

[Report 1902] / Medical Officer of Health, Raunds U.D.C.

Contributors

Raunds (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1902

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/m7hgh47y>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

RAUNDS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

W. MACKENZIE, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Aberlour House,
Raunds,


23 March 1903

Dear Sir

I am very all my
Reports were given away
before you wrote. I had to
send to one of my Council
for this one - hence delay.

Yours faithfully

W Mackenzie



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30029582>

RAUNDS *Anthony*

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Dr. MACKENZIE.

For 1902.

RAUNDS :

PRINTED BY FRED. W. MARCH, MANOR STREET.

the
of

187
in
of
of

18
187
of

8
of
of

187
of
of
of
of

of 186 years, as an average of over 20 years. Some of them
are now over 100 years old, and some are over 150 years

To the Raunds Urban District Council.

RAUNDS,

FEBRUARY, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of laying before you my Report for the year 1902, with the necessary statistics of births and deaths registered, and Infectious diseases reported to me during the year.

I may remind you that the area of the District is 4387 acres. The population at the census of 1901 was 3811, and the estimated population at the end of the year was 3901. The estimated population calculated in the usual way is now 4031, or an increase of 130 since the last census.

The number of births registered during the year was 115, being 3 less than that of last year; this gives a birth-rate of 28.59 per 1000 births registered. Of the births 61 were males and 54 females.

The deaths from all causes and at all ages numbered 48, exactly the same number as in 1901: this gives a death-rate of 11.9, which I consider very favourable indeed, the death-rate last year being 12.30.

The classification according to age was as follows: Under one year, 12; between one and five, 4; between five and fifteen, 2; fifteen and under twenty-five, 2; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 10; sixty-five and upwards, 18. I may mention as a remarkable thing that the combined ages of the 12 oldest persons who died in Raunds during the year amounted to an aggregate of 965 years, or an average of over 80 years each. Seven of them were well over 80, one reaching the age of 90 years.

Two deaths occurred from Notifiable Infectious Diseases : one being from erysipelas—a woman aged 82 ; and the other from enteric fever, due to perforation—a young man aged 26 years. In 1901 the number of deaths from notifiable infectious diseases was 11.

The infantile mortality was higher than last year, being 104.34 as against 59.32 ; this is rather higher than any year since 1898, when it reached 130.4. Of the 12 children who died under 1 year old, no fewer than 9 were under the age of 3 months, and nearly all these deaths were due to pulmonary affections—Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Whooping Cough. These affections, so deadly to infants, being due to the very severe weather at the beginning and end of the year. Happily, the whooping cough was most prevalent in summer, otherwise the infantile mortality would probably have been much higher. The rate of 104.34 although rather high compares favourably with most towns of the same size in the county.

The deaths were registered as follows : Whooping Cough 2, Fever 1, Erysipelas 1, Other Septic Diseases 3, Phthisis 1, Other Tubercular Diseases 4, Cancer 1, Bronchitis 5, Pneumonia 4, Premature Birth 1, Heart Diseases 7, Accidents 1, all other causes 17 ; of which 10 were returned as having died of old age, 4 of Paralysis, 1 Peritonitis, 1 Uræmia, 1 Convulsions.

I am glad to be able to say that we have had only 1 death from consumption of the lungs, or Phthisis Pulmonalis. This is very satisfactory, and compares favourably with last two years, when the numbers were 4 and 16 respectively. The other 4 cases returned as "other tubercular diseases" were 3 from *Tabes Mesenterica* or Consumption of the Bowels, and 1 General Tuberculosis : these were young children.

Cancer caused only 1 death this year and 2 in 1901, and we may congratulate ourselves upon our comparative immunity from this terrible disease. Heart Disease was again the cause of 7 deaths—the same number as last year—five of the seven were old people who died from heart failure. Four died of Paralysis, their ages being from 60 to 74 years. It is a rather curious fact that of the 48 deaths registered, 18 were over 65 years of age, and 12 were under 1 year, leaving only 18 deaths between the age of one year and 65.

