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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
ROYAL BURGH OF ROTHESAY
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1896.

THE estimated population of the Burgh in the middle of the year was 9546, and the number of deaths registered during the year was 153.

This gives an annual mortality of 16 per 1000 persons living.

32 of the deaths have been marked by the Burgh Registrar as being those of visitors resident in the town for only a very short time, if these be deducted from the total number, the remaining 121 deaths show a mortality of 12·67 per 1000 persons living.

The ordinary or crude death-rate obtaining in a locality is notoriously a poor guide towards forming an idea of the excellence of the public health of the place.

The Infantile Mortality and the Zymotic Mortality are often adduced as more trustworthy criteria.

I. **The Infantile Mortality**, or the annual number of deaths of infants under one year of age to every 1000 births during the same year, stands this year for Rothesay at 57·4.

209 : 12 :: 1000 : 57·4

This is an exceptionally low figure and is less than half the average rate for the whole country.

II. The Zymotic Mortality. The Registrar-General forms a group of the seven chief infectious diseases (smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping-cough, fevers (continued) and diarrhœa). The death-rate of this zymotic group is of considerable value as a test of sanitary condition.

Seven deaths occurred from these diseases in Rothesay during 1896 and these give a Zymotic Mortality of .73 per 1000 persons living. This figure is about one third of the average for the whole country.

Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, intimation was received of the existence of 115 cases. Of these 59 were removed to the hospital, while 56 were treated at home.

DISEASE.	HOSPITAL	HOME.	TOTAL.
Diphtheria,	1	3	4
Erysipelas,	1	25	26
Scarlet Fever,	51	16	67
Enteric Fever,	6	12	18
	59	56	115

DEATHS.	HOSPITAL	HOME.	TOTAL.
Diphtheria,	0	1	1
Erysipelas,	0	2	2
Scarlet Fever,	1	1	2
Enteric Fever (Cerebro-Spinal Fever).	1	1	2
	2	5	7

The number of cases notified this year is larger than the number notified in any of the three years immediately preceding, and this is mainly due to the increase in the scarlet fever cases. Scarlet fever was prevalent during the months of August and September. We cannot boast of the complete absence of mortality from scarlet fever as we were able to do last year. Two deaths occurred from this disease among 67 cases, giving a case mortality of 3 per cent.

In the tabulated statement of deaths from infectious disease given above the death marked as having occurred in the Hospital from enteric fever was in reality a death from cerebro-spinal fever in an adult. This somewhat rare disease is almost always fatal in the case of an adult.

Besides the 59 cases from the Burgh there were admitted to the hospital 14 cases from the County, making 73 cases in all.

	BURGH.	COUNTY.	TOTAL.
Diphtheria,	1	0	1
Erysipelas,	1	0	1
Scarlet Fever,	51	12	63
Enteric Fever,	6	1	7
Measles,	0	1	1
	59	14	73

Fortunately no death occurred among the County cases, and we may venture to congratulate ourselves on the low mortality among the scarlet fever cases in the hospital, viz. :—One death in 63 cases, or 1·58 per cent.

Eighteen deaths occurred during the year from phthisis pulmonalis, a large proportion of these, however, were those of visitors.

During the year necessity arose to prosecute certain householders for overcrowding and also to certify a number of old dilapidated properties as unfit for human habitation.

There seems to be a need in Rothesay, as in many other places, for an increase in the number of working men's houses, which shall be at once thoroughly sanitary and rented sufficiently low to be within the reach of those receiving only a moderate weekly wage.

ANDREW J. HALL, M.D.

ROTHESAY, *February, 1897.*

STATEMENT SENT TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

TABULAR STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES.			CASES TREATED PRIVATELY.			CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.		
	Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Notifications.	Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Notifications.	Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Percentage of Deaths to Notifications.
Smallpox, -	...	...	...	..	..	..	...	..	..
Cholera, -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, -	4	1	25.00	3	1	33.33	1	..	..
Membranous Croup, -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas, -	26	2	7.69	25	2	8.00	1	..	..
Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, -	67	2	2.98	16	1	6.25	51	1	1.96
Typhus Fever, -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid or Enteric Fever, -	18	2	11.11	12	1	8.33	6	1*	16.66
Grand Total, -	115	7	6.08	56	5	8.92	59	2	3.38

* This fatal case though notified as Enteric proved to be Cerebro-Spinal Fever.