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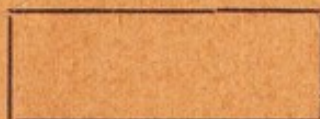


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ROTHBURY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1913.



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ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1913.

ROTHBURY,

March 12th, 1914.

LORD ARMSTRONG AND GENTLEMEN,

Allow me to present to your Board this, my Eighteenth Annual Report, being that for the year ended December 31st, 1913.

The district covers an area of 948 acres, exclusive of water, and is situated on the North and South banks of the river Coquet—chiefly on its hillsides. The surface is a sandy-peaty soil, with a little boulder clay, this rests on gravelly beds with boulder clay, and then the freestone rocks, with limestone under that.

In this area, according to the census of 1911, there are 284 occupied houses with a population 1,150, being an average of 4.0 persons to each house, and thus but little overcrowding. Of these persons, 505 were males and 645 females. Last year there were ten unoccupied houses, this year there are 17. I regret to say that young strong men are still leaving the district for the Colonies, &c., as there is little work here for them. We have no manufactory here in the district and no large employer of labour. Lodgers are taken by one fourth of the residents during the summer months.

The gross rateable value is £7,903, and the nett assessable £6,835, and a rate of 1d. in the £ produces about £25. The Poor rate at 2s. 6½d. in the £ produced £849, of which

sum the Guardians share was £229, and the County rate £620. The District rate produced £797 at 2s. 8d. Your indebtedness is : Cemetery, £352 (thirteen years still being to run) ; Sewerage, £4557 ; also your share with the Rural (of one eighth) of £2,846, being about £359, for the new Workhouse.

The number of births, corrected, for the district, during the year was 19 ; last year there were 21. This is at a rate of 16·2. Your previous average is 20·0, while that for England and Wales (smaller Urban areas) for 1913 is 23·9. There were 11 males and 8 females. They were registered during the first quarter, 3 ; the second, 9 ; the third, 3 ; and the last, 4. There were no illegitimate births, and no deaths amongst illegitimate children. There were no children born away from here of persons belonging the district, and no births in the district of strangers.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 12, and of these, two did not belong here. As there were also three deaths of residents away from here, it follows, that in all, there was a net total of 13 deaths of persons belonging to the district. This is at a rate of only 11·2 per 1,000, against your average of 15·5, while that for England and Wales is 12·8. Your rate, when standardised by multiplying by ·8180, is 9·17, and that of England and Wales being 13·0. Of the residents, 6 were males and 7 females. They occurred during January, 1 ; March, 3 ; May, 1 ; July, 1 ; August, 2 ; September, 1 ; October, 1 ; and December, 1. Of the residents who died out of the district (3), one died at the County Asylum, Morpeth, and two died at the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle ; one of these being due to appendicitis. Of the strangers (2), one came here Tubercular and died of Phthisis ; the other died of Apoplexy in the Cottage Hospital, he belonging to the Rural district.

As there were 19 births registered and 13 deaths, it follows that the difference of 6 was the number naturally added to the population. This is at a rate of only 5·2; last year it was 8·0, while that for England and Wales is about 12·0.

It is a source of much congratulation, that of the 19 children born, none died during the first year of their existence, or in infancy. Thus the infantile death rate is nil, while that for the previous 15 years is 75·0, and for England and Wales is 112 per 1,000 born.

These deaths occurred during the following age periods, viz. : under 1 year, none; from 25 to 45, one; from that to 65, five; and seven above that. Of these latter, 4 were between 70 and 80 years of age; none being over 80 this year.

It is also matter for further appreciation, that there were no deaths due to any of the chief Zymotic (or Epidemic) class of diseases, and none to Phthisis (Tubercular disease of the Lungs) amongst residents, nor to any other form of Tuberculosis, of which 20 resulted in the previous 17 years. Phthisis caused 23 in the previous 17 years, which is at a rate of 1·1 per 1000; that for England and Wales being 1·2.

The other chief causes of death were:—**Organic Heart Disease**, 4; **Bronchitis**, 1; **Appendicitis**, 1, whilst away at the Royal Infirmary; **Apoplexy**, 4; other diseases, 3. There was no death due to Cancer, there had been 37 in the previous 36 years. There were no deaths due to other Chest complaints.

There were no deaths in the Workhouse, but one belonging to the Rural district, died in the Cottage Hospital from Apoplexy, the only death there. There were 41 patients belonging the two districts (Urban and Rural) treated here during the year.

Under the **Infectious Diseases Notification Act**, there was only one case of Scarlet Fever notified. This was in a child who came from Blyth the day before it took ill, on a visit. The trouble was prevalent at Blyth at the time, and no doubt she had it on her when leaving home. She and her mother at once went to the Isolation Hospital on August 12th, all was disinfected, and no further cases occurred here. They defrayed the cost of their food and removal.

