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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
**Medical Officer of
Health**


TO THE
Urban District Council

OF
WELLINGBOROUGH.

For the Year 1902.

Wellingborough:

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Annual Report.

The Chairman of the Urban District Council of Wellingborough.

SIR,

I beg herewith to submit my report for the year 1902.

The Population of the Town of Wellingborough at the last Census was 18,412. The number of inhabited houses being 4,047, giving an average number of persons per house of 4·5. The number of inhabited houses now is 4,294, being an increase of 247, and giving a Population at the same rate per house of 19,400. The Registered number of Births in 1902 was 438, 227 Males and 211 Females, giving a Birth-rate of 22·57. The Registered number of Deaths during the year was 216 resident, and 5 non-resident, total 221, giving the lowest death rate in the Wellingborough Urban District, viz., 11·1.

This is highly satisfactory and a matter of congratulation, as in spite of a very decided increase in the population, the actual number of deaths is considerably less, viz., in 1901, 232; in 1902, 216, and of these deaths 66 were in persons over 65 years of age, and 56 in children under one year, leaving only 81 deaths to be attributed to the conditions prevailing the Town.

These figures speak for themselves and testify to the excellent state of the sanitary arrangements in the Town.

The number of deaths from Phthisis is less than last year, viz., 16. The Deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia have much decreased, being 14 and 11 respectively, and in the deaths from Bronchitis 6 were in children under one year, and 5 from Pneumonia also under 1 year.

The number of Deaths from Cancer has increased, 10 out of the 19 occurring in persons over 65 years. The details of the cause of death will be found in Table IV. Of the 66 deaths of those over 65 years of age, 54 were actually over 70. November seems to have been the most fatal month, 29 deaths. April and December being next, both 25, and May 23. There were only 9 Deaths in July. No Deaths occurred from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, or Typhoid.

There was a marked and satisfactory decrease in the number of Zymotic diseases notified, only 79 notifications being sent in throughout the year.

There has not been any Epidemic.

There were 38 cases of Scarlet Fever and 23 Erysipelas, but they were equally spread over the town and throughout the year. The only approach to an Epidemic was in May, when there were nine cases of Small-Pox. One of these was a tramp, and none of the subsequent cases could be attributed to infection from him. He was isolated in the Small-Pox Hospital and cured. After that a fresh case occurred of a virulent type, the source of which could not be positively ascertained. The other cases arose from contact, and were for the most part of a severe type, the death rate being 50 per cent.

The persons attacked were all un-vaccinated, except 3, and of the 4 deaths, 3 were in un-vaccinated persons, and the 4th in a man who had not been re-vaccinated and was 53 years old. All the cases were treated in the Small-Pox Hospital, having been moved as quickly as possible.

Thanks to the ready manner in which the Urban Council supported the Medical Officer, the disease attained no alarming proportions and was speedily stamped out. The Sanitary Inspector worked indefatigably.

Of the 38 cases of Scarlet Fever, 7 were imported, 14 arose from direct infection, 5 were in places where the drainage was unsatisfactory, which has since been remedied, and the remainder from no apparent cause. Many of the cases being of a very mild character. The ages of those who had it will be found in accompanying Table of Infectious Notifications, No. III.

There were only 7 cases of Typhoid Fever, and of these 2 appeared to have arisen from eating shell fish, 1 from insanitary condition of drains, which have been remedied, 2 were imported, and there was nothing to indicate the source of infection in the other two cases.

Several notices have been served for the repairing of drains, &c., and in every case they have been properly attended to.

The Slaughter Houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops have been visited, and found on the whole satisfactory, where alterations and improvements were necessary, they have been carried out properly.

Disinfection has been carried out thoroughly and efficiently by the Sanitary Inspector. The "Formalin Process" sulphur and solution of chloride of lime being the means used.

House Refuse is removed weekly and destroyed by incineration. During the summer months I would strongly recommend the removal of refuse oftener if possible.

The Water Supply is from public service, and increased in quantity from an extra source. In nature it is well water, containing lime and iron, quite wholesome, free from pollution, being pumped from the wells, softened, filtered, and stored in closed, locked reservoirs.

The Isolation Hospital proved to be of the greatest benefit in the epidemic of Small-Pox in the month of May, and if another site, more isolated, can be selected for the Small-Pox Hospital, it would be a great benefit to the Town to retain the present Isolation Hospital as one for Infectious Diseases.

