

**[Report 1920] / Medical Officer of Health, Windermere U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Windermere (Westmorland, England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1920

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/d39ef7mm>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WINDERMERE  
URBAN DISTRICT.

---

---

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

---

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

**1920.**

---

---

KENDAL :

PRINTED BY ATKINSON & POLLITT, STRICKLANDGATE.

1921.

## URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WINDERMERE.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Windermere.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual Report for the year 1920, compiled in accordance with your instructions and those of the Ministry of Health.

The advent of a new Census to be taken this year will greatly facilitate the correct compilation of Statistics and Ratios.

My thanks are extended to your Officials who have rendered me excellent assistance on all occasions, as also to the members of the Medical Profession, whose willing co-operation has been a most valuable asset towards a constructive policy of preventive medicine.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health.

March 21st, 1921.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the  
Year ended December 31st, 1920.**

---

Area (Land and Water) ... ..	9,907 acres.
Population (Census, 1911) ... ..	5,147
Population (Local estimate) ... ..	5,770
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)... ..	5,379
Inhabited Houses ... ..	1,280
Average Population per house ... ..	4.53

The Urban District of Windermere is one of the most beautifully situated spots in England, and comprises the two Districts of Windermere and Bowness, which practically merge into one another. Windermere being some 350 feet above ordnance datum, whilst Bowness rising from the level of Lake Windermere at about 130 feet gradually ascends to the higher ground on which Windermere is situated. The whole District is situated on the upper Silurian formation (Coniston Slate and Flags). The water derived from this source is pure and soft.

Windermere is a pleasure and health resort with large Hotels and Boarding Houses. There are few industries, the chief of which are:—

- Cake and Sweetmeat Factory.
- Iron Works.
- Gas Works.
- Electricity Works.
- Building and Allied Trades.
- Launches, Yacht and Boat Building.

None of these have any particular influence on Public Health.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.							Deaths.			Infant Deaths.					
Crude.	Corrected.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Rate per 1,000 Population.	Crude.	Corrected.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 births.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 births.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 births.
78	80	48	31	1	0	14·8	57	60	11·1	5	63	1	1000	6	75

## COMPARATIVE RATES.

District.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths
Windermere .. ..	14·8	11·1	75
Westmorland ... ..	21·6	13·9	66
England and Wales ..	25·4	12·4	80

### ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause.	1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Under 1 year.
Convulsions						1				1
Bronchitis ...						1				1
Ateleitasis ...	1				1					1
Prematurity	3				3					3
	4				4	2				6

Still births notified 2.

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Cancer.	Organic Heart Disease.	Bronchitis.	Other Re-operating Diseases.	Parturition.	Congenital Debility.	Violence.	Suicide.	Other Defined Diseases.	Ill-defined Diseases.	TOTAL.
2	11	10	2	1	1	3	3	1	25	1	60

### SPECIAL DEATH RATES per 1,000 Population.

Influenza.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Cancer.	Parturition.
0	0.37	2.04	0.18

The amount of Poor Law Relief is indicated by the following facts :—

Average daily population in Institutions (Kendal Union) ... ..	163
Annual population receiving Outdoor Relief in Windermere ... ..	5

The Westmorland County Hospital of 50 beds meets the greater part of the needs of this District.

#### SANITARY CONDITION OF DISTRICT.

##### *Water.*

The water supply is from a reservoir on the fells, to the north of Windermere. On account of the very wet Summer, the scarcity which existed in 1918 and 1919, has not been experienced this year. It would, however, be unwise to overlook the fact that the future of Windermere must largely depend on the success of its water supply, this being essential for the development of the District.

The quality of the water is good and the supply constant; it is soft but has no plumbo-solvent action.

##### *Rivers and Streams.*

There is very little pollution and the County Council Inspector has not drawn attention to any serious condition.

##### *Drainage and Sewerage.*

There is a system of rain water drains, separated from the sewers, which discharges into streams. There are two sewage disposal works at present, one for the larger part of Windermere at Beemire, and the remainder is dealt with at Braithwaite Fold; these have not been quite adequate and a new scheme of settling tanks and bacterial filters was inaugurated in 1914, but the war stopped completion. This is situated at Tower Wood,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of Bowness, and is complete except for filtering media. As soon as this is obtained an excellent system will be inaugurated and will be sufficient to meet all demands.

