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WELLINGBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
1906.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

BY

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

Fel. Royal Inst. of Public Health.

And the Sanitary Inspector,

GEORGE BAYES.

RUSHDEN :

CHAS. CROSS, "ECHO" OFFICE.



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Wellingborough Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT,

For the year ending December 31st, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

The Wellingborough Rural District consists of two sub-divisions, viz., the Wellingborough and the Higham Ferrers districts, with an estimated population of 13,671, of which the Wellingborough district comprises 6,350 and Higham Ferrers 7,321.

Births.

The registered births have been 306 for the whole district, of which 146 were in the Wellingborough district and 160 in the Higham Ferrers district, thus giving a birth-rate of 22·383 per 1,000.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered have been 75 in the Wellingborough district and 77 in the Higham Ferrers district, giving a death-rate of 11·111 for the whole district.

Infant Mortality.

The infant mortality has been 117·646 per 1,000 births for the whole district—123·285 in the Wellingborough district and 112· in the Higham Ferrers district.

Zymotic Diseases.

There have been 200 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year—117 in the Wellingborough district and 83 in the Higham Ferrers district.

Small-pox.—No case has been reported and vaccination has been efficiently carried out.

Scarlet Fever.—169 cases have been notified—94 in the Wellingborough district and 75 in the Higham Ferrers district, with one death in the Higham Ferrers district.

Diphtheria.—Two cases have been reported in the Wellingborough district, no death.

Whooping Cough has caused two deaths, both in the Higham Ferrers district.

Enteric Fever.—Seventeen cases have been reported in the Wellingborough district, with four deaths.

Erysipelas.—Eleven cases have been notified—four in the Wellingborough district and seven in the Higham Ferrers district, with one death.

Influenza has caused three deaths—two in the the Wellingborough district, one in the Higham Ferrers district.

Puerperal Fever.—One case has been reported—which was fatal, in the Higham Ferrers district.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis have caused eight deaths—four in the Wellingborough and four in the Higham Ferrers district.

Respiratory Diseases.

Bronchitis has caused twenty-one deaths—ten in the Wellingborough district and eleven in the Higham Ferrers district.

Phthisis.—There have been twelve deaths from this disease—five in the Wellingborough district and seven in the Higham Ferrers district.

Heart Disease

has been accountable for seventeen deaths—nine in the Wellingborough district and eight in the Higham Ferrers district.

Cancer and Malignant Disease

have been fatal in seven cases—one in the Wellingborough district and six in the Higham Ferrers district.

Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of the Liver

have caused two deaths, both in the Wellingborough district.

Two accidental deaths have been registered.

Water Supply.

During the year I examined several samples of water from different sources, many of which were polluted, and totally unfit for domestic use. Little Harrowden and Isham are badly in want of an efficient supply of good water. Isham and Irchester are taking steps for an efficient water supply. Wollaston is greatly in need of a water supply, the present being derived from shallow wells which often become polluted.

Drainage.

~~not~~ Drainage scheme has been completed at Isham which is now in a satisfactory condition. At Mears Ashby the sewage scheme is being carried out. At Bozeat an improved drainage system is being attended to and an additional septic tank provided. Wilby is still in the same condition and needs attention.

Remarks.

In July the Infant Schools at Irchester were closed for six weeks on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever.

The Schools at Sywell were closed for three weeks on account of contagious Impetigo.

Schools at Ecton and Earls Barton were closed for a short time on account of scarlet fever.

The infant mortality still continues too high. One of the principal causes is improper feeding. It has of late years become the custom for mothers to shirk the responsibility of nursing their off-spring and to resort to artificial feeding. This system will never be equivalent to the natural mode of feeding. Chemical science has made enormous strides during the last few years in the preparation of artificial foods, but it has not succeeded in decreasing the rate of infant mortality, and, depend upon it, never will. The only way, in my opinion, is for mothers to refrain from following the craze for pleasure and conform to a more natural state of existence.

During the last few years there has been a craze on the prevention of consumption, and authorities have been requested to spend a large amount of the ratepayers' money in building palatial sanatoria for the *treatment* of phthisis, as also to make the disease notifiable *cui bono*. Has notification prevented one single disease it promised to do? Vide the prevalence of scarlet fever, measles, etc. Epidemics have occurred at certain intervals and will continue to do so as long as the world lasts, notwithstanding the erection of isolation hospitals. As well expect any general or special hospital to prevent accidents or illness as that sanatoria will prevent consumption. Many cases improve under the constant supervision, diet, and treatment they receive while there, but how is it when they return to their homes in towns and resume their occupation in factories? The only way to prevent consumption is to lead a different life, more free from the continued bustle and love of pleasure and excitement of the present day.

