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HEATH HOUSE,

ANDOVER,

February 28, 1905.

To

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your district in 1904.

Population. The Population at the last Census was 9,290, and your district covers an area of 65,558 acres.

Birth Rate. During the year 207 Births were registered. This gives a Birth Rate for the whole district of 22·3 per 1000, compared with 23·7 per 1000, the average of the previous ten years.

The number of Births in the several localities was as follows:—

Longparish	...	...	88	or	22·3	per 1000
Hurstbourne Tarrant	...	...	33	„	21·1	„
Amport	...	...	72	„	26·3	„
Andover Rural	...	...	14	„	13·3	„

In the Hurstbourne Tarrant and Andover Rural District, which are purely agricultural, the Birth Rate is much below the average. In the first-named, between September and December, no birth was registered.

Death Rate. During the year 118 deaths have occurred. This gives a death rate of 12·1 per 1000, or about 3 below the average of the previous 10 years.

The number of deaths in the several localities was as follows:—

Longparish	...	...	48	or	12·1	per 1000
Hurstbourne Tarrant	...	...	19	„	12·1	„
Amport	...	...	33	„	12·01	„
Andover Rural	...	...	18	„	17·07	„

In the Andover Rural the Death Rate is high. Seven persons died over 70 years old, whose average age at death was 80 years.

In Amport District nine persons died over 70 years, whose average age at death was 77·3.

In Longparish District 12 persons died over 70 years, whose average age at death was 79·5.

In Hurstbourne Tarrant District six persons died, whose average age at death was 80·1.

The causes of death are shewn on Table IV. attached to this report.

During the year 25 infants under 1 year of age died.

Infant
Mortality.

This gives an Infant Mortality of 120·0 per 1000 births registered, 24·5 above the average of the previous 10 years.

The increase in the Death Rate is due to the infants dying in the first few months of life.

In Amport 8 died under 1 month of age. Longparish 7 under 1 month and 1 under 3 months. Hurstbourne Tarrant 3 under 1 month and 2 under 5 months. Andover Rural 1 under 1 month and 3 under 11 months, the cause generally being due to the fact of their not having been strong enough to struggle through the first month of life.

I am at a loss to account for this heavy Death Rate unless it is that the strong and healthy migrate to the larger towns, leaving those who are physically deteriorated in our villages.

House Accommodation.

This has been sufficient except in Shipton, where the accommodation is still below the requirements of the neighbourhood. This deficiency has led to cases of overcrowding, to obviate which a house to house inspection was made, and when found to exist notices were served to abate it.

Sewerage and Drainage.

No alteration has taken place with regard to your District. The new houses are drained into properly constructed cesspools or pails are used. The old system of midden exists in some places, but every endeavour is made to get the pail system adopted.

There is no scavenging within the district, all house refuse being disposed of by the occupiers of the houses and cottages.

Owing to the increase in the number of houses at Shipton, and to the small quantity of land allotted to each, it will render in the near future some regular collection of house refuse necessary.

Water Supply

Has been sufficient throughout the District, but the recent dry weather will soon reduce the supply in the more hilly portion of the District. A case of dangerous pollution of the water supply was dealt with at Chilbolton Down by closing the old well and digging a new one.

Slaughter Houses

Have been visited and minor nuisance with regard to them dealt with.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Most of these have been inspected during the year. The Dairies were found in good order and complied with the requirements of the Act.

The Cowsheds were not so satisfactory, as they vary in construction, from the most perfect to those which have been converted from old barns and sheds into stalls for cows. The light, air spaces, flooring and drainage in some of these are not suitable for the occupation of the animals.

There is no record of your Authority having made any regulations to deal with these matters and without them it is most difficult to do so, as one is met with the excuse that they are only cattle sheds, and used to house the cows during exceptionally severe weather.

I would advise you to at once adopt the Local Government Board regulations and put them in force in your district.

A visit was paid to this District by a Medical Inspector of the Local Government Board, who is preparing a report on this subject for the whole of England.

Isolation Hospital.

No further steps have been taken to provide a permanent building for this purpose. The difficulty still remains in getting an offer of a suitable site.

The Berthon Tent was had recourse to in the outbreaks of Scarlet Fever at Weyhill, and answered its purpose admirably.

The thanks of your Council are due to the Marquis of Winchester, Mr. Gwyer, and Mr. Bunney for allowing the Tent to be erected on their land.

The objection to the Berthon Tent is that it is only available for one part of the District and only one Disease at a time; whilst the proportionate expense must be greater than if you had a Hospital always ready for use.

