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Wellingborough Rural District Council.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Wellingborough Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

It has again become my duty to present the usual Annual Report, which I shall do upon the same lines as heretofore.

The Wellingborough Rural District consists of three sub-divisions, with a combined population estimated at 16261, of which Earls Barton contains 8301, Finedon 1910, and Higham Ferrers 6044. The registered births have been 500, including 10 illegitimate. Those in the Earls Barton district have been 210, including 9 illegitimate. In the Finedon 84, with 1 illegitimate; and 236 in the Higham Ferrers district; this gives a birth rate of 30.549 per 1000 for the whole district, or 25.298 in the Earls Barton district, 43.989 in the Finedon district, and 39.047 in the Higham Ferrers district. The registered deaths have been 205 for the whole district; for the Earls Barton district 105, Finedon 31, and 69 for the Higham Ferrers district; thus giving a death rate of 12.606 per 1000 for the whole combined district, or 13.074 for Earls Barton, 16.230 for Finedon, and 11.476 for Higham Ferrers. The Infant mortality has been 10.476 per cent. in the Earls Barton District, 7.142 per cent. in the Finedon, and 7.281 in the Higham Ferrers district; this shows that out of every 100 children born in the whole district, 8.6 die before attaining the age of one year. This is a distinct improvement from last year which was 12.91 per cent.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

130 cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported, 64 in the Earls Barton district, 42 in the Finedon, and 24 in the Higham Ferrers district; of these, 13 have been under 5 years of age, 51 over in the Earls Barton district; 7 under 5 years, 35 over 5 years in the Finedon; and 5 under 5 years, 19 over 5 years in the Higham Ferrers District.

Smallpox.—No case has been reported. Vaccination has become a thing of the past, and no steps have been taken to enforce the Act.

Scarlet Fever.—Fifty-eight cases have been reported, 18 under 5 years of age, 40 over 5 years; of these 19 have been in the Earls Barton district, 7 under 5 years, 12 over 5 years; 21 in the Finedon, 6 under 5 years, 15 over 5 years; and 18 in the Higham Ferrers district, 5 under 5 years, 13 over 5 years, with not a single death.

Diphtheria.—No case has been reported.

Typhoid Fever.—Forty-nine cases have been reported, 34 in the Earls Barton district, 6 being under 5 years of age, 28 over 5 years; 15 in the Finedon district, 1 under 5 years, 14 over 5 years; no case has been reported in the Higham Ferrers district. The deaths from Typhoid have been 6, 2 under 5 years, 4 over 5 years, 5 being in the Earls Barton district, 2 under 5 years, 3 over 5 years; and one in the Finedon district over 5 years.

Measles is not included in the notification Act, I therefore cannot give the number of cases.

But there have been 8 deaths, 5 under 5 years of age, 3 over 5 years. All in the Earls Barton district.

Whooping Cough is not notifiable, and no deaths have been registered from that disease.

Diarrhoea has been fatal in 4 cases, 1 in the Earls Barton district under 5 years, and 3 in the Finedon district, 1 under 5 years, 2 over 5 years.

These statistics prove that the deaths from Zymotic Diseases have been 0.368 per 1000, and must be considered highly satisfactory. This I think must be owing to the very efficient system of disinfection adopted, as there is no Isolation Hospital in the district.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Phthisis has been fatal in 24 cases, 1 being under 5 years, 23 over; 12 of the cases took place in the Earls Barton District, 1 in the Finedon, and 11 in the Higham Ferrers District.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia have caused 24 deaths, 8 in the Earls Barton district, 2 being under 5 years, 6 over 5 years; 6 in the Finedon district, 4 under 5 years, 2 over 5 years; and 10 in the Higham Ferrers district, 3 under 5 years, 7 over 5 years.

Heart Disease.—Twenty-one deaths have been registered, 14 in the Earls Barton district, 1 being under 5 years, 13 over 5 years; 1 in the Finedon district over 5 years, and 7 in the Higham Ferrers over 5 years.

Influenza has caused 2 deaths, both in the Higham Ferrers district, one 53 years of age, and one 68 years.

Injuries.—There have been 5 deaths from Injuries, 1 in the Earls Barton district under 5 years; 1 in the Finedon over 5 years; and 3 in the Higham Ferrers district over 5 years of age.

