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Borough of Southwold



THE ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE
HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

For the Year ending December 31st, 1923

By DUDLEY W. COLLINGS,

Medical Officer of Health for the Borough.



THE MEDICAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of health

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD

1923.

THE MEDICAL REPORT

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SOUTHWOLD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1923.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Parish of Southwold, 647 acres in extent, is practically an island, being bounded by the North Sea, the River Blyth and the Buss Creek. Apart from bridges and the Ferry, its sole connection with the adjoining parish of Reydon is by a strip of beach which is liable to flood at very high tides.

A considerable portion of the parish is taken up by Marshland and the Common, thus sharply limiting any great possibility of extension of the town itself.

The main portion of the town is about 40 feet above the sea, while the marshes are below high-water level. The soil is gravel and sand and the roads dry quickly after rain.

The water supply was formerly derived from wells and owing to the proximity of the sea the water was slightly brackish. In 1909, however, a new source was found in Reydon, from which an unlimited supply of water is obtained. The water is rather hard but pure and palatable. A recent analysis is given in an appendix to this report.

At the present time the sole industries of the town are 'longshore fishing and the manufacture of knitted goods (Southwold Homeknit).



VITAL STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1923.

Area of the Parish of Southwold—647 acres.

Rateable Value £16,802.

Sum represented by a penny rate = £70

Population of Southwold, 1901 Census	..	2800
1911	..	2655
1919*	"	2344
1920*		2437
1921		**2783
"		***3376
1922		**2788
1923		**2783

BIRTHS.

Legitimate	20 males	14 females	..	total	34
Illegitimate	1 "	0 "	..	"	1
	21	14			35
The Birth-rate	..	..		12.57 per 1000	
„ Legitimate Birth-rate	..	..		12.21	„
„ Illegitimate	„	..		.36	„

BIRTH-RATE 1923.

England & Wales	..	19.7	per 1000.	Total population.	
London	..	20.2	"	"	"
Southwold	..	12.57	"	"	"

DEATHS.

Of residents, whether occurring within or without					
the district	..	..	..	..	29
Death-rate	..	..		10.42 per 1000	
„ England and Wales	..	..		11.6 per 1000	

DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES.

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	2
1 year and under 2 years	..	..	..	..	1
10 "	15	"	..	..	1
15 "	20	"	..	..	1
35 "	45	"	..	..	1
45 "	65	"	..	..	5
65 "	70	"	..	..	3
Over 70	..	..	..	..	15
				Total	29

*Estimated Civil Population in middle of 1919 and 1920. (From "Reports on Public Health and Medical Subjects," No. 2. Ministry of Health).

**Registrar General's Returns.

***Census, 1921. This includes visitors and pupils at Schools.

WATER SUPPLY.

On August 10th, 1923, a sample of water was taken and submitted to Messrs. Thresh & Beale for examination. They reported as follows:—

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES.

91 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. 4.

Physical, Chemical and Bacteriological data relating to a sample of water received on August 11th, 1923, from Southwold. Water Co., labelled "Alder Carr" Pumping Station, 1030 a.m. Date August 10th, 1923.

All results in parts per 100,000.

Turbidity	.. ..	Clear and bright, no deposit
Colour	.. ..	Faint Green Tint.
Odour	.. ..	None.
Reaction	.. .	Neutral.
Total Solids. 180° C.	..	44.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	..	3.9
Nitrogen in Nitrates	..	0.46
Nitrites or Free Chlorine		Absent.
Hardness, Permanent		8.5.
Temporary		21.5.
Total	..	30.
Lead, Copper, Zinc, Iron		Absent.
Free Ammonia	..	0.0010.
Albuminoid Ammonia		0.0020.
Oxygen absorbed in 3 hours at 37° C.		0.0100.
Number of Bacteria per c.c.—		
On Gelatine in 3 days		49.
On Agar in 24 hours		7.
The Bacillus Coli		Absent in 100 c.c.
The Bacillus enteritidis		
Sporgenes	..	do.

REPORT—This is a hard water of the highest degree of bacterial and organic purity.

It is a pure and wholesome water.

(*Signed*)

JOHN C. THRESH and JOHN F. BEALE.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Hospital has not been opened during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

One case each of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred during the year, the patients being treated at home.

The origin of these cases could not be definitely traced.

