

[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Amesbury R.D.C.

Contributors

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Amesbury Rural District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1909.

SHREWTON, WILTS,

22nd February, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of your District, for the year ending 1909.

During the year, 285 births were registered, viz., 162 males and 123 females, and during the same period, 119 deaths were registered. Sixteen of these were non-residents, leaving a total of 103, but to this number must be added the deaths of 2 inhabitants which occurred beyond the district, and which makes the net total for the district 105, giving a natural increase of 180.

The birth-rate per 1,000 of the population (estimated by the census of 1901 to be 8,268) is 34.4, as against 36.2 for the year 1908.

The death-rate for the same period is 14.3 as against 13.5 for 1908, but as 16 deaths were non-residents, the corrected death-rate for the year is 12.6

In the annexed tables will be found the estimated population for the last ten years, also the birth and death-rates, with those of deaths under one year of age. Of the 119 deaths registered, 16 were over 60 and under 70, 20 over 70 and under 80, and 14 over 80 years and upwards, 2 reaching the age of 93 years.

There were 19 deaths of infants under one year of age, making the infant mortality for the year 66.6 per 1,000 births registered.

From the principal Zymotic diseases 3 deaths occurred, 2 from Whooping Cough and 1 from Enteric Fever. There was one death from Enteritis, 3 from Phthisis, and 2 from other Tuberculous Diseases, 10 from Cancer, giving a death-rate of 1.2 per 1,000 for the year, as against 0.8 for 1908, making, I am sorry to add, a slight increase from this disease. Ten deaths occurred from Bronchitis, 6 from Pneumonia, 1 from Alcoholism, 1 from Venereal Disease, 2 from Premature Birth, 2 from Diseases of Parturition, 19 from Heart Diseases, 3 from Accidents, and 1 Suicide. From all other causes 41.

Twenty-six cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year; 24 from the Amesbury District, and 2 from the Orcheston District. One case of Diphtheria occurred at Amesbury. It was of a mild type, and precautions being taken, the disease did not spread. Two cases of Erysipelas were notified. One occurred at the Workhouse, Amesbury. This case was of a very severe character, but every precaution being taken, the disease did not spread. I am unable to attribute it to any definite cause. The second case occurred at Wilsford, but was of a very mild type. One case of Enteric Fever was notified from Amesbury. As the sanitary conditions of the premises were in good order I cannot attribute it to any specific cause.

Twenty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 20 in the Amesbury District, and 2 in the Orcheston District. Eleven cases occurred at Durrington, 3 at Fighel-dean, 2 at Alton Parva, 1 at Amesbury, 2 at Brigmerston, 1 at Durnford. The case at Amesbury and one at Brigmerston occurred in houses occupied by Officers engaged daily at the Military Camp. Of the cases notified in the Orcheston District, one occurred at Shrewton and one at Winterbourne Stoke. Both cases were of a mild type. Disinfection was duly carried out and the disease did not spread.

In consequence of the outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Durrington the Military Authorities placed this Village out of bounds. I had an interview with the Chief Medical Officer as to what arrangements could be made to meet this outbreak, and he, as you know, agreed to take all our cases into the Military Infectious Hospital, at an agreed sum (in all eleven cases). I must here mention that the Military Authorities provide hospital accommodation for all War Office tenants, but not for any other civilians; so the arrangement previously mentioned, only held good for that particular outbreak, and therefore we cannot rely on the Military Hospital for the future. Under the circumstances it will be necessary for your Council in case of any outbreak of infectious sickness to provide some means of isolation. As the Isolation Hospital for your District is not yet in evidence, I might perhaps be allowed to suggest a temporary canvas hospital, or an arrangement might be made with the Salisbury or Devizes Isolation Hospitals, at a fixed charge per week. Supposing only a few cases were notified in the vicinity of the Military Camps the latter arrangement would be the less costly.

If Isolation of some sort is not provided for cases occurring near the Military Camps, the Villages in the infected area will be put out of bounds.

The National School at Figheldean was closed from May 6th to the 17th owing to Scarlet Fever.

In all cases of Infectious Diseases the houses, cottages and schools were disinfected and whitewashed and all precautions taken to prevent disease spreading.

All the infected cottages owned by the War Office were dealt with by the War Office Authorities.

As the camping out season will soon be commencing, I would like again to remind you of the many complaints I received from the inhabitants of Durrington and Shrewton as to the nuisance caused by depositing camp refuse of a most offensive description in close proximity to their houses. I wrote your Council a special report on this matter last August, urging you to prohibit any person or persons from depositing this objectionable refuse within a mile of any dwelling, and I would again urge upon you the absolute necessity of preventing this intolerable nuisance, either by a bye-law or some other effective measure.

The Medical inspection of School Children was undertaken last year by a resident Medical Officer of the District, but the work is now carried on by two whole time County Inspectors, not engaged in general medical practice.

During the year, 10 samples of water have been analysed, and were of a satisfactory standard of purity, with one exception, viz., the well supplying the cottages at Windsor Terrace, Durrington. This water was analysed by Dr. Tubb-Thomas, and was found to be unfit for domestic use. The well has been thoroughly cleaned out, and up to this time, I have had no further complaint. Eleven wells were cleansed and repaired and 17 new wells were sunk.

Twenty-four houses have been built during the year, 38 were cleansed and limewashed, and 5 made fit for habitation.

The Streams and water-courses are in good order and the water supply plentiful and good throughout the District.

The Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Dairies and Cowsheds have been duly inspected and found generally satisfactory. Many improvements have been made in the Dairies and Cowsheds since my last report notably in the Amesbury District. The lighting, ventilation, cubic space, pitching of the yards, etc., is well up-to-date.

