

[Report 1920] / Medical Officer of Health, Stainland Urban Sanitary Authority.

Contributors

Stainland (England). Urban Sanitary Authority.

Publication/Creation

1920

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/hctpv9xn>

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>

Annual Report for 1920.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Stainland Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for 1920.

The number of births registered was 91, viz. 51 males and 40 females ; this gives a birth-rate of 19·1 per 1,000 per annum, as against 10·4 in 1919. This is the highest birth-rate recorded in the district for the past 14 years.

There were 2 illegitimate births.

The number of deaths registered (including inhabitants dying outside the district) was 67, viz. 28 males and 39 females, this gives a death-rate of 14·7 per 1,000 per annum, as against 12·01 in 1919.

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 11, viz. 7 males and 4 females, giving an infantile mortality rate of 120·8 per 1,000 births registered : this is a somewhat large increase. The causes of infantile deaths are classified as under :—

Weak from Birth .....	...	...	6
(of these 3 were children of twin-births).			
Infantile Paralysis ...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	...	...	1

Chicken-pox and Accident	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	...	1

Although most likely there would have been no probability of preventing these deaths, by the appointment of the Health Visitor by the County Council, one of whose duties is to visit and inspect newly-born babies, one would hope to see in future a reduction in infant mortality, especially if this occurs through ignorance and neglect of mothers.

The causes of death are classified as under :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer...	...	...	...	...	7
Salpingitis	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Accident	...	...	...	...	4
Acute Mania	...	...	...	...	1
Glosso-pharyngeal Paralysis	...	...	...	...	1
Apoplexy	...	...	...	...	5
Enteric	...	...	...	...	2
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1
Intestinal Obstruction	...	...	...	...	2
General Paralysis of the Insane	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	1
Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4
Acute Rheumatism	...	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	5
Pulmonary Consumption	...	...	...	...	2
Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	2
Senile Decay	...	...	...	...	6
Diseases of Blood Vessels	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Diseases	...	...	...	...	11
Chronic Otitis Media...	...	...	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1
Senile Gangrene	...	...	...	...	1
Acute Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3
				TOTAL	67

There were 4 inquests held during the past year.

The ages at which death took place are as under :

Under 1 year	...	...	11	
1 year and under 5 years...			0	
5	„	15	„	2
15	„	25	„	1
25	„	40	„	4
40	„	65	„	20
65 years and over			...	29
TOTAL			...	67

Infectious Disease.—During the past year the district has not suffered much from Epidemic Disease, only 37 cases being notified, these consisted of :

Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	11
(of these 5 cases were sent to hospital).				
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	14
(11 of these were sent to hospital).				
Malaria	...	...	...	2
Pulmonary Consumption	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	2
Enteric	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1

There is nothing of any moment to say about these diseases. There is no Isolation Hospital in the district, but cases which are necessary to remove are sent to the Halifax Boro' Isolation Hospital on payment of certain fees.

There is no compulsory removal of infectious cases, but they are removed if home surroundings are bad, presence of overcrowding, or absence of proper nursing.

The two cases of malaria occurred in men who had contracted the disease whilst serving abroad.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—There was only one case notified during the past year, and only two deaths occurred.

Notification of this disease by medical practitioners—I have not come across any difficulty in getting medical men to notify this disease. The method of dealing with these cases, is, on notification they are advised to attend the Tuberculosis Dispensary, of which there is one at Sowerby Bridge and another at Huddersfield; there, advice is given by the Tuberculosis Officer as to whether Dispensary or Sanatorium treatment is needed; if Sanatorium be necessary, admission to one of the many sanatoria in the West Riding area is sought.

Sanatorium treatment appears to be the best in the early stages of the disease, I have also seen very good results in some very early cases by the use of Tuberculin injections; in those cases which are of moderate severity, Sanatorium treatment still appears to be the best, the health being at any rate maintained for a time after the return home, the length of time varies according as to whether the sufferer has to return to work or not and also as to whether the work is indoors or not. I have found in some cases that persons on returning home from Sanatorium treatment have been quite willing to go to work out of doors as labourers sooner than return to the factories. Extra nourishment for tubercular cases is in the hands of the Dispensary Officer.

The Council has made no arrangement for dental treatment for these cases, nor do I consider it necessary that this should be done, as I have not come across anybody who could not afford to get treatment privately, if needed.