Case rate per 1000 of	England and Wales.	Southwold.
Scarlet Fever	2.23	.36
Diphtheria	1.04	.36

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been periodically inspected and no serious defects were met with.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The taking of samples of Food and Drugs, Milk, etc., is undertaken by the County Council, the police carrying out this work. There were no prosecutions found necessary during the year, all samples taken being returned as genuine by the Public Analyst.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

There is only one Slaughter House in the Borough, which is, on the whole, well kept.

NUISANCES.

The following table gives in detail the nuisances dealt with during the year.

Premises with defective drains	..	..	..	2
„ with stopped drains	..	..	..	8
„ with defective water closets	..	..	..	8
„ with defective gully dishes	..	..	..	2
„ with dirty water closets	..	..	..	3
„ with drains with defective ventilation	..	..	..	3
„ with defective or deficient water troughing or down pipes	..	..	..	18
„ with defective waste pipes	..	..	..	5
„ with dilapidated or without dustbins	..	..	..	21
„ with leaky roofs	..	..	..	6
„ with damp walls	..	..	..	7
„ with defective water closet cisterns	..	..	..	10
„ with defective paving	..	..	..	1
„ requiring structural repairs	..	..	..	7
Offences from deposits of refuse	..	..	..	5

PUBLIC LAVATORY ACCOMMODATION.

In view of the lack of Public Lavatory Accommodation in the Town the Council applied to the Ministry of Health for permission to borrow money for the purpose of erecting two Public Lavatories, one to be situated on the Gun Hill and the other on St. James' Green. Early in June a public inquiry was held by one of H.M. Inspectors and the Ministry of Health sanctioned the loan as regards the Gun Hill Lavatory but suggested that a wooden building with pail closets (the site being below the drain level), be erected on the beach instead of the permanent structure on St. James' Green. The suggested temporary building was completed and opened in July, providing accommodation for ladies and children only, and has been a great boon to our numerous visitors. As it was considered inadvisable to commence building operations during the season the question of the erection of the Gun Hill Lavatory was postponed until the spring.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

The Common Lodging House, in High Street, has been repeatedly inspected and has been found to be conducted quite satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

The lack of houses of a moderate size is greatly felt by all classes in the Borough, and the question of the provision of such houses should be most seriously considered both by the Corporation and the private builder. There are several houses in the Town, the dilapidated condition of which is such that they are unfit for occupation. Owing, however, to the want of suitable alternative accommodation, the tenants cannot be turned out. This state of affairs must continue until either public or private enterprise relieves the situation. There will always be the added difficulty of the purchase of small houses by the speculator, who buys at an inflated price with the result that the permanent tenant is turned out and the house is let furnished and occupied for a portion only of the year by visitors.

Your obedient Servant,

DUDLEY W. COLLINGS,

Medical Officer of Health.

HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Statistics for year ended December 31st, 1923.

1.—GENERAL.

Five houses have been erected during the year.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

1. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or housing Acts)	65
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	35
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .	0
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-headings) requiring repairs and with minor defects	12

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses repaired and minor defects remedied	12
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III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.*

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit by owners	0
3. Number of dwelling-houses 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 dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	28
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied by owners	17

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

For practical purposes the Southwold Harbour is unused except by local fishing boats, a few pleasure yachts in summer, and a variable numbers of sailing barges conveying coal and road materials, the latter, if not from English Ports, are from Belgium. The risk of the importation of infectious disease by water is therefore very slight as no passengers are landed.

Under the "Rats and Mice Destruction Order" the County Council have transferred their duties under this act to the Corporation. The Corporation official rat-catcher periodically visits the harbour and poisons the rats.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR 1923.

	Number.	Tonnage.	Number inspected.		Number reported to be Defective	Number of Orders issued.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Inspector of Nuisances.		
FOREIGN {	Steamers	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	9	662	5	4	—
	Fishing	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign		9	662	5	4	—
COASTWISE {	Steamers	—	—	—	—	—
	Sailing	4	230	3	3	—
	Fishing	Local longshore boats only				
Total Coastwise		4	230	3	3	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise		13	892	8	7	—

BIRTHS.

