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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WELLINGBOROUGH,

for the Year 1904.

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PHILIP H. RAVEN

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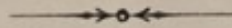
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Annual Report.



To the Wellingborough Urban Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Report for the year 1904.

It will be seen that in several respects it does not compare favourably with that of last year. The population has increased less, the birthrate is lower, the death rate higher. As regards the population there can be no marked increase until trade is better. The birthrate throughout the Country is lower than that of any other year on record, and our decrease is probably no greater than the general decrease in England and Wales.

The tables appended will sufficiently explain the death rate and show that the sanitary condition of the town has but little to do with its increase. I divide my Report as before into Five Clauses.

POPULATION. The number of inhabited houses in 1904 was 4483 giving a population of about 20,180 estimating 4·5 persons per house. In 1903 the number of houses was 4416 and the population estimated at 19,872 being an increase in 1904 of about 308.

BIRTH RATE. There ^{were} 482 births registered which gives a rate per 1000 inhabitants of 23·8 and is lower than it has ever been on record. Of these 482 births 258 were boys and 224 were girls.

DEATH RATE. The total number of deaths in the district was 250 giving a rate of 12·3 but of these, 25 deaths occurred in non-residents, giving a death rate of residents of 11·4 only.

There were 87 deaths of people over 65, and 61 of children under one year, 8 of which were premature birth, there were Eleven deaths of persons whose ages were from 1 year to 3 years, Eight, 5 years to 15 years, Ten, 15 to 25 years, and Seventy-three, 25 years to 65 years. There was one death from Diphtheria and one from Enteric. The deaths from Cancer, Phthisis, Heart Disease and Pneumonia average about the same as last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were more cases of infectious diseases notified this year, but of these a large proportion were Erysipelas. 96 notifications were received, 42 Erysipelas, 24 Scarlet Fever, 22 Enteric, 6 Diphtheria and 2 Puerperal. The cases of Puerperal, one occurred in March and the other in December.

SCARLET FEVER. The cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 were imported, 6 arose from direct infection and the rest there was no apparent cause. The cases were spread over the year, the greatest number being 7 in November.

DIPHTHERIA. Two cases were probably due to imperfect sanitary condition of drains, 1 from direct infection and the 3 other cases nothing could be ascertained regarding the origin of infection.

TYPHOID. There were 22 cases notified, of these 8 arose from imperfect hygienic conditions in the personal surroundings of the patients, 1 from drinking impure water obtained from the brook in the Castle Meadows, 6 were subsequent cases, 1 was imported, and for the remainder there was no apparent cause. Sixteen cases were notified in the three months of September, October and November, and none in December, the rest were in the earlier part of the year.

ERYSIPELAS. 42 cases were notified. It will be seen that Erysipelas greatly preponderates over other infectious diseases notified. It seems to me that the Urban District Council would lose nothing and gain a great deal if they eliminated this disease from their list of notifiable infectious diseases. No good is done by having it notified. It is extremely rare that its source can be discovered and nothing can be done to prevent its spread.

It is not infectious but contagious only. A great number of ruling bodies have already ceased to require the notification of Erysipelas. The notification of Erysipelas cost the Council £6 in the year 1904.

HYGIENIC CONDITION. The drainage of the town is good. The sewage is treated by Broad Irrigation at the Sewage Farm.

The water supply is from the public service. In nature it is well water, containing Lime and Iron, free from pollution, being pumped from the wells, softened, filtered and stored in closed locked Reservoirs. There has always been a plentiful supply but often there has been too much white sediment which after the softening process is deposited in the pipes from the Reservoir.

This inconvenient state requires remedying by flushing the main pipes frequently.

The Slaughter Houses have been visited throughout the year and the condition on the whole has been very fair. Complaints were made in two or three cases at the mode of removal of the offal, but the effect of the notices issued by the Council has been very good, so much so that all the offal at every Slaughter House in the District is removed directly after each killing. In cases where improvements were necessary, they have been properly done and if the regulations are carried out continually there does not seem to be any necessity for a Public Slaughter House for the Urban District of Wellingborough.

The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops have all been visited and found satisfactory. The requirements of the Factory and Workshops Act dealing with the lists of out workers have been duly carried out. The workshops have been visited and where notices have been served for improvements, they have been efficiently and properly done. According to the Report on Factories, Workshops, Laundries, &c., there were 300 Inspections of Workshops and Laundries, 12 of Workplaces and 10 of Home Workers' Premises. The defects found were 9 want of cleanliness which were remedied, There were 3 want of ventilation, also remedied, unsuitable sanitary accommodations 4, which were remedied, matters notified to H. M. Inspector of Factories, failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, 6. Underground Bakehouses in use at the end of 1904 were 3. Total number of Workshops on Register 180.

The Small Pox Hospital is situated a mile from the town and is quite isolated, it is in good order and ready for use.

The Isolation Hospital for Zymotic Diseases is in good condition, twelve cases received treatment there during the year, 2 Scarlet Fever and 10 Typhoid.

The Markets have been visited each Market Day, and no unsound or diseased food was discovered.

A Register is kept of all the Workshops in this District also of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

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

Disinfection either by the Formalin process or Sulphur has been carried out personally by the Sanitary Inspector after each infectious case.

