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RAUNDS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

Dr. MACKENZIE.

For 1903.



RAUNDS :

PRINTED BY F. W. MARCH, MANOR STREET.

To the Raunds Urban District Council

RAUNDS,

JANUARY, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1903, together with the usual statistics concerning Births, Deaths, and Notifications of Infectious Diseases.

The area of the Raunds Urban District is 4387 acres. The population at the last census was 3811, and the number of inhabited houses 832. The estimated population for last year was 4031. During 1903, 36 new houses were built and occupied in the District, so that the estimated population now stands at 4211.

The number of Births registered during the year amounted to 109, or 6 fewer than the year before; the birth-rate therefore is 25·28 calculated per 1000 of estimated population. Of the children registered 61 were males and 48 females.

The number of Deaths from all causes and at all ages amounted to 45, of whom 23 were males and 22 females. The death-rate therefore for the year stands at 10·69 as compared with 11·9 and 12·3 for the two preceding years respectively. According to age the deaths are classified as follows, namely:—Under one year 14, one year and under five 4, five years and under fifteen 3, fifteen years and under twenty-five 1, twenty-five and under sixty-five 8, sixty-five and upwards 15. It will thus be seen that nearly two-thirds of the deaths occurred under the age of one year (14) and over the age of 65 years (15); of the latter 10 were over 70 years, and of these 5 had reached the age of from 80 to 85 years.

One death occurred from Notifiable Infectious Disease, namely, Hæmorrhagic Small Pox, on the 21st April. Two Coroner's Inquests were held during the year—one on the body of a man aged 37 years, a shoe rivetter, who accidentally fell on his side, and died from the effects of his fall on the 2nd of March. The other was on the body of a young married woman, aged 35

years, who fell from her bicycle on the 17th October, whilst suffering from a weak heart. In both cases the verdict of the jury was death from natural causes.

The deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 14, as against 12 last year—this gives an infantile death-rate of 128·4, the highest rate since 1898, when it reached 130·4 per 1000 births registered. Of these 14 deaths 9 were under the age of three months, exactly the same number as that of 1902. The principal causes of death were Tuberculosis, Acute Bronchitis, Teething Convulsions, and one from Measles and Bronchitis, the measles having been imported from London.

The causes of deaths registered during the year were as follows:—Hæmorrhagic Small Pox 1, Measles 1, Tubercular Diseases other than Consumption of the Lungs 6, Cancer 5, Bronchitis 4, Pneumonia 2, Premature Birth 1, Heart Diseases 3, Accidents 2, all other causes 20. Under the latter heading comes Paralysis 4, Senile Decay or Old Age 7, Laryngitis 1, Meningitis 1, Peritonitis 1, Hæmorrhages 2, Acute Rheumatism 1, Cardiac Syncope with Pulmonary Congestion 1, Convulsions 2.

Cancer, I am sorry to say, has this year claimed 5 victims, all being men and nearly all at about the age of 65, the disease in every case being cancer of the gullet or stomach, or both. There is no doubt that this terrible disease is increasing year by year in our own as well as in the adjacent Districts, and up to now I am sorry to say very little can be done for it in the way of a permanent cure. Tubercular Diseases other than consumption of the lungs carried off no fewer than 6 lives. These were Spine Disease, Tabes Mesenterica, General Tuberculosis, Laryngitis, etc.

During 1903 there has not been a single death from Phthisis Pulmonalis and only one during 1902. For the two years prior to that date the deaths from this cause were 4 and 16, and we can only hope that the better state of matters as regards this disease may be kept up in the years to come.

Only two cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease occurred during the year—One Hæmorrhagic Smallpox and one Scarlatina—the numbers notified during the years 1901 and 1902 were 11 and 174 respectively, and so far as I can make out two is the smallest number ever known in this District in a year. The Scarlatina case was no doubt imported, and with almost perfect isolation for over six weeks no other case occurred.