In April last an outbreak of Measles occurred at Earls Barton, which on investigation, proved to have been imported from Northampton. In August, I reported the filthy state of the River Nene, owing to the influx of sewage from the Northampton Sewage Works, which caused an intolerable nuisance.

In September I reported an outbreak of Typhoid Fever at Great Doddington, which I am perfectly satisfied arose from the parties bathing in the river Nene, while in a polluted state as reported; 4 cases were reported one day, and all were in the habit of bathing in the river. There had been no case in Great Doddington for more than twelve months previously. The outbreak at Earls Barton was evidently caused by the milk from a farm at Great Doddington; there had been no case at Earls Barton for more than 3 years, and all the cases first reported, twelve in number, had milk from the farm where Typhoid Fever was reported to exist. No stronger proof could be found as to the origin, yet, in the face of these facts, I was abused in the local newspapers for giving an opinion, and called upon to contradict it as being false, which I treated with silent contempt; at the same time I gave the Authority an account of several outbreaks that had been proved to have originated from a polluted milk supply.

WATER SUPPLY.

I have repeatedly mentioned that the water supply is, with the exception of Earls Barton and Ecton, derived mostly from shallow wells, which are constantly liable to pollution, and that such is the case I have many times proved by analysis; in one case where it was contaminated by paraffin oil which was kept some distance away from the well; in another case where it was polluted with organic matter from a pig yard a few feet away, and also from the carcasses of several pigs, affected with Swine Fever, having been buried a short distance from a well. Anything better calculated to cause pollution cannot well be imagined.

DRAINAGE.

Earls Barton and Wollaston having established Sewage Farms, but are not at present completed. Great Doddington, Bozeat, Earls Barton, Grendon, Harrowden, Isham, Irthlingborough, Irchester, and Mears Ashby, have had sewers laid, and the drainage made much more satisfactory; there remains much to be done in other parts of the district. A quantity of meat, unfit for food, was seized by your Inspector, condemned, and the parties convicted and fined. I have examined numerous samples of water from various sources throughout the district, some of which were unfit for domestic use, and ordered to be closed. Several cases of overcrowding have been dealt with without extreme measures being resorted to. I have, from personal inspection at various times, made myself acquainted with the state of the district, and many improvements have been carried out and nuisances abolished. I have to tender my grateful thanks to your Inspector for his valuable assistance, and the admirable way in which he has accomplished his onerous duties.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Fred H. MORRIS, M.D.

Fel. Brit. Inst. Public Health.

January 27th, 1897.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

As Inspector of Nuisances for your District, I beg to submit to you my report for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

130 Cases have been visited, and dwellings fumigated and cleansed, etc., a good supply of disinfectants being supplied in every case. In one case only, namely, Scarlet Fever at Wollaston, I found it necessary to destroy bedding.

DWELLING HOUSES.

Thirteen have been repaired, 9 delapidated ones abolished, replaced by new ones. Eight overcrowding cases, and 16 filthy dwellings have been dealt with.

FOUL ACCUMULATIONS.

Forty-three foul accumulations and 113 pigs removed; 7 ashpits, 21 pigstys and 31 privys abolished; 40 cesspits have been filled in and closets made on the pail or dry earth system. Forty new closets erected, 16 cleaned, repaired, etc., and 11 receptacles provided.

PRIVATE DRAINS.

Twenty-five blocked and defective drains were repaired and cleaned, 49 gulleys provided in place of open gratings, 6 sink pipes disconnected, 5 urinals provided, 6 stables re-floored and drained, 20 old drains, laid with common field tiles, were taken up and re-laid with 4 inch or 6 inch glaze socket pipes.

WATER SUPPLY.

Through the District 7 wells have been cleaned out and repaired, 6 new frames and coverings provided.

Bakehouses, Dairies, and Slaughter Shops regularly inspected.

WORKSHOPS.

Eight new workshops have been provided, 7 overcrowding cases, and 7 filthy workshops remedied.

SEWERS.

Extension of Sewers have been laid at Bozeat, Earls Barton, Doddington, Grendon, Harrowden, Isham, Irchester, Irthlingborough, and Mears Ashby.

NOTICES.—Only 35 Statuary Notices have been issued. Three prosecutions have been instituted, viz.: One for exposing unsound meat for sale; No. 2, a person exposing herself in a public place while suffering from Scarlet Fever; No. 3, for making wearing apparel in a house where Scarlet Fever existed. Fines and costs amounting to £79 14s. were inflicted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE BAYES,

Inspector.