One death was due to accidental blood poisoning. This was the death of Dr. Ramsay, of this town, who had the misfortune to cut his finger whilst operating upon a patient. He died on the 6th day of January, aged only 35 years, and that his death was a terrible loss to Raunds and district may be proved by the fact that a splendid monument of Aberdeen granite was erected

to his memory by the public of Raunds and the surrounding villages. A coroner's inquest was held on the body.

The cases of notifiable infectious disease reported during the year were 11, the number last year being 174. The reports were as follows:—Enteric Fever 2, Scarlet Fever 2, Erysipelas 2, Membranous Croup 2, Diphtheria 3.

Whooping Cough was very prevalent during the year, and was the cause of two deaths, due to complications. We have also had a serious outbreak of influenza, which has been the cause of a great deal of suffering, although no deaths occurred from it.

I am glad to say we have had no epidemics this year, and although the central parts of Raunds have had to be supplied with water by the very old-fashioned method of carting it from door to door for nearly a year, reminding one of the Eastern method of delivering it from skins carried on the back and doling it out at each door as they go along. Yet even that method is preferable to having it from a well, the water of which has been the cause of so many deaths and so much suffering.

The number of new houses built in Raunds since the census has been 44, and there is no doubt that this has greatly improved the town from a sanitary point of view; yet in many parts of the place the houses occupied by the poorer class of people—who are not able to afford to pay the high rents necessary to be paid for new houses—are too small, ill-ventilated, and scarcely fit for habitation. More houses are urgently needed, and if a few blocks could be built at rentals suitable for labourers and others having only a small wage, then we might soon be able to remove the worst of the old insanitary dwellings, which for many years have been periodically and regularly infested with fever.

The Common Sewer now extends to every part of the town, and as nearly all the manholes have been sealed up and plenty of ventilating shafts run up, the smells so much complained of last year have almost entirely disappeared.

The question of flushing has been practically solved, at least in the principal artery of the sewer—that is from near Chambers' Row right down the whole length of the main sewer. This has been done by constructing a dam in the course of the brook, and so connecting it to the sewer that the whole or part of the clean water can be turned into the sewer at any time, and thousands of gallons per day allowed to pass down, thus thoroughly flushing it. The idea of this system was originated by myself and it seems to have been well carried out by your surveyor, Mr. Yorke. I should be glad to see the other Main Sewer, from Newtown along Thorpe Street, connected to another dam, or by some simple process whereby the brook there might be utilised for

flushing purposes. After heavy rains that brook is often filled with plenty of clear water for weeks together—as it now is. If this can be done then we shall have the two principal parts of the sewer perfectly clean ; and the smaller parts can easily be kept clean, as they are now, by the special van procured for that purpose.

WATER SUPPLY.—There is no change for the better since my Report of last year upon this subject, and therefore, leaving out the first paragraph, I reproduce and reiterate what I then said upon this subject :—

“ I consider that the question of Water Supply is a most important one for this District, and a most difficult one to solve. There is no doubt that the water of all the principal wells in the town is liable to pollution at intervals, situated as they are in the clay, and in many cases near the bed of the brook, and in soil saturated for many years with typhoid, which, as can be easily seen, is periodically washed into one or other of them, thus causing terrible suffering and death.

“ I have no doubt that this state of matters is certain to go on at regular intervals as it has done for over 20 years, but probably worse, as the earth must be more saturated with the Typhoid bacillus than it then was, owing to the repeated outbreaks of fever, and I am afraid we have only to wait for another epidemic, which may come on at any time, and from almost any well in the town, so long as we continue to use the same old supply ; and although the town may be free from fever for a few months, we must not settle down in false security, and wait for the usual periodical death-trap to come round, as it assuredly will ; but endeavour by every available means to avert this danger by substituting for the present antiquated system a supply of pure and wholesome water ; leaving all other questions of importance in the Council as secondary to this vital one.”