All cases of **Tuberculosis** are now notifiable. There were 3 such affecting the Lungs (Phthisis) returned. Only one belonged to the district, a male, aged 35, married, a mason to trade. He was sent to the Barrasford Sanatorium for 6 months in all, as his temperature did not become normal, he was sent home, and he is confined to bed. Visits and inspections were made, instructions being given. One of the visitors was a young woman aged 15, who came to the Fairground Cottage while not strong, there she developed Phthisis, and succumbed. All was disinfected after. Visit was made and instructions given. It was in her family. Another young woman with Phthisis upon her, aged 17, came on a visit to the South Terrace. She stayed about 3 months, leaving somewhat benefitted, all being disinfected, and instructions given.

There were no other forms of Tuberculosis notified.

From returns issued by the Local Government Board, it appears that during 1913, there were notified in England and Wales, a large increase of **Scarlet Fever** cases. For every 1000 of the population, these were notified a rate of 3·57, as against 2·98 the year before. It was most pronounced in the months of (1st) November, (2nd) October, (3rd) December, (4th) September. Similarly for **Diphtheria**, the previous year's rate was 1·24, while that for last year was 1·39 ; the heaviest months were (1st) November, (2nd) December, (3rd) October, (4th) September. For

Enteric Fever (Typhoid), last year's rate was 0.22, while that for 1912 was 0.23. **Erysipelas** for 1912 was 0.63; that for last year the same. The County rate for **Scarlet Fever** for 1912 was 4.89 (Urban) and 2.18 for the Rural parts. The year 1913, Urban, 7.01; Rural, 4.10.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis) rate for 1912, per 1,000 of the population was 3.06, there being 11,055 cases notified; in 1913, the rate was 2.64, and cases 96,553.

There were no deaths due directly to **Influenza**, but it was frequently in existence

Diarrhœa was a little in evidence, wet came at its usual worst period, and kept down the fly nuisance, and flushed all drains and sinks.

Measles and Whooping Cough were prevalent in the early part of the year, and called for the closing of the Elementary Schools. It was brought from Hepple later to the Higher Grade School, but only a few cases occurred here.

There were no cases of Cerebro Spinal Fever or Poliomyelitis notified.

The **Isolation Hospital** was used once in the year. The case is mentioned above, all was disinfected. The smoking of the chimney is still complained of. A new Caretaker has been obtained, and so far, all seems satisfactory.

Bacteriological examinations were made by the County Council Authorities in 6 cases, all of these being for Tuberculosis. Two proved to be positive and four negative.

The **Weekly Returns** to the Local Government Board and the County Council of all cases of Infectious disease and Tuberculosis, notified to me, are regularly made.

There were no cases brought before the Magistrates, and none before the Coroner. There is no common Lodging House.

Under the **Factory and Workshops Act**, we have made 51 visits. There are 4 Factories, including Printers, Joiner, Aerated Water, Gas Light Company. There were 46 visits to 18 Workshops which comprised :—Blacksmith, 1; one having emigrated; Shoemakers, 3; Saddlery, 1; one having left the village; Tailors, 3; Bakers, 1; Plumbers, 1; Dressmakers, 2; Milliner, 1; Joiner, 1; Cycle Repairers, 2; Photographer, 1; Beer Bottler, 1. All were kept in order. There were no underground bakeries, and and no regular outworkers.

Under the **Dairy and Cowsheds Act**, there are no regular dairies in the district, all the milk being delivered upon its being milked, none is stored. Cans, dishes, utensils, etc., all are kept clean. The Cowsheds being white-washed at least twice in the season; all are kept tidy, drained, and most spouted, and ventilation very fairly good. In all, there are 10 persons living in the district, who keep 28 cows between them. Besides these, there are three persons who live outside the area, and send milk to those living inside. They live at Whitton, Snitter Lane, and the Wagtail; they keep 25 cows between them, all being in order there. We have made 30 visits. Two persons keeping cows left the district, and one has ceased to keep cows. There are not any proper registers kept or obtained. It is pointed out that there must be at least 600 cubic feet allowed for each cow, with 50 square feet area floor space.

The County Authorities are now testing all suspected cows for Tuberculosis, so far, none in your district appear to have needed testing.

The **Slaughter Houses** are now 3 in number, all being kept clean, tidy, and white-washed. One is too near the dwelling house, and in a short time may be shifted.

Over 18 visits have been made. I have not seen or heard of any Tuberculous meat being offered for sale, and the above-mentioned provision may also help to prevent this. There is no special Meat Inspector.

The **Schools**, both Advanced and Elementary, are in good sanitary condition. The Elementary were closed for Measles and Whooping Cough in the early part of the year.

The Notification of Births Act is not adopted here.

The **Water Supplies**—two companies, both private—are good. The main Whitton one being inadequate to supply the upper reaches. A new company took this in hand, and by means of a petrol worked engine adequately supplies these. It has been extended to Mr. Stewart's new house, and lately to Crag View, where a supply was much needed. There are a few outlying places having private springs for their use, some being piped to the houses. All is good water and free from pollution.