The Hæmorrhagic Smallpox case was imported by a young man, aged 32, who had tramped from Mansfield where he

lived, and at which town Smallpox had then been prevalent for 6 weeks, and was still going on when he left. After leaving Mansfield he slept in Nottingham, Leicester, Kettering, Ringstead, and Raunds. I saw him on the 20th April, and diagnosed Hæmorrhagic Smallpox, and to make my diagnosis more certain I sent for Dr. Buckley, of Thrapston, who had a large experience in this deadly type of the disease in China. He had no doubt about the diagnosis and reported it at once. There being no Isolation Hospital in Raunds I had at once had new beds, bedding and blankets, brought from the house of Mr. Corby, Clerk to the Council, who had kindly allowed them to be stored there till required. They were warmed by Mr. Yorke, Sanitary Inspector, at his own house for 6 hours, and the man was removed by myself and Mr. Yorke in a closed carriage to new tent hospital erected for the purpose, with raised wooden floor, well lighted and very warm and comfortable. We left him after 12 o'clock at night, when he said he felt very comfortable—he had everything necessary to eat or drink at his bedside and a good light burning. He was visited every few hours all night, and each time said he was doing very well; he was spoken to after 7 o'clock in the morning, but must have suddenly succumbed between that time and 9 o'clock—probably from the effects of internal hæmorrhage—the whole body being covered with dark purpuric spots, and blood was oozing from the mucous membrane of his cheeks and lips for some days before. Although he walked about up to the night of the 20th, he died on the 21st April.

I vaccinated and isolated everyone living in the houses in which he slept or had his food in Raunds, as well as the servants of the Council and others who had come in contact with the body, and having no disinfectant here the clothes and bedding with which he had come in contact were all burned by Mr. Yorke, and the houses thoroughly disinfected. I at once communicated with the Medical Officers of Health of every place he had been in. In a letter from Dr. Millard, Medical Officer of Health for Leicester, dated 26th April, he describes a case exactly similar, who died also on the 21st April. The man—a tramp—was seen at the Leicester Workhouse by Dr. Millard and Dr. Warner, when Hæmorrhagic Smallpox was diagnosed. He was removed to the Leicester Borough Isolation Hospital on the 21st, when he was covered from head to foot by dark purple spots. He was then talking quite rationally, but died 3 hours after admission, no true eruption of small-pox having had time to appear, and in the majority of cases of hæmorrhagic small-pox the patient dies before the true eruption of small-pox appears; so that such cases are often mistaken for Hæmorrhagic Purpura.

I may here quote an instance from Mansfield. In a letter

from Dr. C. Wills, the Medical Officer of Health for Mansfield, dated 22nd April, 1903, he says :—" Your case seems to have been Hæmorrhagic Small-pox, like one we had here in Mansfield some 12 years ago, and which gave rise to a lot of cases, being diagnosed as Hæmorrhagic Purpura."

I report this case at some length as it caused a great commotion in Raunds at the time, more especially among the more ignorant members of the community. So far as I myself am concerned, I consider that I thoroughly deserve the compliment embodied in the resolution unanimously passed by your Council, " that the Medical Officer did the best that could be done under the circumstances."

Soon after this case occurred, an Isolation Hospital of wood and iron was ordered from Messrs. Hawkins & Co., of Ashford, Kent, and duly arrived, and was erected in May, 1903. The hospital contains 8 beds, in two wards of 4 beds each. Each ward measures 20 feet by 20 feet; the nurses' room 10 feet by 10 feet; the hall 10 feet by 10 feet. The outside is iron and the inside lining wood; all the wood-work is varnished; verandah with concrete floor and brick foundation. The floor is raised 18 inches from the ground—well ventilated underneath and cemented all over the site to prevent dampness. The wards are heated by slow-combustion stoves, and ventilators are fixed on the roof. The whole place is well lighted by windows on either side. We have also a four-bed double canvas hospital, with nurses' quarters, and measuring 24 by 16 feet, wood floor, ventilators on the roof, also two nurses' tents complete and very comfortable 18 feet by 14 feet and 8 feet by 8 feet.

The site is a very good one, being about 210 feet above the sea level, on ground sloping to the westward. The field is a mile from Raunds, about half-a-mile from the nearest house, and 400 yards from the road. It contains 16 acres of ground, and is surrounded by a very strong hedge about 16 feet in height. The land is held on lease by the Council with the option of purchase.

House accommodation for the working-classes is improving year by year. Many of the old houses have been renovated, and during the year 36 new houses have been occupied, and others are nearly ready for occupation. Building now goes on steadily from year to year, and we are gradually seeing the worst of the old houses either being entirely done away with and new houses built in their stead, or very much improved both in themselves and their surroundings; the old-fashioned house drains and the usual manure-heap at each door being now almost a thing of the past.

