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Walker Urban District Council.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT


FOR THE YEAR

ENDING

DECEMBER 31ST, 1902.



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Walker Urban District Council.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1902.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SAID COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report.

As in former Reports, I must again refer to the question of housing accommodation. It is estimated that of the large number of men employed in the shipyards and works in the District only about a third are resident, owing principally to inferior and insufficient accommodation; and it is a general opinion in the District that this is largely due to lack of foresight and enterprise on the part of the Newcastle Corporation, as owners of the Walker Estate, in developing the estate in accordance with the needs of the community.

Housing
accommodation.

Influenced by this opinion, your Council has, during the past year, taken advantage of the powers given by the Housing of the Working Classes Act to approach the Newcastle Corporation with a view to acquiring land for building purposes.

There is also ground for belief that the Corporation have in view a scheme for granting greater security of tenure than under the present system of short leases of 75 years only.

New Buildings.

During the year a fair amount of building has been completed in the Welbeck Road and adjoining streets. This consists both of self-contained houses and flats, and is of a satisfactory character.

Insanitary Houses.

Much of the older property in the District is of a very unsatisfactory character from a sanitary point of view, particularly the houses let in tenements. During the year I have reported two houses of this class as unfit for human habitation, viz.:—No. 14, Fisher Street and the property known as Hill Cottage. In both cases the owners have undertaken to repair them, but it is almost impossible to make this class of property really satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. I also reported two one-room tenements at the Scrogg Farm, which have since been closed as human habitations. A good many cases of overcrowding have been reported during the year and notices served on the offenders to abate the nuisance.

Refuse Destructor.

The difficulty, noted in former Reports, of disposing of the ash-pit refuse has been removed by the completion of the "High Temperature" Refuse Destructor constructed by Messrs. Meldram Brothers. At the official test, on November 25, 1902, over 30 tons of refuse was destroyed in under 11 hours, and the maximum temperature in the combustion chamber was estimated to reach 3,000° Fahr. This must be reckoned a great sanitary improvement, as it will remove permanently the unsightly refuse heaps which were always a source of danger to the public health.

Ashpits.

The policy of endeavouring to induce the owners of the older property to substitute ash-closets in place of the old insanitary open ash-pits has been continued.

Ash-closets.

During the year 44 such closets have been substituted. At Bill Point, where the sanitary accommodation was notoriously bad and insufficient, the owner has now put up new closets for the whole of his tenants.

Births and Deaths.

During the year 586 births and 323 deaths were registered. Of the latter, 45 were of non-resident. Con-

sequently the natural increase was $536 - 278 = 258$, and the birth and death rates 39.4 and 20.4 respectively. Of the births 292 were male, and 244 female.

There were 50 deaths in public institutions, viz., at the City Hospital for Infectious Diseases, and the Walker Accident Hospital. Of these only five were of residents in the district.

The infant mortality was 94, or about 1 in 6 of the births, and 1 in 3 of the deaths registered. Infant Mortality

The principal causes were—

Premature Birth	...	...	...	16
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	15
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	6
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	3
Tubercular diseases	...	...	...	2
Scarlatina	...	...	...	1
Accidents	...	...	...	2
Less well-defined causes, such as Congenital Debility, Convulsions, etc.	...	...	...	49
				94

During the year I received 236 notifications of infectious disease, as compared with 181 in 1901, viz. :— Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Died.
Scarlatina	182	30	6
Erysipelas	24	—	—
Diphtheria	15	5	—
Enteric Fever	4	3	1
Chicken Pox	9	—	...
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—

Scarlatina was prevalent throughout the year, and became definitely epidemic during May and June, in which months 95 cases were notified. The epidemic was principally confined to the district near the West Board School, in crowded tenement property, where isolation and disinfection could not be carried out in a satisfactory way. I have on Scarlatina.

Isolation and Disinfection.

more than one occasion called your attention to the necessity for your Council to provide some shelter for the tenants of such property, while their tenements are disinfected.

Small-pox.

I am again glad to report that although many cases of small-pox occurred in neighbouring districts, that no case was notified in Walker. Owing to the prevalence of this disease, an enquiry was held by Dr. Johnston, a Local Government Board Inspector, who made various recommendations for dealing with a possible outbreak. He specially dealt with the question of Hospital accommodation, and advised your Council to try and get accommodation in the newly-erected Hospital at Tynemouth. The Tynemouth Authority, however, when approached, declined to entertain the proposal, so that your Council have still to rely on the promise given by the Newcastle Corporation to take cases from this district as far as they may be able. Your Council has also approached the County Council, asking them to deal with the matter by combining districts for this purpose.

Vaccination.

In this connection I would remind you that the present Vaccination Act expires this year, and that there is no doubt that a complete and well-administered Vaccination Act would, as exemplified in Germany, make small-pox practically an unknown disease, and thus render isolation accommodation superfluous. The consensus of educated opinion points to two alterations in the present law as principally required, viz. :—(1) compulsory re-vaccination at school-age, and (2) the placing of the administration of the Acts in the hands of the Authorities which deal with all the other laws affecting public health.