##### *Closet Accommodation.*

There are approximately 2,641 closets in the District, as follows :—

Water closets (washout, 1 washdown) ...	2624
Automatically flushed ... ..	17
Privies ... ..	83
Pail closets ... ..	19
	<hr/>
Total ...	2743
	<hr/>

The privies and pail closets are for the most part at outlying dwelling houses and farms outside the sewerage area.

There have been no recent conversions.

The number of ashpits is 200, and of ashbins 225.

There have been no recent conversions.

*Public Lavatories.*

The income from the Public Lavatories amounted to £57 15s. 6d. As stated in Mr. Hines' report of 1919, the need for additional conveniences is very urgent; this is most apparent in the summer months.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

There have been about 150 visits of inspection made, and the following nuisances discovered:—

Drains defective or choked	...	...	9
Sewers defective or choked	...	...	2
Cesspools emptied	...	...	3
Water closet defective	...	...	1
Ashbins insufficient or defective	...	...	6
Accumulation of manure	...	...	2
Effluvia	...	...	2
Cellar flooded	...	...	1
			—
		Total	26
			—

There was one Statutory Notice served, and 10 Informal Notices. The nuisances were abated.

In addition the following work was carried out:—

New drains tested	...	...	18
Old drains tested	...	...	8
			—
		Total	26
			—

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Slaughter-houses	...	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	12
			—
		Total	14
			—

There are no offensive trades, nor any underground sleeping rooms.

*Slaughterhouses.*

The two Slaughterhouses of the District have been periodically inspected, and have been found to be clean and in order.

*Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.*

All dairies and cowsheds in the District have quite recently been inspected, and were found to be generally satisfactory with regard to personal management and cleanliness, but structural improvements might be made with advantage to lighting and ventilation. About 200 cows were being milked in December.

*Other Sanitary Matters.*

A communication was received from the Medical Officer of Health, Liverpool, regarding 3 shaving brushes, which had been consigned to Windermere, of a class amongst which Anthrax infection had been discovered. Two of these were returned to the original vendors, and one had been sold and could not be traced.

*Schools.*

The sanitary conditions of the schools is good, and sufficient and suitable conveniences on the water-carriage system are provided.

The water supply is good, being derived from the public main. There were no school closures.

Active co-operation exists between the School Medical Officer and the Medical Officer of Health.

## FOOD.

*(a) Milk Supply.*

The supply is good in quantity and wholesome in character, and the arrangements for distribution are satisfactory.

No tuberculous milk was discovered.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.—Are under the control of the Police, as also the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Milk (Mothers' and Childrens') Order, 1918.—Is administered by the County Medical Officer of Health.

*(b) Meat.*

Slaughterhouses have been well kept.

No Public Slaughterhouses exist, and there is free access to both private Slaughterhouses, and notification is made immediately by butchers where any diseased carcass is found.

No meat has been condemned for tuberculosis or other disease.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

		In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec., 1920.
Registered	...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Licensed	...	3	2	2
		—	—	—
Totals	...	3	2	2
		—	—	—

(c) *Other Foods.*

There has been no unsound food discovered. The sanitary condition of premises where food is prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, has been good, and no action was required to be taken in respect of them. No case of food poisoning occurred.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

		Number.	Inspections.	Notices.
Factories	...	11	Nil.	Nil.
Workshops	...	64	10	1
Workplaces	...	5	10	Nil.
		—	—	—
Total	...	80	20	1
		—	—	—

The notice referred to separate sanitary accommodation, and has been remedied.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There has been little infectious disease. Of Scarlet Fever, 3 cases occurred in one house and 2 in another.

School intimations of Infectious Disease have been largely utilized, as also have bacteriological aids in suitable cases.

No Primary Vaccinations or Re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There has been no Influenza epidemic during the year, but the following precautions have been taken to meet any outbreak:—

1. An emergency committee was appointed with full powers to incur any expense in connection with additional nursing assistance, domestic helps, and the distribution of food.
2. Leaflets on the subject of Influenza were distributed to every house.
3. Stational Vaccination for prophylactic purposes was arranged for.

No facilities exist for the cleansing of verminous persons.  
Notification of Tuberculosis by Medical Practitioners has been efficient.

The Tuberculosis work and that of Venereal Diseases is in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Cases.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	7	3
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ... ..	3	1
	—	—
Total ... ..	11	5
	—	—

Seven rooms were disinfected and 6 loads of bedding sterilized in the steam disinfectant.

