

**[Report 1921] / Medical Officer of Health, Thrapston R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Thrapston (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1921

**Persistent URL**

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

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

THRAPSTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**


1921.

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

---

RAUNDS :

F. W. MARCH & Co., PRINTERS & STATIONERS.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30186407>

OUNDLÉ,

March 30th, 1922.

TO THE CHAIRMAN,

THRAPSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

I am instructed by the Ministry of Health that Annual Reports need only relate to matters which came specially before your Council during the past year, and they propose to have Survey Reports made every five years giving full reports and whatever progress has been made in that period. The previous year (1920) counting as a Survey Report.

The statistics of Births and Deaths have just been received from the Ministry of Health. The births for the Northants portion of the district numbered 206, being 104 males and 102 females, giving a rate of 19·9 in a population of 10340. Of these only two were classed as illegitimate, which I consider a very satisfactory improvement on the last few years.

The same return for Hunts parishes, with a population of 813, was—total 14, the rate being 17·2. Of this number 7 were males and 7 were females. I regret to find that 3 of these, that is over a fourth, were illegitimate.

The deaths in the Northants portion numbered 118, giving a rate of 11·4, about the same as last year. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1921 was 12·1, so Thrapston is below the average.

The principal causes of deaths were Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 3, Influenza nil, Tuberculosis 8, Cancer 13, and Pneumonia 8. With regard to the last-named disease, I note that the medical men of the district do not seem to be aware of the fact that this is a notifiable disease. I certainly never receive any notifications of pneumonia.

In the Hunts parishes there were 8 deaths, giving a rate of 9·8. They do not call for any special comment. None were from any infectious disease or from Tuberculosis.

The Infantile Death Rate for Northants is only 48 per thousand births. This should be compared with the same rate for England and Wales of 83 per thousand. Our Infant Welfare Committees and Health Visitors will see this and I am sure they will be pleased.

The census returns for towns and villages are not yet completed, so I cannot go into that matter. It would be interesting to know what the increase in the different villages really was. **Census.**

The population of the entire Thrapston Rural District is given as 11,107, showing a decrease of 405 on the census taken eleven years ago. I have in my Annual Reports every year pointed out that the population was declining, and the estimate decrease turned out to be practically right.

The Housing question has, I am sure, been discussed most fully, and your Council are, I believe, quite satisfied that there is a considerable shortage. A few houses have been built in the last ten years, more I should say than were pulled down, but according to the census showing the decline of 405 in the population there ought to be 81 houses to the good, allowing for five persons to each house. I know that these 81 houses do not exist, but what has become of them I know not.

#### **Water Supply.**

Owing to want of rain last summer there was a great shortage of water in many of the villages, especially among those situated on higher clay land. Hargrave may be mentioned as the worst sufferer. The question of providing a public supply for Thrapston was fully discussed before the war, both by the Thrapston Parish Council and the Rural District Council. An analysis of the number of wells in the town showed that at least a third were quite unfit for drinking purposes. The matter was practically settled in favour of having water-works when the war began, and the project had to be put on one side. Last year I again brought the question forward, suggesting that the time had come for again considering the advisability of going on with the plan.

There was last year a considerable amount of unemployment, which I am sorry to say still exists, though not quite to the same extent, labour would therefore be plentiful and materials are decreasing in price. The matter was referred to the Thrapston Parish Council, who up to the present time do not see their way to meeting the expense. They will have to do it sometime and should make up their minds to it. I am hoping that public feeling will show itself in favour of doing the work, and from what I can hear this is taking place. It is of course best that it should be done with the good-will of the inhabitants, and I think this is the feeling of your Council. The Thrapston people would have to pay and they should come forward willingly.

#### **Infectious Illness.**

The infectious diseases in the District did not give rise to much illness. The number of cases notified is shown in the table given. The enteric cases were seen in Little Addington and, with one exception, occurred in one house, which was but little suited for illness.