Chicken-pox.

On account of the prevalence of small-pox, chicken-pox was made a notifiable disease in the district for six months from August 1st.

Other Infectious Diseases.

Of non-notifiable infectious diseases, 11 deaths were due to whooping cough, and 2 to measles. Owing to the absence of any spell of hot dry weather, there was no epidemic of diarrhœa. The three deaths due to this disease were all of infants.

Twenty-nine deaths were due to phthisis, and fifteen to other tubercular diseases. It is to be hoped that before long we shall have better means for the treatment and isolation of this undoubtedly infectious disease. And I would call your attention to the effort now being made by the local branch of the National Society for the Prevention of Consumption to obtain funds for the erection of a Sanatorium for the Counties of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Northumberland. In all cases of death from phthisis your Inspector is instructed to call and offer to disinfect the premises.

Phthisis, &c.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs were more than usually prevalent, owing to the cold wet summer season, 35 deaths were due to pneumonia, and 20 to bronchitis.

Diseases of the
Respiratory
Organs.

Appended will be found statistics compiled in the forms indicated by the Local Government Board and the Inspector's Report of Sanitary Work completed during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
F. N. GRINLING.

WALKER,
February, 1903.

TABLE I.—WALKER.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.		
		Number	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*			Number.	Rate.*	
1892	...	11,500	439	38·2	56	128	246	...	25	25	221	19·2
1893	...	11,750	469	40·0	86	183	255	...	15	14	241	21·4
1894	...	12,000	429	35·8	54	126	222	...	28	27	195	16·2
1895	...	12,250	384	31·4	70	182	252	...	45	51	201	16·4
1896	...	12,500	455	36·4	66	145	226	...	25	28	198	15·8
1897	...	12,800	479	37·1	75	155	243	...	30	30	213	16·6
1898	...	13,000	459	35·3	85	184	308	...	54	54	254	19·5
1899	...	13,250	514	38·8	87	170	297	...	37	38	259	19·5
1890	...	13,500	509	37·7	92	180	322	...	37	35	287	21·2
1901	...	13,400	497	36·6	94	188	333	...	47	44	289	21·4
Averages for years 1892-1901		...	464	36·7	78	164	270	...	34	34	236	18·7
1902	...	13,600	536	39·4	94	175	323	...	50	45	278	20·4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	...	...	...	...	...	1,157
Total Population at all Ages...	...	...	...	...	...	13,335
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	1,219
Average Number of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	10·9

} At Census of 1901.

TABLE III.—WALKER.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								Number of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						65 and upwards.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.			
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	15	...	1	4	5	5	...	...	5
Membranous Croup...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	24	...	...	2	4	16	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	182	1	50	116	8	7	...	...	30
Typhus ,, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ,,	4	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	3
Relapsing ,, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued ,, ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal ,,	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox... ..	9	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	236	2	55	127	19	31	2	...	38

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Hospital, Walker Gate,
within the District.

TABLE IV.—WALKER.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	6	1	3	2	...	...	...	29
Whooping Cough	11	6	3	2	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
Other Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	29	...	1	2	5	21	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases	15	2	8	2	3	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	7	...	...	...	...	4	3	...
Bronchitis	20	4	2	...	...	5	9	...
Pneumonia	35	11	11	...	2	11	...	2
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }	6	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Venereal Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	16	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Par- turation	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Heart Diseases	14	...	...	1	4	6	3	1
Accidents	5	1	...	2	1	1	...	7
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other Causes	103	49	8	5	3	19	19	1
All Causes	278	94	39	16	19	76	34	50

TABLE VI.—WALKER URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the year 1902.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.		No. of Complaints received during the year.	No. of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected.	No. of Re-inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.	Results of Inspection.			House Drains.	Privies and Waterclosets.	Dust Bins.	Water Supply.			MISCELLANEOUS.										
					Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises.	Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, Whitewashed, &c.	Houses Disinfected after Illness of an Infectious Character.	Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.	Ventilated.	Repaired, &c.	Supplied with Water.	New provided.	Repaired, Covered, &c.	Cisterns (new) erected.	Cisterns Cleansed, Repaired, and Covered.	Water Pipes connected with Drains, &c., abolished.	No. of Lodging Houses registered under 35th section of the "Sanitary Act 1866," or 90th section of "Public Health Act 1875."	Dust Removal—No. of Communications received and attended to.	Removal of Accumulations of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse.	Animals Removed, being improperly kept.	Bakehouses.	Licensed Cowbeds.	Licensed Slaughter-houses.	Legal Proceedings, i.e., Summonses.
TOTALS...		8	1460	530	64	30	167	23	Nil.	26	1	44	Nil.	Constant	Supply.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	9	3	2
		8	1460	530	64	30	167	23	Nil.	26	1	44	Nil.	Constant	Supply.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.	Nil.	9	3	2

