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Contributors

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WEYMOUTH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31ST DECEMBER, 1913.

WM. HAWKINS, M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health,

“Hillfield,” Broadwey, Dorchester.



Rural District Council.

To the Rural District Council of Weymouth.

3rd MARCH, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report for the year 1913, under the headings suggested by the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Dorset.

Area in acres 29,005.

PHYSICAL FEATURES.

The district lies on the South Coast facing the Sea, and is an undulating valley with low hills, sheltered on the north by a range of limestone hills between four and six hundred feet high. From these hills several streams of good water flow to the sea, and the larger villages are situated on the streams.

Climate is very good; the sunshine compares favourably with any of the South Coast resorts, and the sea breezes from the English Channel are most refreshing. The rainfall for last year was under 35 inches, and this is about the average.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND CHIEF OCCUPATIONS.

The population is chiefly agricultural, with some market gardening and fishing, the women doing a great deal of laundry work for the neighbouring Borough. There are some large villages, that of Wyke Regis being almost a town. Here there is a large factory for making torpedoes, which employs at the present time about 1,200 men.

POOR LAW RELIEF AND GRATUITOUS MEDICAL RELIEF.

The amount of Poor Law Relief in this District compares favourably with most other Unions, being less in quantity, and is gradually diminishing; but the same cannot be said for gratuitous medical relief, which is very liberal and does not decrease in the same ratio.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply throughout the whole of the Rural District may be considered adequate and satisfactory. In many of the villages pipe services are laid down, and are supplied either by the Weymouth Waterworks Company or by private enterprise.

- The following villages are supplied by the Weymouth Waterworks Company, Preston and Sutton Poyntz, Chickerell, Wyke Regis, Broadwey, and part

of Upwey. The hamlet of Charlestown is supplied by the Council; a pipe supply for this hamlet was laid down about sixteen years ago and the water is purchased by meter from the Weymouth Company.

A part of the village of Upwey (Elwell Street) has not at present a proper supply, but the Council have now made satisfactory arrangements for obtaining one from the Waterworks of the Portland Urban District Council. The scheme has been approved by the Local Government Board, and the Contract for the work accepted; probably before this Report is in print the works will be in hand. Your Sanitary Inspector has given the above Scheme a very considerable amount of attention and time, and when the works are completed it will be a great boon to the inhabitants of the premises at present without a proper supply.

The village of Portisham has a pipe supply under the control of the Parish Council. This was laid down to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, and the expense was met by public subscriptions.

The Village of Buckland Ripers is still without a good supply of water, and the Inspector and your Council have taken this matter in hand for a considerable time past, but unfortunately the legal difficulties to be arranged have not yet been overcome. I understand that quite recently a special report was sent to the Local Government Board, setting out the case as it now stands. This water supply also affects the School mentioned in my last Annual Report as being without a proper water supply.

No doubt the exertions of the Council and your Inspector will in the near future prove successful, and a proper supply be obtained for this small village.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The only river of importance in the district is the river Wey. This flows through Upwey, Broadwey and Radipole, and discharges into the Weymouth Backwater. There are smaller streams in some of the other villages.

Pollution of these streams may be considered very slight and every care is taken to prevent such pollution, which arises at times from the various premises abutting on the said streams, and in other cases from the existence of old overflow drains ; the Council will not allow the waste water from any new premises to be discharged into these streams. This was a frequent source of pollution in past years.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No regular system, except at Wyke Regis which is the largest village in the district. This system was laid down in 1902 and has proved a great success. The method of disposal here is by means of septic tanks and sludge pits, with land irrigation and continuous filters. The purified effluent is then allowed to discharge into the Portland Harbour. The works have been recently inspected by the officials in charge of the Harbour and the samples of the effluent then obtained were found to be very satisfactory.

Very few houses in the above district remain to be connected up to the main sewers ; some of these are cottages mainly in occupation by the owners, and upon whom the cost of reconstructing and connecting to the main sewers is a serious financial consideration. The

Council are desirous of allowing time for such work to be done provided the present sanitary conditions are fairly satisfactory. Several of the owners propose to carry out the necessary works in a short time.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

This may be considered good throughout the district.

The approximate number of water closets...	...	...	794
Earth closets	...	...	917
Privies	...	...	480
Number converted to w.c.'s during the year	...	...	3
Number converted to earth closets during the year	...	...	9

SCAVENGING.