The cases of Diphtheria were nearly all seen in Woodford. The disease persistently hangs about this village. I believe it is due to the insanitary condition of some of the houses, to which I have called attention from time to time during the year. No new houses have as yet been built in this village, but they certainly are wanted.

## GENERAL STATISTICS FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Area, 47,284 acres.

Population, 11,353.

Rateable value,

Sum represented by penny rate,

Extracts from vital statistics of the year—

	Total	M.	F.
Births—Legitimate ...	213	111	102
Illegitimate ...	5	1	4
Deaths ...	126	64	62
Number of women dying in consequence of child-birth			
From Sepsis 1.			
Deaths from Measles ...	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough ...	...	...	Nil
„ Diarrhoea ...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—			
Legitimate	12		
Illegitimate	2		
Total	14		

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria ...	16	3	3
Scarlet Fever ...	8		1
Enteric Fever ...	4		
Puerperal Fever ...	1		
Pneumonia ...	Nil		
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Non Pulmonary 1	10	5	7
(b) Pulmonary 9			

Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Nil.

Hospitals in District, Nil.

Suitable cases sent to Northampton or Kettering.

Laboratory work sent to Clinical Research Association.

The work of Inspector of Nuisances has been carefully and efficiently carried out by Mr. Barnes. I append his report, which shows what has been done during the past year. Special attention has been given to the housing question, and I have indicated 10 houses which are unfit for habitation. Your Council are always met with the difficulty of providing accommodation for the people if the houses are pulled down. The occupiers of insanitary houses are not suitable tenants for the new houses. They are either unable to pay the rent demanded or undesirables to whom any landlord would object.

Statistics of housing work done is given on following page.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT,

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

## HOUSING.

Total number of new houses erected during the year as part of Council Scheme ... ..	17
1.—Unfit houses. Inspection.	
2.—(1) Total number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	77
(2) Number of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations, 1910 ... ..	74
(3) Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation ... ..	10
2.—Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority ... ..	111
3.—Action under Statutory Powers.	
(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	33
(2) Number which were rendered fit by owners	13
(3) Number in respect of which closing became operative ... ..	2

**Report of Sanitary Inspector for year  
ending December 31st, 1921.**

February 14th, 1922.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, OUNDLE.

DEAR SIR,

I hereby present my second annual 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 for any existing nuisance.

During the year 1403 inspections were made, and nuisances found to exist number 336, of which 245 were abated, the remaining 91 receiving attention. Nineteen statutory notices were served, having effect to 41 dwellings, etc., while in other instances necessary repairs were executed through preliminary notices being issued.

Much overcrowding exists, but cannot be remedied very much at present, on account of the scarcity of houses. The Council are doing their utmost to cope with this evil, as is also the case with dirty tenants.

**Overcrowding.**

## Houses Examined.

The following is a tabulated statement as required by the Ministry of Health—

Houses examined for Infectious Disease (including Tuberculosis and Measles) ...				45
Dirty Houses	...	...	...	41
Defective Roofs and Ceilings	...	...	...	39
Defective Drains	...	...	...	52
Damp or Dilapidated	...	...	...	37
Bad Closet accommodation	...	...	...	22
Water Supply	...	...	...	178
Overcrowding	...	...	...	50
Minor Causes	...	...	...	18
Home Workers (Factories and Workshops)	...	...	...	66

Total Houses Examined ... 548

## Houses and Town Planning Act, 1909.

During the year two dwellings have been closed, being unfit for habitation, and one old house demolished; 62 houses have been made fit for habitation.

## New Buildings.

Two new houses have been erected during the year by private owners. There are 15 Council Houses complete for occupation at Thrapston, and the remaining 11 are almost finished. Below I give further particulars of those in the villages.