Sewerage.—The new system has worked well, but gradually the pipe under the river bed has become partly silted up, causing backward pressure in very wet weather. A storm overflow has been provided here, and a tank to catch the sand and detritus. The effluent is very satisfactory. A good deal of your Inspector's time is necessarily taken up at these filter beds and works. The debt now stands at £4,557. At the Malting Yard some fresh connections were needed and made; also for the new garage. It has been decided that a fee of 2s. 6d. must be paid in all cases of breaking into the main sewer, and the Surveyor properly informed.

Scavenging.—The public roads, &c., are of course attended to by the Council. Ashes and refuse from private houses are paid for by the tenant and carted away to the public tip up on Garleigh; some to fields, &c., where needed.

Generally, the ash middens, &c., are kept tidy and in good order; at times, not so, when verbal orders always get them cleaned out. Some places are very troublesome to get this done, and some day I should like to see the Board take it all in hand, and then iron bins with lids could be substituted for the ash middens where privies do not exist. There are very few privy middens now left in the village.

Your Inspector systematically and regularly goes over the district, reporting to the Council each meeting. There were 20 cases of ash middens being too full, and of 2 privies. These were rectified after verbal notices.

The houses of the working class, speaking generally, and where occupied, are in good sanitary and other condition. There are some tenemented houses unoccupied, and I notice these are getting out of repair and may become unsanitary. Out of the 333 occupied houses inspected, I find there are 195 rented at £16 and below; of these, 12 are unoccupied, while five above £16 in rental are also unoccupied, being 15 in all; these are all fit to occupy at present. There were 14 houses in which there were over two persons per room, and according to the standard of the 1911 census, these are overcrowded. There are quite sufficient houses for the working population.

Under the **House Planning and Inspection Act**, two houses were found to be unfit for occupation. The owners attention was called to them. One got burnt down while unoccupied, the other had considerable improvements done to it, but still needing drainage. The other, burnt one, has been rebuilt, the roof well raised, new floors, back wall cemented outside, stoothed inside, all replastered, ceiled, and slated, with new roof.

No closing orders were needed or used.

The table under this is now as follows :—

Houses Inspected.	Unfit to Occupy.	Closing Order.	Rebuilt after burning.	Rectified.
333	2	0	1	1

Complaint was made to me that a horse was being kept in a place adjoining a dwelling house, such place not being constructed for a stable. On visiting, this was so, the owner seen, and on representations, the nuisance abated. At the house at Bridge End, complaint of drains and want of air space at back was made. The latter exists, and advised not to dwell in the rooms; the drainage was not so bad as mentioned probably. A house at Fair Ground top needed drainage. A shed built, by Mr. Stewart, needed the drainage arrangements attended to, and on visiting with the contractor, all were placed to discharge outside over trapped gullies. Thus horse or cow could now be kept there. Complaint as to smell in bedroom was traced to storage of apples in the next house, on removing these, the smell ceased.

A commodious and excellent garage has been built at the foot of the village. All drainage is in good order. Considerable additions have been made at Well Close house. Plans for all these were laid before the Board and approved.

Your Obedient Servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Urban) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	*Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
†1908	1330	17		13·0	29	22·3	3				26	20·0
†1909	1300	27		20·8	18	14·0	4				14	10·8
1910	1300	18		13·8	19	14·6	4		2	111·1	15	11·5
1911	1147	9		7·8	19	16·5	7				12	10·4
1912	1150	22	21	18·3	12	10·4	1	1	2	91·9	12	10·4
1913	1160	19	19	16·3	12	10·3	2	3	0	0·0	13	11·2

* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...	...	948
Total Population at all ages (1911)	...	1,147
Number of inhabited houses	...	284
Average number of persons per house	...	4·0

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during
Year 1912, in Rothbury (Urban) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Whooping Cough								
Influenza								
Erysipelas								
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	0							
Tubercular Meningitis ...	0							
Cancer, malignant disease	0							
Organic Heart Disease ...	4					2	2	0
Bronchitis	1						1	0
Pneumonia								
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1					1		
Nephritis & Bright's disease								
Congenital Debility & Mal- formation, incl. Premature Birth								
Violent deaths, ex'ing Suicide								
Other Defined Diseases ...	3				1	1	1	
(b) Apoplexy	4					1	3	1
All causes	13				1	5	7	1

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	3-4 Weeks.	Total Under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks & under 3 months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes (Certified)								
„ (Uncertified)								
Whooping-Cough								
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)								
Bronchitis								
Gastritis								
Premature Birth								
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus								
Totals ...	0		0					0

District of Rothbury (Rural).

Population estimated to middle of 1911, 4,606.

Births in the year { legitimate, 19.
 { illegitimate, 0.

Deaths { legitimate, 0.
 { illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 0.

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1913 in the Rothbury (Urban) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.					Removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		1' to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	
Erysipelas ...	1		1			1
Scarlet fever ...						
Typhus fever ...						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	3			2	1	*1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	0					
Totals ...	4		1	2	1	2

Isolation Hospital near Whitton, in Rural area of Rothbury, provided by Joint Rural and Urban Authorities.

Total available beds—12. Number of diseases that can concurrently be treated—2 to 3.

Sanatoria, &c.—None * Sanatorium, Barrasford

