Maternity & Child Welfare — Copy

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ROTHWELL

Urban - District - Council.

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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1915.

CLEMAS, PRINTER, ROTHWELL.

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OLEMAS, PRINTER, ROTHWELL.

Medical Officer's Report

FOR 1915.

TO THE ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present, for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year 1915.

Area of Sanitary District, 3638 acres.

Population estimated at 4455.

Density of Population, 1·2.

Births: Males, 48. Females, 34. Total 82. Birth Rate, 18·4.

Deaths: Males, 25. Females, 29. Total, 54. Death Rate, 12·1.

Deaths of Residents not registered in the District, 9.

Nett Deaths, 63. Nett Death Rate, 14·1.

Deaths under 1 year, 5.

Death Rate under 1 year, 60·9.

Here follow the statistics of illness and Death as required by the Local Government Board.

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths. Registered in District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
								Under 1		All ages	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	Non-residents	Residents	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*
1910	5115	88	17·2	48	9·3			9	102·2		
1911	4416	71	16.07	48	10·8	1	4	6	94·3	51	11·5
1912	4660	106	22.7	50	10·8	1	4	6	56·1	51	12
1913	4720	120	25·5	43	9·1	1	5	11	91·6	47	9·9
1914	4711	75	16·1	47	9·9	1	2	10	133	48	10·4
1915	4455	82	18·4	54	12·1	0	9	5	60·9	63	14·1

*Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. **3638.**

Total population at all ages ..	4416	At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses ..	1005	
Average number of persons per house	4·3	

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year, 1915.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.					
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65
Diphtheria	11	1	8	..	1	1
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	2	..
Scarlet Fever	10	1	4	5	..	..
Poliomyelitis	1	..	..	1	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	3	1	1	1	..	..
Totals	27	3	13	7	3	1

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1915.

Causes of Death	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages.									
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	Deaths in Public Institutions
All Causes, Certified	63	5	2	5	3	1	10	13	24	1
Measles	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	3	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ..	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
Phthisis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	..
Organic Heart Disease ..	10	1	..	..	..	..	1	4	4	..
Bronchitis	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	..
Pneumonia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Nephritis & Bright's Diseases	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Congenital Debility	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases ..	21	..	..	1	..	1	4	2	13	1
All causes	63	5	2	5	3	1	10	13	24	1

Infant Mortality during the year 1915.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 wks. & under 3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes, Certified ..	2			2			1	2	5
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Whooping-Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Premature birth	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Atrophy	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other causes	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
All causes	2			2			1	2	5

The following are the chief causes of Death as returned to the Registrar :

Apoplexy	4	Cerebral Congestion	1
Diphtheria and Croup	2	Cystitis	1
Measles	3	Epilepsy	1
Whooping Cough	3	Accident	1
Bronchitis	5	Premature Birth	1
Influenza	3	Atrophy	1
Phthisis	1	Cyanosis	1
Other Tuberculous Dis.	2	Convulsions	1
Cancer	3	Dentition	1
Heart	9	Senile Debility	6
Nephritis	1		
Diabetes	1		54
Gangrene	2		

Population.

It must be noted that the estimated population for 1915 is 4455 as compared with 4711 of the previous year. This is due to the fact that as the Registrar General proposes to exclude from his returns for local areas, the deaths of all members of the armed forces, these figures apply to the civilian population only.

Births.

The Birth rate of 18·4 is a slight improvement on that of 1914, 82 births being recorded, as compared with 75, but this only gives an excess of 19 Births over deaths.

Deaths.

The Death rate is considerably higher than it has been for some years, the nett deaths, including nine of residents who died outside the District, numbering 63. Of this number, however, 24 were over 65 years of age, se that the Death rate of 14·1 is not so unsatisfactory as it appears.

Infantile Mortality.

There were only 5 deaths under the age of 1 year; a great improvement on the previous year, the Infant Mortality rate being reduced from 133 per 1000 Births registered, to 60·9. There is no doubt hat this is d partly to the work of the Health Visitor and partly to the adoption of the Notification of Births Act.

