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Contributors

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HEATH HOUSE, ANDOVER,

March 25th, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ANDOVER
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1908, copies of which have been forwarded, in accordance with the Order, Act 16, sec. 14, of March 23, 1891, to the Local Government Board and to the Hants County Council, also to the Secretary of the Home Office, as required by sec. 152 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The population at the last census was 9290. By adding the average number of Officers, N.C.O.'s, men, women and children occupying the Barracks at Tidworth, I estimate the population to be 13,386, and on this number I have based my statistics. Your District covers an area of 65,558 acres.

BIRTH RATE.—During the year 287 births were registered, a decrease of 11 on the previous year. This gives a birth rate of 21·5 per 1000, a decrease of 2·9 on that of last year. The number of births in the several localities was as follows:—Amport, 158, or 23·01 per 1000; Andover Rural, 21, or 19·09 per 1000; Hurstbourne Tarrant, 29, or 18·9 per 1000; Longparish, 79, or 20·03 per 1000. The districts of Andover Rural and Hurstbourne Tarrant are purely agricultural.

DEATH RATE.—During the year 129 deaths have been registered, whilst 12 have died in public institutions beyond the district. The correct number of deaths is 141. This gives a death rate of 10·5 per 1000, a slightly lower death rate than last year; 26 of the above deaths were of persons under one year. The deaths in the several localities were as follows:—Amport, 49, or 7·1 per 1000, under 1 year 12; Andover Rural, 23, or 21·6 per 1000, under 1 year 4; Hurstbourne Tarrant, 22, or 14·0 per 1000, under 1 year 2; Longparish, 47, or 11·9 per 1000, under 1 year 8.

LONGEVITY.—It is somewhat of more than passing interest to notice that of the 141 deaths that are credited to the district for 1908 no less than 48 were of persons of 70 years of age and upwards, and as there were 26 of infants below 1 year of age, this leaves only 67 deaths between 1 year of age and 70, or between the very young and the very old. The greatest age attained was 97 years. The low death rate in Amport district is accounted for by including the Tidworth Garrison. The high rate in Andover Rural District is occasioned by the deaths of 11 persons over 70 years, and 4 under one month.

CAUSES OF DEATH.—The chief causes of death were as follows:—Measles 1, scarlet fever 2, whooping cough 1, enteric 1, enteritis 1, phthisis 10, other tubercular diseases 10, cancer 8, bronchitis 12, pneumonia 2, pleurisy 1, heart disease 22, accidents 6, suicides 2, unclassified 3, other causes 61.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During the year 26 infants under one year of age died, one less than last year, 10 deaths occurring in the first week of life, and 15 under one month of age. This gives an infantile mortality of 90·5 per 1000 births registered. The causes of death amongst infants were as follows:—Premature birth 5, congenital defects 3, injury at birth 1, trophy 4, enteritis 1, whooping cough 1, tubercular disease 1, convulsions 3, bronchitis 3, pneumonia 1, other causes 3.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The following number of cases was notified:—Diphtheria 1, erysipelas 2, scarlet fever 55, enteric fever 3.

DIPHTHERIA.—The only case notified was in a girl who returned home from Wilton suffering from the disease.

ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases occurred in the Amport district, and were idiopathic in origin.

