedying unfitness, informal notices being served upon the owners, who complied therewith, and improvements made by the occupier at the suggestion of the Inspector.

(4) The water supply has been sufficient. Closet accommodation is sufficient, but there are still many privies in the District, all of which should be converted into Water Closets. No difficulty is yet experienced in the disposal of house refuse, and the collection thereof will be easier and better when the privies mentioned above are done away with.

IV.—Unhealthy Areas.

There are no unhealthy areas and no complaints have been received.

V.—Byelaws.

The Council propose adopting byelaws during this year.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under b) 23

(b) With state assistance under Housing Acts:—

(i) by the Local Authority 0

(ii) by other persons 13

1. Unfit Dwellinghouses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 48

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 42

(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 0

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 16

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

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

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 0

(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit—

(a) by owners 16

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close 0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied—

(a) by owners 0

(b) by Local Authority in default of owners 0

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 0

(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 0

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit 0

(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0

(5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in submitting my report. The number of cases of Infectious Disease are distinctly less, the general health of the District being very satisfactory.

Another very gratifying point is the building of so many new houses in the District.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. J. A. Fairweather

Medical Officer of Health.

FAIRCOTE, POCKLINGTON.