An example of a useful kind of Hospital, and one which would meet all your requirements, is furnished by that in use at the Andover Workhouse. It was constructed of corrugated iron in 1871, and is now in a good state of repair, and is still used when occasion requires.

Notification
of Infectious
Diseases.

There were 44 cases notified.

Scarlet Fever.

This Disease was prevalent in various parts of the District during a greater part of the year, the following villages being affected:—Weyhill, Thruxton, Penton, Hurstbourne Tarrant, and South Tidworth. They were all of a mild type with one exception, and in this case death rapidly ensued.

At Weyhill and Thruxton the disease was introduced by a child who had been staying away, and to this all the other cases were traceable.

At Penton the cases were discovered in the Peeling Stage, and the origin was not determined.

At South Tidworth they were traced to Infection Fever from North Tidworth.

At Hurstbourne Tarrant they were of the mildest type, and no common origin was found.

The cottages in which these cases were dealt with were thoroughly disinfected either after the removal of the patients or at the termination of the illness, whilst the children living in the houses were excluded from school.

Diphtheria.

Thirteen cases of this disease were notified, two proving fatal.

The most serious outbreak was amongst the members of a family at Saxley, the origin of the first case, which proved fatal, could not be satisfactorily traced.

It is worthy of note that the deaths occurred in those patients on whom, owing to the delay in sending for medical assistance, it was not possible to use the Diphtheric Antitoxin.

A boy who had been given a prophylactic dose contracted the Disease five weeks afterwards.

At Saxley an Epidemic prevailed amongst the fowls, large numbers dying from a form of paralysis after being afflicted with some affection of the throat, which was evidently membranous in character and of a highly contagious nature. The throat of a fowl was sent for Bacteriological examination, but no definite culture of the Diphtheria Baccillus was obtained.

The South Tidworth outbreak was traced to communication with Saxley.

Erysipelas.

There were seven cases notified, two of which were fatal. These occurred in cottages in which the sanitary surroundings were bad.

Influenza

Was general throughout the District, but was of a milder type than formerly, only one Death being attributed to this cause.

Mumps

Broke out so badly amongst the Scholars of Abbots Ann School, seriously affecting the attendance.

I have to acknowledge the kind assistance of Major Salvage, R.A.M.C., in dealing with those cases of Infectious Diseases occurring on War Office property. He not only notified their existence, but took charge of the cases, enforcing, as far as possible, strict isolation at their homes, and afterwards thoroughly disinfecting the cottages.

Cancer

Showed an increase of two cases on that of last year.

Schools. The following Schools have been closed during the year by your Council on my recommendation:—

Abbotts Ann,
Weyhill,
South Tidworth.

Bakehouses. The Bakehouses have been inspected, especial attention being paid to whitewashing and cleanliness.

Factory Act, 1901. Inspections have been made, the light, ventilation and proper sanitary accommodation being found sufficient. No register of the factories and workshops of your District has yet been compiled. This should be remedied, and a copy supplied to your Medical Officer.

There are no out-workers in the District.

The Midwives Act. This important Act comes into force during the ensuing year. It will be necessary for you to appoint a Committee to carry out its provisions. So small a number of women have registered that your Council decided to issue a circular to the clergymen of the various parishes asking them to call the attention of those now acting as Midwives to the necessity of registering before April.

Inspections. Many inspections of minor nuisances have been made by your inspector and myself.

I attach your Sanitary Inspector's Report for the year.

I am, Gentlemen, your Obedient Servant,

ERNEST A. FARR, M.O.H.

ANDOVER,

To 22nd February, 1905.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ANDOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in again presenting my Annual Report as Inspector of Nuisances.

In May last several cases of overcrowding were found to exist in the village of Shipton Bellinger, principally owing to the great demand for lodgings by workmen employed on the neighbouring Military Camps. A systematic inspection was made throughout the village, and several very bad cases were found. The children were the principal sufferers, being simply herded together in order to provide a spare bedroom for lodgers.

All the bedrooms were measured, and on the recommendation of your Medical Officer of Health preliminary notices were issued calling on occupiers to allow, in sleeping rooms, 300 cubic feet of air space per head; two children under 12 years of age to count as one adult. On the instructions of your Council five statutory notices were also served, but the nuisance in each case was abated, and no further proceedings were taken.

A number of cases of polluted wells and defective drains have been dealt with and reported on from time to time.

The Berthon Tent was fixed in a field in the parish of Ampert (by permission of Mr. B. Gwyer) on the 31st May, 1904, and again in a field in the same parish (by permission of Mr. Bunney) on the 19th September, 1904. All premises where Infectious Disease has been notified have been disinfected.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN WORMALD.