#### *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

This work is under the control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

#### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

##### 1.—*Staff.*

There is 1 Inspector, who also acts as Surveyor, assisted by a Clerk. Mr. C. E. Hines having been appointed County Surveyor, his place has been taken by Mr. F. W. E. Vanstone.

##### 2.—*Hospital Accommodation.*

An excellent little hospital of 20 beds is available for isolation of infectious disease; it is situated at Lickbarrow and is well equipped in every respect; the administration is good. There is no local hospital for Small-pox, but such accommodation is provided at the Kendal Small-pox Hospital, when required.

##### 3.—*Local Acts.*

The following are in operation :—  
Sanitary Clauses of Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.  
Sanitary Clauses of Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907.  
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Bye-Laws for :—

- Private Scavenging.
- Prevention of Nuisance.
- New Streets and Buildings.

Cemeteries.  
 Open Spaces and Pleasure Grounds.  
 Hackney Carriages.  
 Omnibuses.  
 Pleasure Boats and Vessels.  
 Regulations under section 13, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops  
 Order, 1895.  
 Regulations under Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.  
 The administration of these is effectively carried out.

#### 4.—*Laboratories.*

The Combined Districts of Westmorland have established local Laboratories at Kendal for chemical and bacteriological examinations.

Examinations made for Windermere numbered 24, as follows :

Diphtheria	...	...	...	20
Tubercle	...	...	...	1
Typhoid	...	...	...	1
Malaria	...	...	...	1
Blood Infection	...	...	...	1
				—
			Total	24
				—

#### HOUSING.

Number of Houses	...	...	1280
Working-class Houses	...	...	652
New Houses for Working-classes			
erected or	...	...	2 completed.
In course of erection	...	...	5 uncompleted.
Population (estimate)	...	...	5770

There were no important changes during the year, nor are any anticipated.

Extent of shortage of houses ... .. 60

A scheme for building 60 houses by the Council has already been submitted, but is held in abeyance for the present.

#### *Overcrowding.*

There is a certain amount of overcrowding but not of a serious character. It is partly due to the marriages of Soldier sons who are unable to find separate housing and to the letting of lodgings.

No measures can be taken to overcome this till more houses are built.

No special cases were dealt with during the year.

*Fitness of Houses.*

The general standard of housing is good. The chief defects are: dampness, defective sanitary arrangements and some delapidations: they are not generally due to lack of management.

There were no special difficulties encountered in remedying defects. Closet accommodation and refuse disposal are efficient, but the water supply presents difficulties in a dry season.

*Unhealthy Areas.*

There are no extensive areas that can be included under this heading, and no action has been taken nor any complaints made during the year.

*Bye-Laws.*

The existing Bye-Laws are efficiently carried out: there is no need for additional ones or the revision of the present ones.

*General.*

No action has been taken with the exception of remedying minor defects.

## APPENDICES.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

## STATISTICS.

Year ended December 31st, 1920.

## 1. GENERAL.

(1) Estimated Population	...	...	5,770
(2) Infantile Mortality	...	...	75
(3) General Death-rate	...	...	11.1
(4) Death-rate from Tuberculosis	...	...	0.37
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses of all classes	...	...	1,280
(6) Number of Working-class Dwelling Houses	...	...	652
(7) Number of New Working-class Houses erected	...	...	2

## 2. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

1.—*Inspection.*

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	60
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910.	...	...	Nil.
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	Nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	10

2.—*Remedy of defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action taken by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	10
---	-----	-----	----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

## A. Proceedings under Sec. 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c., Act, 1919.

- |   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.  | } | Nil. |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit—  |   |      |
| (a) by owners .. .. .   |   |      |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners   |   |      |
| (3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close. |   |      |

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . | I    |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied—  |      |
| (a) by owners ... .. .   | I    |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners  | Nil. |

## C. Proceedings under Sec. 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, &amp;c., Acts, 1909.

- |   |   |      |
|---|---|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.   | } | Nil. |
| (2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made.   |   |      |
| (3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit. |   |      |
| (4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.  |   |      |
| (5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.   |   |      |

## 3. UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to improvement Schemes Under (a) Part 1 or (b) Part 2 of the Act, 1890 .. .. .

Nil.

Number of Houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with the consent of the Local Authority under Sec. 25 Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 .. .. .

5

Staff engaged on Housing Work, with briefly, the duties of each officer :—

One Housing Officer, who is also Inspector.