The new sewer now extends to every part of the town, and seems to carry out its work well. The flushings have been carried out regularly during the year through the main branch by the flushing-dam and sluice near Chambers' Row, and in the other branches by the 350-gallon water-van specially constructed for the purpose. The year having been an exceptional one as regards the rainfall, the Raunds brook and its tributaries have been thoroughly washed out regularly during the year, and bad smells either from the brook or sewer manholes have been very little complained of during 1903.

The disposal of excrement is still carried out in a satisfactory manner by your own scavengers, and although many houses have now water-closets in them, yet the pail system is still the principal one in the District; the water-closets never being perfectly workable without an adequate water-supply, which has yet to come.

House Refuse is removed by your own scavengers, and disposed of on the land well outside of the town by them. The system seems to work very well, and almost every house in the District has now a properly constructed zinc ash-bin, which is regularly emptied by your scavengers, and in connection with this matter I may say that very few complaints have been heard against the scavengers during the year, and so far as I could see their work has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner.

So far as Infectious Diseases are concerned I am glad, as I mentioned before, that we have only had two cases notified during the year. In the event, however, of any outbreak now, I consider that we are better prepared for it than ever we have been before, and should we now have the misfortune at any time to suffer from an outbreak of infectious disease such as we have frequently had in former years, we hope in such a case that we may now be able to nip it in the bud, and thereby prevent many deaths, as well as much suffering and expense to the people, and so long as the isolation hospital remains unoccupied, so much the better for all parties concerned.

The only other item wanting in connection with the isolation hospital is a Disinfector, which we have not got as yet. On the 23rd Oct., 1903, I had a letter from the county medical officer of health, Dr. Paget, re Midwives Act, 1902, saying that he should be glad of an early reply as to the means at the disposal of our local sanitary authority for having infected clothing stoved as directed in Section E, Clause 5, of the rules of the Central Midwives Board. I then brought the subject to your notice and recommended a Thresh's "Emergency" Disinfector

as being the one most suitable for our purpose both in the Isolation Hospital and out of it. It has been in fairly constant use in Towcester and in Hardingstone Hospital for some time, and is highly recommended to me both by Dr. C. Simpson and Dr. W. H. Percival, the Medical Officers of these Districts. The price at Raunds Station is £25, and I should strongly advise you that one should be procured at an early date.

The Rules and Regulations concerning Slaughter Houses have been well carried out, and every slaughter-house in the District is in a thoroughly clean and sanitary condition.

All Dairies and Cowsheds have also been periodically inspected by Mr. T. Yorke, Sanitary Inspector, who reports them as well as the Bakehouses in the District to be without defect as regards cleanliness and general sanitary condition, only two cowsheds requiring paving and draining, which was done under his supervision. Systematic inspections have been made of the Workshops and Workplaces in the District both by myself and Mr. Yorke. All the workshops are in a satisfactory condition as regards sanitation, sanitary conveniences, air-space, ventilation, and general cleanliness, and during the year it has not been necessary to take any action to enforce the removal of any nuisance injurious to health, either under the Public Health Act or under the Factory and Workshops Act.

Within the past few years the outworkers have become fewer year by year, almost the entire male, as well as many of the female population being now in the factories or workshops, where I consider that so far as their health is concerned, they are in a much better condition than they were in the small workrooms in their own houses, or even the little workshops at their own back doors. The few workshops and workplaces still in use are now of a superior description to those of former days, and I can make no complaint upon them. The work now done at home is generally the cleanest and healthiest kind of shoe work; and no shoe work is now done in the dwelling-houses by the men, and not much by the women. Only one workshop had to be closed on account of its unfitness for occupation, being both unsafe and insanitary.

Altogether the Workshops, Workplaces and Bakehouses in the District are in a perfectly healthy condition, and fulfil all the requirements of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. I may mention that I visit all factories, workshops, &c., both in my capacity of Medical Officer of Health, and also as Certifying Factory Surgeon.

The sanitary condition of both schools is as perfect as could be desired, and healthier schools it would be difficult to find anywhere.