Tubercular Disease other than that affecting the Lungs.—This includes affections of bones, joints, and bowel, these cases are either treated privately at home or if needed sent to an institution.

Venereal Disease.—One does not come across many cases of this nature in the district, they are generally recommended to attend at the venereal clinics which have been set up at the Infirmaries in the adjoining towns, which advice is generally followed.

No gratuitous preparation of Salvarsan, or allied preparations, are supplied, or required by the medical men in this district.

Vaccination.—The district is a stronghold of anti-vaccination : only one case was vaccinated by the Public Vaccinator during the past 12 months, and only 65 operations have been performed during the last ten years.

The amount of poor-law relief granted during the past year was very small.

Pathological Work.—Use is made of the County Laboratory at Wakefield for this work, many swabs from the throat, specimens of blood, and material coughed up, are sent for bacteriological diagnosis in cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, and Pulmonary Consumption respectively.

The greater number of the inhabitants of the village are engaged in textile factories either in the district or outside.

There are a fair number of farms in the district employing agricultural labourers. A few men work in the stone quarries.

Configuration of the district.—This is particularly hilly, there being very little level country : the highest point above sea level is 1,000 feet ; the area of the district is 2,273 acres, it touches Huddersfield on the South-East, Elland on the East, Greetland and Barkisland on the West.

The soil is a mixture of clay, rock and gravel, and on account of its porosity the surface is fairly dry.

The rainfall is particularly heavy, no actual measurements have been taken. The air is very bracing owing to the prevalence of winds, which at times become veritable hurricanes. It has well been said of the climate that it is composed of eight months of winter and four months of bad weather.

The district is unsuitable for people suffering from rheumatism and respiratory affections.

Census, 1911, gave the population as 4,449, estimated population for 1920 is 4,760.

Water Supply.—This is derived from your own reservoir at Coldacre, and is good and constant, possesses no plumbosolvent action, and is free from all sources of contamination.

The springs supplying the reservoir were piped during the year, this has led to a large conservation of water which had previously been running to waste. In view of the fact of the contemplated housing scheme and the 16 houses erected in Holywell Green and the eight in process of being built at Jagger Green it had been intended to enlarge the reservoir, but owing to the cost of labour, etc., this project has been postponed *sine dié*, and an arrangement has been come to with the Huddersfield Corporation to supply the deficit which may result.

Streams.—No pollution of these has been found.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The sewage is dealt with at the works at Holywell Green. The sewers have been extended during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—The number of privy middens abolished during the past year was 30; 19 of these were put on the water carriage system and the remainder on to the Goux System; special attention to the remaining middens is to be paid during the present year.

Scavenging.—The cleansing of earth closets and privy middens is carried out by the Council. The excreta is used as manure for farm land and the house refuse is taken to the Tip at Eaves Top.

The Sanitary Inspector received 56 complaints of nuisances, *e.g.*, defective roofs, blocked drains, stopped gulleys. Only 12 informal notices were served and the work was satisfactorily carried out in all cases.

The Schools.—Water supply and closet accommodation are satisfactory. There was very little epidemic disease amongst the scholars during the year and it was only found necessary to close one of the Infants' Schools for a few weeks on account of the prevalence of colds and coughs during the bad weather.

FOOD.

Milk Supply is good, apparently the farmers are getting more careful with regard to cleanliness than heretofore.

There was one prosecution for unsatisfactory drainage and ventilation of cowsheds, with a resultant fine.

In this district it was thought unnecessary to take any action as regards the supply of milk to nursing mothers and young children. The health visitor has, however, power to deal with this, but she acts under the County Authority.

Extra milk is also granted to the tubercular cases needing it, but this again comes under the County Authority acting through the Tuberculosis Officers. As far as I know, no case of tuberculosis in cows has come to my knowledge during the year.

Meat.—There is no public slaughter house in the district, there are six registered for private slaughter, the number has not increased since 1914; their condition is fair. Weekly inspections of the slaughter houses has been carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

Bake-houses. These have been regularly inspected and their condition is fair.

Sanitary Staff. This consists of the Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. Ellison, who also acts as Housing Inspector and Waterworks Manager.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

NOEL C. BEAUMONT.

STANNARY HOUSE,
STAINLAND,

28th April, 1921.