Nearing Completion				In Course of Erection.			
Stanwick	...	...	6	Islip	...	...	4
Ringstead	...	...	6	Lowick	...	...	4
Brington	...	...	4	Old Weston	...	...	4
				Molesworth	...	...	4
				Hargrave	...	...	6

## Water Supplies.

Owing to the drought of 1921, the majority of the wells in private property became dry, and heavy demands were made on the 3 public wells, which, luckily tided the greater part of the populace of Thrapston over the very trying period.

During the year 17 samples of water taken from various sources in the District, were submitted to the analyst, and with two exceptions were found to be fit for drinking purposes.

Repairs have been carried out in respect to the Brigstock water supply and further alterations are necessary and will be done shortly.

Alterations and improvements were carried out at Sudborough, and for a while the folk were rationed, as was also the case at Woodford, though at this village a spring was intercepted, yielding an abundant supply of water, easing the situation.

A well which had been obsolete for many years (in fact filled in) at Titchmarsh was cleared and rebuilt, with pump complete and fixed. There is a good supply of water, but at present it is not quite fit for drinking purposes.

The Huntingdonshire villages are still short of water, having felt the drought most acutely.

The rainfall in Thrapston was 11'63.

## Drainage.

New Sewers have been laid at Brigstock in Chapel Lane and Hall's Hill, and connections made thereto from private properties.

During the year 45 houses have been disinfected. Liquid and gaseous disinfection are used in rooms, and also for bedding. Disinfectants are also supplied to houses. After one case of peurperal fever all bedding and hangings were burnt and compensation paid to the rightful party.

### Disinfection of Houses after Infectious Diseases.

#### Nuisances found to exist and abated:

#### Nuisances.

Found.		Abated.	
Defective Roofs ...	21	Roofs Repaired ...	17
Damp or Dilapidated ...	20	Dampness Remedied ...	4
Dirty Houses ...	32	Houses Cleaned ...	23
Unfit for Habitation ...	2	Closing Orders Issued	2
Old Dwellings ...	1	Dwelling Demolished ...	1
Overcrowding ...	46	Overcrowding Abated ...	8
Defective Drains ...	47	Drains Repaired or Renewed	41
Bad Closet Accommodation	11	Closets Rebuilt and Repaired	10
Filthy Cesspools ...	2	Cesspools Cleansed ...	2
Dirty Cowsheds ...	4	Cowsheds Cleansed ...	4
Bad Slaughter-houses ...	3	Slaughter-houses Closed	3
Deposits of House Refuse	27	House Refuse Cleared	22
Infectious Diseases ...	45	Houses Disinfected ...	45
Defective Wells ...	1	Wells Closed ...	1
	262		183
Under Housing Acts ...	74	Under Housing Acts ...	62
	336		245

There are 33 cowsheds and 2 Purveyors of Milk registered in the District, which are in a fairly satisfactory condition, improvements having been made to some during the year. These have all been regularly inspected.

### Cowsheds and Dairies.

The 18 Slaughter-houses (licensed and registered) 2 Knackers' yards and 2 Fish-frying premises have been inspected often, particularly the two latter premises. 3 Slaughter-houses were closed because they were unadequate, and did not conform to the regulations.

### Slaughter-Houses, &c.

The 17 Factories, 4 Workshops and 17 Bakehouses, when inspected were found to be in a satisfactory state except in five instances, when upon request the necessary cleansing was carried out quite aimiably. The dwellings of 66 Factory out-workers were also visited.

### Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.

106 tons of house-refuse have been dealt with down the Sewage Farm at Thrapston during the year. The farms at Islip, Stanwick, and Ringstead are in good condition.

### Scavenging.

Much additional work has been carried out during the year in this direction by relief labour. Alterations and improvements have been made at Thrapston, Denford, Chelveston, Brigstock, Ringstead, Twywell and Islip. The open sewers have been cleaned out at Titchmarsh, Hargrave, Keyston, Molesworth and Aldwinckle, also Denford Ford. Relief labour is not a paying proposition.

### Sewage Disposals.

I am, Dear Sir,  
Yours obediently,

ROBERT W. BARNES, A.R.S.I.