During the year 4 cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted, the only deaths occurring there being 4 from Small-Pox. I have visited the Lodging Houses and found them in a satisfactory condition. In the Registered Workshops any alterations suggested have been carried out.

From Systematic Inspections of the District and all parts of the Town any defects have been remedied as regards Drainage, Cesspits, Closets, Keeping of Pigs and Animals to be a nuisance, after notices have been served.

There was nothing found unfit for food and the public sales have been carefully watched. Sewers and Drains have been found to be satisfactory and Sewage carried away to the Irrigation Farm efficiently.

I wish to thank Mr. Dyson, the Sanitary Inspector for the efficient and valuable help he has rendered during the time he has been here.

I consider the Sanitary state of the Town to be in a most satisfactory condition. The Population has steadily increased, the death rate has considerably decreased. The number of notifications of infectious disease in less than it has ever been.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

Wm. WAKE CLARK, M.D., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health,

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table 1.—Vital Statistics of whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.
Name of District—Wellingborough.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents regis'ered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONG- ING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	Rate.*	3	4	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				Number.	Rate.*	
						Number.	Rate per 1000 Births regis'tered.	Number.						Rate.*
1	2													
1892 ...	15,402	470	31.17	61		260	16.8							
1893 ...	15,736	472	29.9	58		219	13.28							
1894 ...	16,070	430	26.75	60		213	12.63							
1895 ...	16,404	483	29.0	78	161.4	244	14.8							
1896 ...	16,738	488	29.0	59	120.9	230	13.41							
1897 ...	17,072	494	34.7	64	129.59	243	14.23							
1898 ...	17,406	502	28.8	68	135.45	219	12.38							
1899 ...	17,740	458	25.8	73	155.02	265	14.37							
1900 ...	18,074	489	27.0	58	116.56	256	14.16							
1901 ...	18,412	529	28.7	59	111.5	236	12.8							
Averages for years 1892-1901	16,905	481	28.4			238	14.0							
1902 ...	19,400	438	22.57	56	127.8	221	11.4	32	5		216	11.1		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Total population at all ages—18,412
Number of inhabited houses—4,017
Average number of persons per house—4.5 } At census of 1901.

I.		II.		III.	
Institutions within the District receiving Sick and infirm persons from outside the District.		Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.		Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.	
The Union Workhouse					

Table III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.
Name of District—Wellingborough.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.														
Small-pox	9		4	1	4										9					
Cholera																				
Diphtheria	1					1														
Membranous croup ...																				
Erysipelas	23		1	4	17	1														
Scarlet fever	38	4	11	18	3	2									4					
Typhus fever																				
Enteric fever	7		2	2	3															
Relapsing fever																				
Continued fever																				
Puerperal fever	1					1														
Plague																				
TOTALS	79	4	11	25	10	28									13					

Isolation Hospital, Wellingborough Urban District.

Table IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1902.
Name of District—Wellingborough.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).							TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox	4			2		2									4
Measles	2	1	1												
Scarlet Fever															
Whooping Cough	8	5	3												1
Diphtheria and mem- branus croup... ..															
Croup	2	2													
Fever { Typhus... ..															
{ Enteric															
{ Other continued															
Epidemic influenza															
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa (<i>See Notes at back</i>)	4	2	1	1											
Enteritis. (<i>See Notes at back</i>)	1	1													
Puerperal fever															
Erysipelas															
Other septic diseases	1					1									
Phthisis	16		1	1	3	11									2
Other tubercular dis- eases	2	1	1												
Cancer, malignant dis- ease	19					9	10								1
Bronchitis	14	6	1			1									1
Pneumonia	11	5	3	1	1	1									
Pleurisy															
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs															
Alcoholism															
Cirrhosis of liver	2					2									
Venereal diseases															
Premature birth	10	10													
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1				1										
Heart diseases	25	1	1	1		9	13								3
Accidents	5	3				2									
Suicides	1						1								1
Meningitis	6	2	3			1									
Senile decay	17						17								7
Marasmus	6	6													
All other causes	59	11	2	1	3	23	19								12
All causes	216	56	17	7	8	62	66								32

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9 Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-column c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera)

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained

by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

Wm. W. CLARK, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1903.

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W. H. CARR, M.D.

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