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
Boys Legitimate	23	16	28	19	24	20
Boys Illegitimate	2	2	3	0	1	1
Girls Legitimate	17	21	26	14	20	14
Girls Illegitimate	2	1	0	1	1	0
Total Births Legitimate	40	37	54	33	44	34
Total Births Illegitimate	4	3	3	1	2	1
Total Birth Rate per 1000	19.6	17	23.3	12.22	16.5	12.57
Legitimate	17.8	15.8	22.1	11.85	15.78	12.21
Illegitimate	1.8	1.2	1.2	.36	.72	.36

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Cases of Infectious Disease during the years 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923.

	1919			1920		1921	1922		1923	
	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Diph- theria	Scarlet Fever	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Pulm. Tub.	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria
January	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
February	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
March	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
April	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
May	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
June	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
July	1	..	1	..	..	..	2*	..	..	..
August	..	..	..	..	..	1*	..	..	1	..
September	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
October	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
November	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
December	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	3	2	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1

Total cases notified

1919	7
1920	4
1921	1
1922	3
1923	2

* These cases were visitors who were suffering from infectious disease when they arrived.

CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH

Of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the
District,
During the year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years	20 and under 35 years	35 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes, certified	28	5	1								2	8	12
Tubercular Meningitis	1	1											
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3										1		3
Pneumonia	1										1		1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3										1	1	6
Other Defined Diseases	11		1									3	1
Premature Birth	3	3											
Cancer	4												
Intussusception	1	1											
Appendicitis	1												1

One death from poliomyelitis is included in the above.

CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH

Of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the
District,
During the year 1922.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years	20 and under 35 years	35 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes, certified	38	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	4	28
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Cancer	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
Heart Disease	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	7
Bronchitis	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhilitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Nephritis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other deaths from violence	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Defined Diseases	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	6

CAUSES OF, and AGES AT DEATH

Of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the
District,
During the year 1923.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	AGES AT DEATH												
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 3 years	3 and under 4 years	4 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 15 years	15 and under 20 years	20 and under 35 years	35 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 years and upwards
All causes, certified	29	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	5	18
Influenza	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer, malignant dis.	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Diabetes	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Heart Disease	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Bronchitis	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Premature Birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Nett deaths from stated causes at various ages
under one year of age.

1920.										
CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes—										
Certified ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	1	1	..	5
Immaturity ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
1921.										
All causes—										
Certified ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	2	5
Tubercular										
Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Immaturity ..	3	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Intussusception ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
1922.										
All causes—										
Certified ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Immaturity ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
1923.										
All causes—										
Certified ..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Immaturity ..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	2

RAINFALL.

For the years 1917—1923.

	Inches of Rain.							No. of days on which rainfall was registered.						
	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	2.00	2.20	3.14	1.80	2.33	4.59	1.29	15	14	15	14	16	24	15
February	1.08	.96	2.49	.66	.21	2.23	2.89	10	11	10	6	4	14	18
March	2.80	.97	1.85	.75	1.18	1.45	1.23	18	9	11	8	11	16	9
April	2.35	3.38	2.84	2.71	1.23	2.31	.81	15	10	16	21	11	18	8
May	.70	.72	.83	.98	1.01	1.14	1.09	6	4	6	10	10	5	12
June	4.41	2.02	1.27	1.37	.55	1.67	.80	10	9	11	5	4	11	9
July	3.79	6.01	2.56	2.94	.40	2.86	1.63	9	16	15	17	6	17	8
August	5.15	.58	2.00	1.82	2.48	1.29	1.94	19	4	10	14	10	12	11
September	1.85	4.38	.42	3.44	1.65	2.12	1.35	6	17	5	15	4	12	9
October	4.26	3.20	2.45	.31	.92	1.12	3.64	13	15	15	3	5	12	17
November	1.84	1.59	1.92	.81	1.74	1.33	3.01	10	8	17	6	8	11	12
December	1.50	4.06	3.99	3.18	1.89	1.40	2.51	9	20	23	29	16	16	16
Total	31.73	30.07	25.76	20.77	15.59	23.51	22.19	140	137	154	148	105	168	144

AVERAGE RAINFALL PER MONTH.

1917.—2.64 inches. Heaviest Rainfall in one day, June 18—2.25 inches.

1918.—2.50	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	July 20—1.60
1919.—2.14	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Aug. 28—0.86
1920. 1.73	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	July 21—0.75
1921.—1.30	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Sept. 11—1.25
1922.—1.96	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Jan. 19—0.72
1923.—1.85	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Nov. 8—0.86

Average Rainfall per year 1917—23 .. 24.23 inches.