Infectious Diseases.

With the exception of a rather extensive outbreak of Measles there was no very serious epidemic of Infectious Disease, though a good many cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. The notifications were as follows :—

Diphtheria	11
Scarlatina	10
Erysipelas	2
Poliomyelitis	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	3
	27

Scarlatina.

The Scarlatina cases were of a very mild type, and no deaths were recorded. The cases occurred at intervals during the year, and no special source of infection could be traced.

Diphtherta.

Eleven cases of Diphtheria were notified and of these, two proved fatal. The cases were notified in the following order :— April, 1. July, 2. Aug., 1. Sept., 1, Oct., 4. Nov., 2.

Doubtless the serious shortage of water from which we again suffered during the summer, was responsible for some of the cases, though no special cause was discovered in any one case. I hope that the improvement in our water supply may make an improvement in the number of cases notified during the coming year.

Measles.

Measles was very prevalent in February, but it was not found necessary to close the Schools then.

In April a further outbreak occurred, and the Schools were closed from April 22nd to May 10th, and this period was afterwards extended to June 7th.

Three deaths from this disease are recorded. The Notification of Measles Act has now been adopted by the Council, which is a matter of great satisfaction, and should be of great benefit to the Town.

Influenza.

Influenza was again extremely prevalent in the Spring : on the whole the cases were of a mild type. Three deaths occurred, all over 65 years of age.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Only three cases of this disease were notified, and only one death was recorded ; this may be considered most satisfactory for a manufacturing town of the size of Rothwell.

Water Supply

The water supply is obtained from springs issuing from the porous ironstone strata on the Shotwell Mill estate, which estate is about 42 acres in extent, and was purchased by the Council in 1901. The spring issues at a level of 323 feet above ordnance datum. The flow varies very considerably, being governed by the winter rainfall. The water is gathered into storage tanks constructed on the estate, and is delivered into the service reservoir on the Rushton Road by means of a duplicate set of 8 H.P. gas engines, with a pumping capacity of 12,000 gallons per hour, and from thence conveyed to the town by 7in. to 4in. cast iron pipes.

In consequence of the serious shortage of water after a dry season, and which was most accute in the year 1914, the Council have, during the year, extended their collecting area, and constructed nearly a mile of collecting drains, so that there is now an abundant supply of water, sufficient for the needs of the District for some considerable time.

The question of the construction of high pressure filters and lime treatment is under consideration, and it is hoped that it may be possible, during the coming season, to have one filter installed, and the lime treatment in operation again, and reduce the hardness of the water. When this very desirable scheme is completed, we may congratulate ourselves on possessing an abundant supply of pure wholesome water.

District Nurse & Health Visitor.

During 1914 the Council appointed the District Nurse to act as Health Visitor, in addition to her ordinary duties.

As far as Health Visiting is concerned, the result has been most satisfactory, as during the year 1915 there were only 5 deaths under one year, one in January, two in March, one in July, and one in November. Satisfactory as this result is, I cannot help feeling that it has been achieved at the expense of the District Nursing, as on several occasions when I recommended patients to apply for the services of the Nurse, she was not able to get there for some days, owing to the extra work entailed by the Health Visiting.

With all due deference to the Council I think that the work of the District Nurse would be much more effective if they were to avail themselves of the services of the Health Visitor supplied by the County Council, free of charge, and let the District Nurse confine herself to nursing alone.

During the latter part of the year we were without a District Nurse, and the breach was most ably filled by voluntary helpers, to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

In December we were fortunate enough to secure the services of Nurse Hurry who is a most excellent and conscientious nurse.

In conclusion I must offer my best thanks to the Clerk, Mr. Addin Tyldesley, and the Surveyor, Mr. A. Harris, for the invariable courtesy and help that they have always rendered me.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MORE, M.O.H.