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THRAPSTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

1920.

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.O.H.

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OUNDLÉ,

April 16th, 1921.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,

THRAPSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Report on the Health of the District for the past year.

The population in the Northants. portion of your District is estimated by the Registrar General to be 10,041. The coming census, to which I look forward with much interest, will give the correct number, but I do not anticipate any very marked change.

**Vital  
Statistics.**

The births for the year number 252. Of these 128 were males and 124 females, giving a rate of 25·0 per thousand. Twelve of these were classed as illegitimate.

The number of deaths in the same population was 109 as against 143 for the previous year. This gives a rate for 1920 of 10·8. The rate of England and Wales for the same period being births 25·4, deaths 12·4.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—Tubercular Disease resulted in 11 deaths, and Malignant Disease of 15, both these figures being less than those of the previous year. Whooping Cough caused the only death from infectious disease. There were 8 deaths from Pneumonia, a much larger figure than usual, for which I do not feel able to account. Heart Disease numbered 18, also an unusually large number. There were 9 deaths of children under one year, giving an infantile death-rate of 39·6 per thousand births. I see there were 9 deaths classed as from Congenital Debility which would just account for this.

The births and deaths in the Hunts. villages belonging to the Thrapston District do not call for much comment. The population is given as 815. The births numbered 22, giving a rate of 26·9. There were 6 deaths, giving a rate of 7·2. One death was caused by Cancer, and none by Tuberculosis or by any infectious disease.

The list of notifiable diseases is now a long one, but many of them are seldom or never seen in your District. Seventeen cases of Scarlatina were seen. One occurred in Thrapston and the remainder were scattered over the villages of Woodford, Addington and Chelveston. Twenty cases of Diphtheria were notified; three were in Thrapston, and two at Thrapston Lodge, about two miles from the town. In this latter case I found

**Notifiable  
Diseases.**

the sanitary conditions to be very bad and reported to your Council. The defects have since been remedied, and the premises are now in a satisfactory condition. Two cases of Diphtheria were seen at King Edward's Cottages in Islip. The rest of these cases were in Woodford, Addington and Chelveston. I specially note the prevalence of the disease in Woodford, a condition to which I have drawn attention in previous reports, and which I believe due to the insanitary condition of many of the houses and yards in the village. A number of bad houses and defective drainage conditions have been remedied, and I shall continue to press the need for improvement.

Measles was prevalent at Titchmarsh at the end of May, and I advised the closing of the schools. One case of Enteric Fever was seen at Aldwinckle which ultimately made a good recovery.

There have been a number of cases of Eucephalitis Lethargica in various places in England during the year. One was notified from a house at Stanwick. This was, I believe, the first in the County. I have since seen eight others in my other districts. Little is known as to the origin or treatment of this disease. I am glad to say the Stanwick case made a good recovery, which, in my experience, does not often happen.

Two cases of Puerperal Fever or, as I prefer to call it, Puerperal Septicæmia, were seen at Aldwinckle. The first was due to the serious nature of the case. The second, which proved fatal, occurred at what are known as the Field Cottages, and I drew attention to their very insanitary and dilapidated condition which has since been remedied.

#### Housing.

The building of new houses has made considerable progress during the year. These are as follows:—

Situation	Nearing Completion		Projected
Thrapston	...	26	0
Stanwick	...	0	6
Woodford	...	0	8
Ringstead	...	0	6
...	...	0	6
Islip	...	0	4
Lowick	...	0	4
Old Weston	...	0	4
Molesworth	...	0	4
Brington	...	0	4
Hargrave	...	0	6
		—	—
		26	52
		—	—

They will be good houses, but the expense has been so great that I fear the rent will be beyond the class for which they were intended.

I continue to point out certain houses which in my opinion are, in their present state unfit for habitation, and a few which are not worth repair and can never be made into habitable dwellings. Dealing with insanitary houses, while it is one of the most important, is also one of the most difficult duties of any Council. Given insanitary houses you will always find dirty families living in them. The whole thing seems to move in a vicious circle.