As regards the Water Supply of the town, there is little to be said—the source is still the same as it has always been, and anything that has been done to procure a pure water supply for the District has up to now made no change in the state of affairs, as regards the actual source.

Some months ago a Report was read to the Council upon the desirability of sinking a trial well in a field near the Meadow Road, situated on the west side of Raunds, at a distance of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the town and in a place quite safe from any chance or danger of contamination. In his Report the Surveyor, Mr. Yorke, says—“The position decided upon by the Water Committee is in my opinion one of the best sites within the District for the purpose.” Mr. Yorke gives his reasons for the selection of this site and at the end of his Report says:—“By making the boring on the site at the bottom of Meadow Road, the Marlstone or water-bearing strata would be reached at about 90 feet lesser depth than on the London Road site, consequently there would be a saving of at least £200 in the experimental boring, and further if you are fortunate in finding water at this site it would be the best position for a pumping station should you at any time find it necessary to increase the supply. Any water from the Oolite formation within the District could be conveyed to this point by gravitation and pumped up to the Reservoir or Water-tower. I hope therefore that we may be at last successful in solving this great question, which I consider to be of such importance to the town. So that our exact position at the present moment as regards a water supply for Raunds is—that we have provisionally purchased a site, and provisionally accepted a tender for sinking a trial well, and have applied to the Local Government Board for a loan for the cost of testing, and They have sent down for particulars on the usual forms for giving details of how the sum applied for is made up. We therefore now wait for Mr. Yorke's Report to the Local Government Board, supplying the necessary information.

In conclusion I have only to add the details of some of the items of work done by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Yorke, and to say that he deserves great praise for the manner in which he has carried out the sanitary work of the Council, and also for the prompt and efficient way in which he carried out the hard and unpleasant work connected with the case of malignant small-pox in April. His summary of sanitary work carried out during the year is the following, which I add to this Report in his own words:—“72 houses have been re-drained and connected

to the public sewer. Nearly the whole of the private drains have now been re-constructed and connected with the public sewer—there now remain only about 90 houses not connected with the new sewer. The whole of the factories and workshops within the District are provided with a good system of drainage and modern sanitary appliances. The slaughter-houses have been periodically inspected, and on the whole there has been little cause for complaint. In two cases cow-sheds have been drained and paved. The domestic scavenging has been carried out by the Council's staff for the past two years, and with a marked change for the better over the contract system. The sewers have been systematically flushed, and there has been an absence of complaints with respect to bad smells emanating from the sewer manhole gratings. A considerable number of privies and old ashpits have been abolished and water-closets and proper ashbins provided in place of them. 46 houses have been erected during the year. One workshop has been closed as being unfit for occupation. The bakehouses have been kept in a clean condition. 48 nuisances have been abated during the year. The 9in. sewer has been extended in Marshall's Road to receive drainage of 20 new houses. About two more acres have been laid out at the sewage disposal works, and it is proposed to lay out the remainder, consisting of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, during 1904."

I append Statistical Tables to my Report, and beg to remain,
Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. MACKENZIE,

L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ED. &C.,

Fellow of the Royal Inst. of Public Health.

Deaths in Raunds Urban District during the Year 1903.

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.
Smallpox	1	...	...	...	...	1	
Measles	1	...	1	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	6	2	2	...	...	2	
Cancer, maglinant disease	5	...	...	...	...	2	3
Bronchitis	4	3	1				
Pneumonia	2	...	...	2			
Premature birth....	1	1	...				
Heart Diseases	3	...	...	...	1	...	2
Accidents	2	...	...	...	...	2	
All other causes....	20	8	...	1	...	1	10
All causes	45	14	4	3	1	8	15

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated in 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	4	48	12.30
1902	4031	115	28.59	12	104.34	48	11.9		3	3	48	11.9
1903	4211	109	25.88	14	128.4	45	10.67				45	10.69

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Area of District in acres, 4,387.

Total population at all ages, (At Census of 1901) 3811. Estimated Population, 1903, 4211.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox	1	....	....	....	....	1	
Cholera	0						
Diphtheria	0						
Membranous croup	0						
Erysipelas ...	0						
Scarlet Fever	1	....	....	1			
Typhus Fever ...	0						
Enteric Fever	0						
Relapsing Fever	0						
Continued Fever	0						
Peurperal Fever	0						
Plague	0						
Totals	2			1		1	