In referring to the disposal of sewage I should have mentioned that in the Autumn there was a question raised as to the fitness of the milk supplied by the Sewage Farm Dairy for human food. There were several complaints from various consumers and it was thought advisable to have an analysis of specimens made. The Analysis found the milk not only good and wholesome but even richer in nourishing constituents than average good milk. If consumers had really cause for complaint it may be assumed that the defects occurred after the milk passed into other hands and were not attributable to its source.

On the whole it will be seen that the health of the town has been good. There has been no epidemic and the increased number of infectious cases was due to no defects in the general hygienic conditions of the town. In cases in which a satisfactory cause could be found it was with direct infection or some entirely local imperfection in the drainage system many of which must from time to time come under observation in every town and especially in one with ancient yards, alleys and passages.

In conclusion I must say that if the trade of the town improves, so also will two of the chief indices of its well being, viz: its population and its birth rate.

I thank Mr. Dyson, the Sanitary Inspector, for his valuable help throughout the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WM. W. CLARK, M.D.,

M. O. H.,

Urban District Council, Wellingborough.

Table I. Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	16,070	430	26.75	60		213	12.63					
1895	16,404	483	29	78	161.4	244	14.8					
1896	16,738	488	29	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	58	116.56	256	14.14	33	13		243	12.1
1901	18,412	529	28.7	59	111.5	236	12.8	36	6		230	12.5
1902	19,400	438	22.57	56	127.8	221	11.4	32	5		216	11.1
1903	19,872	511	25.7	50	97.8	232	11.68	42	19		213	10.7
Averages for years 1894-1903.												
1904	20,180	482		61		250		54	25		225	

*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Resident" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).	3905.	} At Census of 1901.
Total population of all ages—18,412.		
Number of inhabited houses—4,047.		
Average number of persons per house—4.5.		

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
<p>WORKHOUSE</p> <p>COTTAGE HOSPITAL</p>		
Is the Union Workhouse within the District? YES.		

Table II. Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

Names of Localities.	1				2				3				4				5				6				7			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1894	16,070	430	213	60																								
1895	16,404	483	244	78																								
1896	16,738	488	230	59																								
1897	17,072	494	243	64																								
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1901	18,412	529	236	59																								
1902	19,400	438	216	58																								
1903	19,872	511	213	50																								
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903																												
1904	20,180	482	225	61																								

Table III. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

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.	65 and upwards														
Small-pox																					
Cholera																					
Diphtheria	6		3		3																
Membranous croup ..																					
Erysipelas	42		2	2	6	26	6														
Scarlet fever	24		8	11	5																
Typhus fever																					
Enteric fever	22		2	4	10	6															
Relapsing fever																					
Continued fever.....																					
Puerperal fever	2				2																
Plague																					
Totals - - -	96		15	17	26	32	6														

Isolation Hospital, Wellingborough.

Table IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESIDENTS OR NON "RESIDENTS" IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
1	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Small-pox															
Measles															
Scarlet fever															
Whooping-cough	3	2		1											
Diphtheria and membranous croup	1			1											
Croup															
Fever { Typhus	1			1											
Enteric															
Rheumatic															
Other continued					1										
Epidemic influenza															
Cholera															
Plague															
Diarrhœa (See notes at back)	14	13					1								1
Enteritis (See notes at back)	9	8	1												
Puerperal fever (See notes at back)	1					1									
Erysipelas	1						1								1
Other septic diseases ..															
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	22			1	1	18	2								6
Other tubercular diseases	4	3	1												
Cancer, malignant disease. (See notes at back)	17					12	5								3
Bronchitis	16	3	2			3	8								5
Pneumonia	11	2	3	2		1	3								1
Pleurisy															
Other diseases of Respiratory organs															
Alcoholism															
Cirrhosis of liver }															
Venereal diseases															
Premature birth	8	8													
Diseases and accidents of parturition															
Heart diseases	19				1	13	5								3
Accidents	5			1	1	1	2								1
Suicides															
Senile Decay	28						28								11
All other causes	64	19	3	2	5	17	18								22
All causes	224	58	10	9	9	66	73								54

For notes on this Table see next page.

Notes referring to Table IV.

- (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-columns 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.

Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

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. WAKE CLARK, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	300	8	
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)			
Workplaces			
Homeworkers' Premises	10		
Total	322	12	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	9	9		
Want of ventilation	3	3		
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accom- modations { insufficient	3	3		
unsuitable or defective				
not separate for sexes..				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (S. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) ..				
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107)				
Giving out work to { unwholesome (S. 108) be done in prem- { infected (S. 114) ..	1	1		
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (S. 109)		*		
Other offences				
Total	17	17		

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.		Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)		6
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspector	2
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors.	2
Other		
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—		
In use during 1903		3
Certificates granted	{ in 1903	1
	{ in 1904	2
In use at the end of 1904		3
Homework :—		Number of
<i>List of Outworkers</i> (S. 107) :—		Lists. Out-workers.
Lists received		28 277
Addresses of outworkers	{ forwarded to other Authorities ..	4
	{ received from other Authorities ..	5
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises</i> :—		Wearing Apparel; Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)		1
Cases of Infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises ..		
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110) ..		
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.		175
<div>Important classes of work-shops, such as work-shop, bakehouses, may be enumerated here.</div>		
Total number of workshops on Register		180