The present Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Barnes, was appointed in November, on the resignation of Mr. Porter. I consider that Mr. Barnes has already done good work, and will be found an efficient officer. He has inspected a number of houses and regularly visits the various sewage disposal works of the Districts. The meat supply has also received careful attention. I append his report and remain

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT, B.A., M.B.,

*M.O.H. Thrapston Rural District.*

### **Report of Sanitary Inspector for year ending December 31st, 1920.**

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, OUNDLE.

DEAR SIR,

I herewith present my report on the sanitary condition, including the work done in the District during the past year.

The District has been inspected in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health as fully as possible since my appointment on November 18th, for any existing nuisance.

During the year 179 nuisances have been found and 150 abated, the remaining 29 still receiving attention. One statutory notice has been served, the work in other cases having been carried out by preliminary notices or verbal arrangement.

## Tabulated list of Inspections :—

Houses examined for Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis and Measles)	...	...	34
Defective Roofs	...	...	21
Defective Drains	...	...	18
Damp or Dilapidated	...	...	15
Dirty Houses	...	...	19
Bad Closet accommodation	...	...	5
Water Supply	...	...	16
Overcrowding	...	...	12

Total number of Houses examined 140

**Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.**

Only very little has been done owing to shortness of period from time of appointment in bringing into force the Housing and Town Planning Act, but no real difficulty has arisen in the few instances of making defective dwellings fit for habitation.

**New Buildings**

No new houses have been erected in the District, but approximately 26 are in erection in Thrapston.

**Disinfection of Houses after Infectious Diseases**

During the year 34 houses have been disinfected. Liquid and gaseous disinfection are used in rooms and also for bedding. Disinfectants are also supplied to houses.

**Water Supply**

Nothing by way of a new departure has taken place in this direction.

**Drainage**

No new sewers have been laid, but an additional portion is contemplated being put in at Brigstock.

**Cowsheds and Dairies**

The 14 Registered Cowsheds have been visited, and on the whole are in a fairly satisfactory state, although improvements will have to be made in some instances in the near future.

**Slaughter-houses and Knackers' Yards**

The 14 Slaughterhouses and 2 Knacker's Yards have been inspected and found to be in order, with the exception of 1 Slaughterhouse, which I understand will be replaced with an up-to-date building in a short while.

**Factories, Workshops & Bakehouses**

The 13 Factories, and 3 Workshops, and 19 Bakehouses in the District have been inspected, and were all found to be kept in a satisfactory state.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours obediently,

ROBERT W. BARNES.

## INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS &amp; WORKPLACES

Premises					Inspections	
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	5
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total					...	7

## HOMEWORK.

Wearing Apparel Making, &c., Lists sent in 4,  
Women Outworkers 67.

## REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Horse Collar Making ... .. 2

## NUISANCES.

Found.				Abated.			
Defective Roofs	...	...	7	Roofs Repaired	...	...	7
Damp or Dilapidated	...	...	5	Dampness Remedied	...	...	3
Dirty Houses	...	...	37	Houses Cleaned	...	...	27
Overcrowded	...	...	1	Overcrowding Abated	...	...	0
Defective Drains	...	...	39	Dairies Repaired or Renewed	...	...	34
Bad Closet Accomodation	...	...	7	Closets Rebuilt and Repaired	...	...	6
Filthy Cesspools	...	...	1	Cesspools cleaned out	...	...	1
Dirty Cowsheds	...	...	4	Cowsheds Cleansed	...	...	4
Bad Slaughterhouses	...	...	1	Slaughterhouses to be Rebuilt	...	...	0
Large Deposits of House Refuse	...	...	24	House Refuse Cleared	...	...	24
			126				106
Under Housing Act	...	...	53	Under Housing Act	...	...	44
Total Nuisances Found	...	...	179	Total Nuisances Abated	...	...	150