The Burial Grounds are in good order, the Churchyard at Maddington being now completed.

No legal proceedings have been taken or required during the year.

My thanks are due to Mr. Huxham for the careful way he has carried out his duties of inspection and disinfection.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES EDDOWES.

TABLE I.—AMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions 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.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*							
1899	7357	170	23.1	13	76.4	99	13.4	11	3		96	13.0		
1900	7417	162	23.8	27	166.6	134	18.0	8	10		124	16.5		
1901	8268	175	21.1	9	51.4	94	11.3	13	4		90	10.8		
1902	8357	194	23.4	12	61.8	98	11.8	6	13		85	10.2		
1903	8462	214	25.8	9	42.0	100	12.0	20	12		88	10.6		
1904	8574	235	28.4	12	51.0	107	12.9	25	12		95	11.4		
1905	8720	267	32.2	20	74.9	103	12.4	20	12		91	11.0		
1906	8879	275	33.2	19	69.0	121	14.6	37	24		97	11.7		
1907	9029	265	32.0	13	49.0	119	14.3	23	18		101	12.2		
1908	9196	300	36.2	12	40.0	112	13.5	19	11	3	104	12.5		
Averages for years 1899-1908		225	27.9	14	68.2	108	13.4	18	11		97	11.9		
1909	9373	285	34.4	19	66.6	119	14.3	16	16	2	105	12.6		

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).

63,453

Total population at all ages, 8,268
Number of inhabited houses, 1,668
Average number of persons per house, 4.95

At
Census of
1901.

TABLE II.—Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1909 and previous years.

YEAR.	NAMES OF LOCALITIES											
	Amesbury.				Orcheston.				Winterbourne.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1899	3527	78	51	3	2022	47	28	3	1808	45	20	7
1900	3547	74	64	16	2039	46	37	5	1825	42	33	6
1901	4470	84	49	4	1875	48	19	1	1923	43	26	4
1902	4514	103	50	3	1901	48	26	5	1942	43	22	4
1903	4575	120	40	6	1920	43	27	1	1967	51	21	2
1904	4657	139	54	4	1943	49	20	5	1995	47	21	3
1905	4757	167	52	13	1974	56	23	5	2022	44	16	2
1906	4879	179	50	6	2000	43	24	6	2051	53	23	7
1907	5005	173	50	8	2021	42	19	0	2075	50	32	5
1908	5139	191	46	6	2043	50	30	4	2099	59	28	2
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908		130	50	6		47	25	3		47	24	4
1909	5281	193	54	7	2061	42	26	6	2127	50	25	6

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1909 in the Amesbury Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			No. of cases removed to Bulford Military Hospital from each locality	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.				Amesbury.	Orcheston.	Winterbourne.	Amesbury.	Total cases removed to Hospital
		1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.					
Diphtheria	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	2	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	22	6	14	1	1	20	2	...	11	11
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	26	7	15	1	3	24	2	...	11	11

Isolation Hospital—none.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1909, in the the Amesbury Rural District.

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.
	All ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Amesbury.	Orcheston.	Winterbourne.	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Phthisis	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	1	1	...
Other tuberculous diseases	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	10	...	...	...	...	7	3	4	2	4	1
Bronchitis	10	1	...	1	...	1	7	4	4	2	1
Pneumonia	6	1	1	...	...	3	1	3	1	2	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Venereal Diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Premature birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1
Heart diseases	19	1	...	...	1	7	10	11	5	3	1
Accidents	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes	41	10	...	...	...	8	23	26	8	7	9
All causes	105	19	5	1	4	31	45	54	26	25	16

TABLE V.—*Infantile Mortality during the year 1909, in the Amesbury Rural District.*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—2 months.	2—3 months.	3—4 months.	5—6 months.	9—10 months.	11—12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All causes—certified ...	8	1	1	2	12	2	1	1	1	1	1	19
Premature birth ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...	...	1	1	2	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	3
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Suffocation, overlying ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Other causes ...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	8	1	1	2	12	2	1	1	1	1	1	19

Births in the year { legitimate 274
 { illegitimate 11

Deaths { legitimate 19
 { illegitimate —

Summary of Work done in Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Amesbury Rural District during the year ending 31st December, 1909.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical Officer of Health.

No. of Cases inquired into ...	29
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed ...	23
No. of Patients removed to Hospital ...	8
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed ...	15

Houses.

No. erected ...	24
No. made fit for Habitation ...	5
No. Cleansed and Limewashed ...	38

House Drains.

No. Laid or re-laid ...	38
No. Cleansed, Trapped and Ventilated ...	6
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified ...	12

Water Closets.

No. of additional W.C.'s provided ...	4
No. Repaired, Ventilated and supplied with Flush Cisterns ...	2

Privies and Ashpits.

No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided ...	9
No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets ...	2
No. converted to Pail-closets ...	8
No. Repaired ...	17

Water Supply.

No. of Wells sunk ...	17
No. of Wells cleansed and repaired ...	11
No. of Samples taken for Analysis ...	10

Slaughter Houses.

No. Regularly Inspected ...	5
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Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register and under Supervision ...	31
No. of Contraventions of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with ...	3
No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector ...	2

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses.

No. under Inspection ...	18
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances ...	2

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

No. of Cases of Removal on Notice ...	4
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

No. of Removals ...	3
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Clerical Work.

No. of Notices served ...	27
No. of Notices Complied with ...	24
No. of Notices Outstanding ...	3

(Signed) JOHN T. HUXHAM.