There has for some years been an alarming increase of insanity, for which the striving to become rich, and the rage for pleasure, and the system of education are entirely responsible. Children of tender years are crammed with a parcel of useless knowledge until the brain becomes exhausted. I saw a short time since a report of an examiner of schools in which it was stated that children of four years of age were "sadly deficient in mental arithmetic." Does anyone wonder at the increase of insanity?

All factories, workshops, work-places, dairies, etc., have been visited and inspected at intervals during the year.

The low death-rate, 11·111 per 1,000, is in itself sufficient evidence of the sanitary state of the district, the average for England and Wales being 15 per 1,000.

In conclusion, I beg to thank your Inspector for the valuable assistance he has at all times so generously rendered in carrying out our duties.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED H. MORRIS, M.D.,

FEBRUARY, 1907.

Fel. Royal Inst. of Public Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
WELLINGBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

As Inspector of the Rural District Council of Wellingborough, I beg to submit to you my 15th Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1906.

Infectious Diseases.

During the year 200 notifications of cases of infectious disease have been received—an increase of 34 on the previous year, viz., 169 cases of scarlet fever, 17 typhoid or enteric fever, 11 of erysipelas, 2 of diphtheria, and 1 of puerperal fever. All the dwellings and infected bedding and clothing were fumigated and cleansed and in several cases bedding was destroyed and compensation given.

Table shewing cases of Infectious Disease in each Parish.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Scarlet.</i>	<i>Typhoid.</i>	<i>Erysipelas.</i>	<i>Diphtheria.</i>
Bozeat	26	0	1	0
Ecton	13	0	0	0
Earls Barton	72	15 (3 deaths)	3	1
Easton Maudit.....	0	0	0	0
Doddington	0	1	0	0
Grendon	1	0	1	0
Harrowden Great ..	0	0	0	0
Harrowden Little ..	0	0	0	0
Hardwick	0	1	0	0
Irchester	47 (1 death)	0	2	0
Isham	0	0	0	0
Mears Ashby	0	0	0	0
Newton Bromshold	0	0	0	0
Orlinsbury	4	0	0	0
Sywell	0	0	1	1
Strixton	0	0	0	0
Wilby	2	0	1	0
Wollaston	4	0	2	0
	169	17	11	2

The case of Peuperal Fever occurred at Irchester and proved fatal.

At Earls Barton, Irchester, and Ecton I found children attending school in the peeling stage of Scarlet Fever. The schools were closed, and six parents were prosecuted and fined.

At Bozeat, cases of fever existed at least six weeks before any were notified. Under such circumstances it is impossible to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Dwelling Houses.

Six new houses have been erected during the year, 32 dwellings put in repair, 3 dilapidated ones abolished, 3 closed, 5 overcrowding cases and 7 filthy dwellings dealt with.

Foul Accumulations.

Twelve foul accumulations and several animals were removed, 4 pigstyes and 9 ashpits closed, 5 cesspits filled in and closets made into the pail or dry earth system. Several closets at Isham have been connected with the new sewer, but this ought not to be allowed until there is an ample supply of water for flushing purposes. The scavenging throughout the district has been well done and arrangements are in hand for the collecting of night soil at Isham. This the Parish Council strongly object to.

Sewage Farms.

I have devoted a large amount of time to the management of the various outfalls and sewage farms and am pleased to report that as a whole they are well managed and now working satisfactorily.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Home Work.—Outworkers' lists were received from all the manufacturers in the district. The total number employed as outworkers in the district is 1,066, viz., 786 men and 280 women. All factories and workshops have been inspected and found satisfactory. One factory has been closed and a new one erected at Earls Barton.

Bakehouses have been visited and inspected and found well kept and clean with two exceptions. These were immediately attended to.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops

have been regularly inspected and improved drainage, light, and ventilation has been made at several of the farm premises. The dairies throughout the district are clean and well kept.

Yours truly,

GEORGE BAYES,

Sanitary Inspector.