SCARLET FEVER.—At Amport and Monxton a rather extensive outbreak of this disease occurred amongst the teachers and scholars of the elementary school. This was a continuation of the mild outbreak reported in my Annual Report of 1907. A special detailed report, giving the number of cases notified in connection with this epidemic, the ages of the persons affected, and the steps that were taken to deal with the outbreak, both in the matter of the inspection of the children, their homes, and the isolation of cases and the closing of the school, was asked for by the Local Government Board in July last, and supplied to them. In April an outbreak occurred at Shipton, and spread with some rapidity, 15 cases being notified within 5 days, whilst 2 suspicious cases were kept under observation. Eight houses and one van were affected. One case terminated fatally within 48 hours, otherwise the disease was of a mild nature. At first the affected persons were separated as much as practical from the healthy inmates of their homes, but on the War Office authorities becoming aware of the existence of the disease they at once put the village out of bounds, and stopped any communication between it and the Tidworth Barracks. This so seriously affected the trade of the village, in that no tradesman or his men were allowed to deliver their goods until 10 days had elapsed from the date of the last case, that your Council authorised me to interview the War Office authorities on the matter. This I did, with the result that they very kindly came to your assistance by lending two large hospital tents, which, together with our Berthon tent, &c., were erected on land kindly placed at your disposal by Mr. Formby. In these tents 20 cases were isolated, and the spread of the disease stopped in the village. One other case occurred in Shipton in July. This case was discovered in the peeling stage, and again the War Office authorities helped by allowing the child to be sent to the Haxton Isolation Hospital. The steps taken in dealing with this disease were:—(1) Isolation of the patients, either at their own homes or at the isolation tents. (2) Disinfection of the rooms, clothes, &c., after convalescence or removal. (3) Closing of the elementary schools. (4) Visits to and inspections of the scholars. (5) Disinfection of schoolrooms and offices. The question of destroying a few materials at Amport Schools was the subject of a letter from the Director of Education at Winchester, in which he instructs that an inventory should be taken of any materials condemned to be destroyed by the Local Sanitary Authority, so that after the order is carried out a claim could be made upon the Local Authority for the amount of property so destroyed. To the Director I replied that any materials destroyed is done so by permission of the Managers. As your Authority only recommends such a course when it is considered necessary for the benefit of the scholars attending the school, you could not be responsible for any compensation, and that the responsibility of disregarding our advice rested entirely with the Managers. (6) Conferences with the medical men attending the cases. (7) Disinfectants in all cases were supplied free by your Council, and those in charge were instructed how to use them. (8) Frequent visits by your Inspector and myself to the infected houses. Proceedings were taken against one man who had five children suffering from the disease for failing to notify, which resulted in his being convicted and fined. This was a serious case, as the man himself was working at a dairy and was a milker of cows.

Three cases occurred at Upper Clatford. On receiving notice of these and on visiting the schools other children were found peeling, there evidently having been some mild cases not recognized. The type of this disease is becoming so mild that it is considerably more difficult to stamp out or control it when medical examination is not sought at the proper time to determine the nature of the rash, and as in these cases some ignorant old woman takes upon herself to decide the question, a decision which might have entailed serious consequences to everyone in the place.

Notice was sent by the M.O.H. of Stockbridge that a child from Shipton had been found to be peeling at Broughton.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Three cases were notified. One case in a school boy at Longparish. No cause could be traced beyond a dead well being situated too near the dwelling house. He had been staying at Basingstoke and Southsea, but on enquiry of the M.O.H.'s of these districts no further information could be gathered. The dead well was closed. One case from Penton Mewsey in a woman who had not recently been away from home. The well water, on examination, was found to be impure, and the owner had the well closed, a supply of water being obtained elsewhere. In one case at Upper Clatford the well water was also found to be impure. One death took place in Tidworth Barracks from this disease.

PHTHISIS AND OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—Eighteen deaths occurred from this disease, being an increase of 6 on that of last year. In all cases brought to my knowledge the rooms, bed clothes, &c., were disinfected. A new Act was passed during the year called the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulation 1908 Act, and which came into force on January 1, 1909, making it compulsory for the Medical Officer of a Workhouse or Poor Law District to send notice to the M.O.H. of any poor person suffering from this disease whom he has to attend under his agreement with the Guardians. This is certainly moving in the right direction, but it cannot be of effective value unless it is made compulsory to notify cases occurring in all classes.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This was prevalent to a slight extent, one death being notified as due to this cause.

MEASLES.—A few cases occurred, one death in Ampert district being due to this.