Scavenging is only undertaken in one village within the Rural District—Wyke Regis. This work is let off by contract to a farmer, who collects such refuse twice weekly and carts it away to his farm for manure, and the waste paper, etc., is burned at the same time.

The other villages collect and use house refuse as manure for the various gardens and allotments.

The Council does not undertake the emptying of cesspools or privies; the occupiers do this and treat the contents thereof for use as manure of gardens as above. Very few complaints are received as to nuisances arising from the neglect to empty such cesspools or privies; the occupiers usually recognise the value of such contents for their gardens. There is no destructor for this district.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS BY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

Inspections are usually made in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, and the information is contained in his report. The following information was noted by the Medical Officer :—

Dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairy sheds and yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

DEFECTS OR NUISANCES DISCOVERED IN DWELLINGS.

Dampness in walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Windows not made to open on top	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cleansing required	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Drains defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
General repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vaults require emptying	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse near premises to be removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Lime-washing to be carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors requiring attention	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains ditto	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

DAIRY SHEDS.

Yards and shed, imperfect drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors requiring attention	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Lime-washing necessary	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Manure to be removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

All the above works have had attention, and the necessary works carried out under the supervision of your Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

(MR. GEO. A. ANDREWS, A.R.S.I., *Sanitary Inspector*).

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	837
Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	103
Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	78
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	39
Slaughter-houses	..	...	...	...	...	38
Dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	...	501
Sundry premises, and Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	85
Informal notices sent out	...	...	...	...	...	81
Formal ditto	...	...	...	...	...	2
Complaints received	..	...	...	...	...	14

WORKS FOUND NECESSARY AND CARRIED OUT.

Limewashing of premises	...	...	...	...	...	8
General repairs, roofs and floors, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains stopped and cleared	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drains repaired, trapped, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	31
Re-drainage and new drainage	..	..	..	..	..	22
New W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	21
W.C.'s supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drains tested (old)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Tests made of new drains	...	...	...	...	...	47
Vaults and cesspools discarded	...	...	...	...	...	7
Vaults emptied...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cesspools (new)...	...	..	..	..	..	4
Earth closets in lieu of privies	...	..	..	..	..	9
Earth closets put in good repair	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ditches adjoining premises cleaned out	...	...	...	...	...	8
Premises generally cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	32
Premises overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises supplied with water	...	...	...	...	...	12

PREMISES DISINFECTED AFTER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	9
Diphtheria	..	...	...	...	..	6
Cancer	...	...	..	...	..	1
Consumption	...	...	...	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	..	1
Erysipelas	...	..	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	1
Removal of Manure	...	...	...	...	..	4
Stables and piggeries repaired, cleansed, and floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New styres erected	..	...	...	...	...	2

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Limewashing necessary and carried out	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains repaired or altered as necessary	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Premises without sufficient lighting and Ventilation, (work carried out).	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ditto supplied with water.	...	..	..	..	..	1

PREMISES CONTROLLABLE BY BYELAWS.

We have no common lodging houses nor offensive trades—there ~~are~~^{is} one van dweller at Charlestown and some tents along the coast during the summer months.

SCHOOLS.

The schools in the district may be considered satisfactory, both as regards the premises and the sanitary arrangements, and all the buildings have an efficient water supply with the exception of Buckland Rippers school referred to on an earlier page of this Report. Upwey and Broadwey schools were cleansed and disinfected during the summer months.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk trade may be considered satisfactory throughout the district, and the quality of milk produced very good.

Frequent inspections of the cattle and premises are made, especially during the period of milking. Any animal suspected of being tuberculous is at once noted and a Veterinary Surgeon called in to inspect and confirm the state of health of the animal in question. The cattle, on the whole, are well selected and carefully kept.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The regulations as to the above premises are carefully observed, and few complaints have been made or received during the year.

Taken as a whole, the cowsheds are in good condition ; a very marked improvement can be observed since the adoption of the Act. During the past year one new cow shed has been erected, the premises being well constructed and kept. Two other sheds have been refloored and drained and are now in a proper state of repair; several minor alterations to premises have been carried out during the past year. The lime-washing of the above premises is now carried out by the occupiers without much trouble to your Inspector or myself. The necessary repairs etc., have in every case been carried out upon informal notices being served upon the owners and occupiers, without further or legal action.