The Factories and Workshops in the town are visited by Mr. Yorke and myself, and all of them are in a perfectly healthy condition as regards ventilation, air space and sanitary appliances. The workplaces in the town are gradually decreasing in number, more especially in the case of male workers, who are now nearly all working in the factories. Many of the female workers are now employed in the factories, and I hope that in a short time we may see the old-fashioned stuffy little home work-places entirely done away with in Raunds ; the healthy, well-ventilated, well-lighted factories being better in every way for the workers.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected regularly during the year, and all of them seem to be kept in a clean and good sanitary condition.

All the slaughter-houses are in a perfectly clean and healthy condition—well washed, well ventilated, and free from bad smells.

The sanitary condition of both schools in Raunds is as good as ever, and could not be better.

The work carried out by Mr. Yorke, the Sanitary Inspector, has been very successful during the year, and many sanitary improvements have been made. Mr. Yorke reports upon them as follows :—

“Fifty-one nuisances have been abated during 1902. The slaughter-houses have been periodically inspected, and on the whole they have been well kept.

“The whole of the Factories within the District, with the exception of four, are provided with modern sanitary conveniences and appliances. In several cases it has been very difficult to keep them constantly in a satisfactory condition owing to shortness of water. A water supply for the town is greatly needed.

“A systematic inspection of workshops, under the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, at the present time is being made. A hundred and fifteen houses have been re-drained and connected with the public sewer. There are now only about a hundred houses within the drainage area not connected with the public sewer. Two farm premises and cowsheds have been properly drained, paved, and connected with the sewer. The whole of the cesspools within the drainage area have been abolished and filled in, except two or three which still remain, and steps are being taken to abolish them.

“There are now nearly 600 water-closets connected with the sewer within the District, the remainder are pail-closets, with the exception of a few privies, which I hope will soon be cleared away. The greater part of the old type of ash-pits which existed in Raunds have been cleared away and properly-constructed ash-bins provided.

“A dam has been constructed at the head of the main sewer for the purpose of flushing it. A 9-inch drain connects the dam with the sewer. When flushing is required, a 9-inch penstock (which is fixed in a specially-constructed chamber) is opened, and by this means the main sewer is most effectually flushed.

"The branch sewers are flushed periodically with a 350-gallon water-van specially constructed for the purpose. The sewers are working most satisfactorily, considering that we are without a proper water supply. Very few complaints have been made as to the bad smells emanating from the sewer's manholes. One ventilating column and three shafts have been erected during the past year, and the manhole covers sealed in localities where complaints have been made as to smells from the sewer. $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land have been underdrained and laid out at the sewage farm last year. This year another $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres will be laid out. 26 houses have been erected within the District during 1902. We are badly in need of many more houses."

Altogether the sanitary condition of the town has been greatly improved within the past two years.

I append Statistical Tables, and remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. MACKENZIE, L.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P. Ed. &c.,

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

Deaths in Raunds Urban District during the year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Whooping Cough	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diarrhoea	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	2	1
Other Septic Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis	4	2	2	...	...	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	5	3	1	1	...	...	...
Bronchitis	4	3	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	7	...	...	1	1	2	3
Heart Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Accidents	17	1	...	...	1	3	12
All other causes....							
All causes	48	12	4	2	2	10	18

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all ages.					Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898.	3811	115	28.05	15	130.4	45	11.81		1	1	45	11.81
1899.	3811	109	25.58	11	99	38	9.97		2	2	38	9.97
1900.	3811	123	28.12	10	81.3	42	11.02		1	1	42	11.02
1901.	3901	118	30.25	7	59.32	44	11.28			4	48	12.30
1902.	4031	115	28.59	12	104.34	48	11.90		3	3	48	11.90

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox							
Cholera							
Diphtheria	3	...	2	1			
Membranous Croup	2	...	2				
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...	1	1		
Typhus Fever							
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Relapsing Fever....							
Continued Fever							
Puerperal Fever....							
Plague....							
Totals	11	0	4	2	1	3	1