CANCER.—A decrease in the number of deaths is to be noted, being 8 this year against 11 last year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The necessity of providing a permanent building to be used as an Isolation Hospital becomes more urgent every year. The Committee appointed to consider the suitability of a site met once this year, when a piece of land was offered as a site, but this was not thought to be quite suitable. Directly a site is selected so many personal objections are raised that unless your Council exercise the powers you possess a site will never be found. The strong action of the War Office in excluding people living in affected villages from the Barracks brought the urgency of the matter very forcibly before you, and it was only due to the timely help of the War Office in lending tents that you were able to accommodate all the cases from Shipton.

The Berthon tent suits its purpose when erected, and other matters are put in order, but as this takes a great deal of time, and if, as when deciding to use it at Shipton, bad weather is also experienced, further unavoidable delay is inevitable. The value of isolation is proportionate to the alacrity with which it can be employed. At the present time it is very much lessened, if not entirely lost, by the delay which ensues. The expenses of administration, the difficulty of obtaining a suitable site, the defects which occur in the tent from unpacking and packing, the difficulty in getting trained nurses to stay, and many other minor faults, make the present mode of procedure not only costly but unpopular and unsatisfactory.

There are neighbouring districts who either have none or only a limited accommodation, and it would considerably lessen the cost of administration if they could be persuaded to assist in erecting a joint Hospital.

DRAINAGE.—There is no special system of drainage in any of the villages, earth closets and cesspools being mostly in use.

An overflow was found to a cesspool at Shipton. This being contrary to the bye-laws the owner was written to restore the surroundings to their previous condition. The owner demurred very much as to carrying it out, but on a peremptory notice being served he complied with it.

A cesspool opposite Tidworth Station, which had been a great source of complaint, was done away with, and the drains were connected up with the sewerage system of Tidworth Barracks.

The cesspools at Shipton, suspected of not being made impervious, were carefully inspected. A nuisance was caused by a laundry pumping its dirty water on to an elevated piece of ground at the rear of the premises, and allowing it to flow over the surface. The proprietor's attention was called to this, and a notice to abate was served.

A complaint was received from Clanville of a cesspool communicating with a pantry. This, after some delay on the part of the owner, was effectually remedied.

VACCINATION.—Until recently the rural population have not been opponents of vaccination, but they are beginning to take advantage of the easy method of obtaining an exemption to vaccination.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.—This duty is carried out by the County Council. In those villages where there is a district nurse it would be an excellent plan if she could pay periodical visits to the school for the purpose of examining children with regard to ill-health, cleanliness, &c., and notice of children absent through illness could be sent to her. This would ensure that children suffering from dangerous illness did not return to school until medically attended. If this duty would entail too much work for the village nurse then a nurse should be appointed for a whole district.

MIDWIVES ACT.—The women registered under this Act are periodically visited by Inspectors from the Hampshire Nursing Association, who are appointed by the County Council to carry out these inspections. They are carefully questioned with regard to their work, and their register and appliances are examined. This Act is bearing good fruit, as the old self-taught midwife is rapidly disappearing, and the qualified midwife, who takes her place, also acts as district nurse.

The County Council have issued a circular asking for the earliest possible information of any midwife attending an infectious case, in order that she may be suspended from work until she has been inspected by the Association.

SCAVENGING.—The voluntary system of scavenging which had been adopted at Shipton having broken down, owing to the withdrawal of the scavenger from the village, also to the great cost to those making use of the system, and its unsatisfactory performance, the inhabitants approached your Council with regard to this matter, more especially as scarlet fever had broken out, and the War Office had cut off communication with the village. Your Council appointed a committee to meet at Shipton, and this committee reported that the present method of scavenging and cleansing was dangerous to health, and recommended that temporary arrangements should be made by your Council to deal with the matter. A notice was also issued to all householders asking them to forward their names, addresses, and full particulars if they had any difficulty in the removal of house refuse from premises, the cleansing of earth closets, ashpits, or cesspools. In the meantime application to the Local Government Board, under sec. 42 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to make Shipton a separate area for the purpose of drainage and scavenging was made and granted.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—This has seemed sufficient for the district. Complaints of overcrowding at Shipton, on investigation, proved to be unfounded. A rather serious case of overcrowding was discovered at Goodworth Clatford, and was abated on notice being served.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is almost entirely obtained from wells, both shallow and deep, and the water generally is of good quality, sufficient in quantity, and pure.