A cow suffering from advanced tuberculosis was traced by the Inspector, and upon advice the owner allowed the animal to be killed in his presence and the carcass buried. The Inspector of Cruelty to Animals very kindly assisted in the above case and slaughtered the animal.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are fifty-four registered cowkeepers, Dairy-men, purveyors of milk on the register as follows :—

Cow keepers	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	42
Dairymen	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	9
Purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	3
Number of Cowsheds in use	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Number of milk shops in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakehouses in the district is 13 ; these premises are well kept and there are none underground.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 10 Slaughter-houses in the district, but, as before reported, one is very seldom used. These premises are not licensed or registered. They are well kept and generally satisfactory as regards repairs and cleanliness ; one of the above has recently been enlarged and provided with drainage and new floors, also additional ventilation and lighting. These are inspected by your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector, the visits being timed to be when killing is in progress, and the carcasses are inspected for disease. No cases have arisen during the year to render legal action necessary. The lime-washing and cleansing of the premises are carefully attended to.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The bread of the district is particularly good.

Two butcher's shops are well kept and are inspected by your Medical Officer and Inspector ; one carcass was condemned on account of tuberculosis.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The following samples have been taken and sent for analysis during the year 1913.

Formal samples and number of each—

Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	..	9
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cheese	...	...	..	...	...	...	2
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pepper	...	...	...	...	..	...	1
Brandy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Baking Powder...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The sample of Brandy was found adulterated and a Prosecution followed.

Informal samples and number of each—

Castor oil	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lard	...	..	...	...	..	1
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whiskey...	...	...	...	...	..	1
Brandy	...	...	...	...	..	1
Ground Ginger...	..	...	...	...	...	1
Liquorice Powder	..	...	..	...	...	1

The sample of Brandy was found adulterated.

HOUSING.

Fairly good, but room for improvement. In many of the villages the premises are old, but kept in a fair state of repair, and the owners are willing to undertake necessary repairs upon instructions and reports by the officials.

At Wyke Regis the demand is now not so great for houses owing to the lesser number of men at the Torpedo Works, and also to the fact that a number of the men prefer to live in the Borough of Weymouth, where there are advantages for amusement. The number of new houses erected in this village during the past year is two, and four other small houses are in course of erection.

At Preston a demand for new cottages probably exists, but in this village, as it is in so many other places adjoining Weymouth, the new houses when erected are quickly taken by persons from outside the Rural District, who are anxious to live in the country for the dual advantages of less rent and rates, and in consequence such new houses are quickly let to persons other than the villagers. This is due to the increased rents that such persons are able to pay above the amount that can be reasonably paid by persons living in the said villages.

The above remarks apply to the villages of Preston, Upwey and Broadwey, especially to the two last-named on account of the facilities of Rail Motors allowing persons engaged in the town to get in and out quickly. The total number of new dwellings erected in the district under the jurisdiction of your Council during the past year is 10.

Building Byelaws are in force in the whole of the Rural District, and it is compulsory for plans for all new premises to be submitted to and approved by the Rural District Council. These Byelaws have been approved by the local Government Board.

ACTION UNDER 1909 ACT, HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

The following inspections have been made by your Inspector at times in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health.

Premises inspected	67
Representations with view to repairs necessary, or closing order to Local Authority	13
Closing orders	<i>nil</i>

CHARACTER OF DEFECTS.

Overcrowding of premises	1
Vaults in bad state of repair	5
Earth closets ditto	3
Windows not opening on top	3
Internal repairs, floors, etc.	6
Redrained—premises previously drained to cesspool, now connected to sewer	3
New trapped gullies	8
Roof repairs	2
Yards repaved, etc.,	3
Old drain under premises taken up and altered to position outside of premises (affecting four cottages)	1

Only two cases of overcrowding, and all the above have been attended to and remedied under the supervision of the Inspector.

There were no closing orders and no dwellings demolished.

WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are 67 Workshops and Workplaces in the district; these are subject to frequent inspection. No prosecutions have been necessary during the year.

The defects have been remedied upon the instructions of the Inspector without further trouble.

The only Factory in the district is the Whitehead Torpedo Works at Wyke Regis. This Factory is under strict Government supervision, and at the present time the number of employees is about 1,200.

WORKSHOPS.

Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Written notices sent	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prosecutions	...	...	...	...	...	...	<i>Nil</i>

DEFECTS FOUND IN WORKSHOPS.

Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Lime-washing not properly attended to	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff, Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. Sanitary Inspector works under direction of and reports to Medical Officer of Health.

LOCAL AND ADOPTIVE ACTS.

These are few in number—

- Building Byelaws.
- Dairy and Cowshed Byelaws.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Waters analysed by the various companies, and samples are occasionally sent to the Clinical Research Association, and also by the Medical Officer of Health.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

Specimens are sent to the Clinical Research Association, and also to the Medical Officer of Health of the Borough of Weymouth. Swabs from two cases of Diphtheria were examined with a positive result.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General Measures of Inquiry and Prevention—

In case of a notification of infectious disease, the home is visited without delay by the Medical Officer of Health, and enquiry is made as to possible contact, as to the milk supply, and, if in doubt, the dairy from which the milk comes is visited, the water supply and the sanitary arrangements are examined. If the child attends school, the school is visited, and the children sitting near in the class are observed. The child is carefully isolated at home or sent to the Hospital, and at the end of the illness, the rooms occupied by the patient are carefully disinfected.

Notifications received for 1913 :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	..	...	...	...	1
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	8

Of the 6 cases of Diphtheria notified this year, 4 were from Church Street, Upwey, in June and July. They were duly tested by sending a swab to the Clinical Research Association, and the answer came back, "True Diphtheria." The patients were at once removed to the Hospital, and the schools were closed and disinfected, and although there were several bad throats among the children, and it looked as if we were likely to have an epidemic, no other serious cases occurred. One of these patients, an adult, who was removed to the Hospital, was very seriously ill and remained in a weak state for some time.

There were 5 cases of Scarlet Fever of mild type in Broadwey and Upwey, and 2 from Wyke Regis; 2 of these were treated in their own homes and the others sent to Hospital. The cause of the Erysipelas was inexplicable, it occurred in a new house at Broadwey and appeared to be ideopathic.

Influenza was the cause of 3 deaths.

Measles and Mumps interfered with school attendance in Wyke Regis during April, May, and July, and German Measles in July.

Chickerell school suffered from Measles in July, and in this month Radipole and Bincombe schools were closed by the same disease.

Impetigo was prevalent amongst the Infants at Chickerell during the winter months.

MEANS OF DISINFECTION.

Rooms are fumigated by means of Formalin lamps, clothing and bedding by Carbolic Acid, Sulphur and Cyllin.

School-rooms are sprayed with a solution of Jeyes' fluid.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The accommodation is good and sufficient, only 14 cases have been admitted here during the past year.

Arrangements have now been completed with the Urban District Council of Portland for the joint use of the Isolation Hospital. It is hoped that such arrangements will work satisfactorily, and the cost of upkeep of premises and staff will be shared by both Councils, to the advantage of the ratepayers.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Sixteen cases were notified, eleven of them being Pulmonary or Lung Tuberculosis.

The other five were Tuberculous disease of some other organs of the body, *e.g.*—Brain, Kidney, Elbow Joint, Larynx, etc. These have been notified under a new order from the beginning of 1913.

The homes were visited by the Medical Officer of Health, or your Inspector, disinfectants were supplied and instructions given, and also printed leaflets on "How to avoid spreading the Infection to others." Two cases died during the year, and their rooms and bedding were fumigated.

PREVENTION OF INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Much is being done by the better class of Midwives instructing the mothers in Infant feeding. Officers are appointed under the Infant Life Protection Act, 1908, to look after children, and children boarded out from the Union are under the supervision of ladies from the villages who frequently report on them. The Infant mortality from this district is lower than it has been for the last thirteen years.

 VITAL STATISTICS.

Population estimated to the middle of 1913	...	8,400
Birth rate	... ..	22·3
Corrected Death Rate	... ..	9·6
Zymotic Death Rate...	... ..	nil
Infantile Mortality (Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births)		47·8
Number of Inhabited houses...	... ..	2,181

These may be considered very satisfactory.

Trusting you will consider this a favourable Report,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HAWKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

To H. A. HUXTABLE, Esq.,
 Clerk to the Rural District Council,
 Weymouth.

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

In SENATE, January 15, 1907.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR 1906

ALBANY:

ANDREW DEWEY, GOVERNOR

WILLIAM F. WALKER, COMMISSIONER

ALBANY: JAMES B. WARD, PRINTERS

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