Wells found to be impure were closed at Penton. A pump was out of order at Georgia.

The water from the wells at Longparish and Amport Schools was analysed and found to be pure. Water was also analysed from a well at Upper Clatford that was suspected of being contaminated, but this was found to be pure.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.—The Amport and Shipton Elementary Schools were closed on account of scarlet fever, the former for 13 weeks, and the latter for 4 weeks. Monxton children attending the Abbotts Ann School were excluded during the time this disease prevailed in this village.

NOTICES.—A notice was received from the police that a bull had died at Amport from anthrax. On investigation it was ascertained that the carcass had been deeply buried with some tons of quick-lime.

Notice was received of a person who had been on board a ship on which a case of smallpox had occurred.

BAKEHOUSES.—These have been inspected. Attention has been paid to the cleanliness, ventilation, and the absence of drains opening into bakehouses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Inspections of these have been made, attention being paid to light, ventilation, cleanliness, lime washing, and the necessary accommodation.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.—Twenty-one persons are registered as cowkeepers and dairy-men. Of this number 12 sell their milk wholesale and 9 supply customers in the villages or the neighbouring town of Andover.

REVISION AND CORRECTION OF THE REGISTER.—This is done from time to time by advertisement, and also by forwarding forms of application to those intending to commence the business.

TYPE OF PREMISES.—This varies considerably, and may be divided into the following classes :—

1. Those specially designed as cowsheds, and not connected with a farm yard.
2. Those connected with a farm yard, in which existing buildings have been converted.
3. Open cowsheds in farm yards.
4. Buildings which have been roughly constructed for the purpose.

FIRST CLASS.—There are but two of these, and they are excellent for their purpose.

SECOND CLASS.—The type of premises used very considerably. Barns, coach-houses, store-houses, stables, &c., have all been converted into cowsheds; whilst in more modern farm buildings properly constructed cowsheds have been provided.

THIRD CLASS.—These sheds are either open at the front and sides, or front alone, and are never closed in at any time of the year.

FOURTH CLASS.—This type is only used where a few cows are kept.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is from wells, rivers, and water works. The source, position, quantity and quality are satisfactory.

DRAINAGE.—Most of the cowsheds drain into the farm yards, only two dealing with the liquid manure by draining into cesspools, and these are regularly emptied.

YARDS.—Where there is one this is of the ordinary farmyard type, the surface being formed of chalk, which as a rule is deepened in the centre.

MILK STORES.—There are none in the district, the milk being at once refrigerated and taken either to the station for disposal by train, or drawn away in the carts for distribution.

SIZE OF DAIRY.—Seven persons keep less than 12 cows, three less than 20, five less than 25, three less than 30, and one has a dairy of 72.

The smallest dairy consists of 8 cows, the largest of 72. The business of cowkeepers is carried on by farmers, there being plenty of grass fields. The cows are in all cases habitually grazed. I find that many of the cowkeepers turn their animals into the meadows daily throughout the year. In the summer they are out day and night, only being brought into the milker. The weather must be exceptionally severe for them to be kept in the cowsheds. Where there are open sheds the cows are never in enclosed buildings. Some keep their cows tied up during the winter months, from about November to the end of April.

In no dairy do I find it the rule to daily groom the cows whilst confined in the winter months, but all the dairymen assert that those cows in a dirty state are properly cleaned.

THE UDDERS OF THE COWS.—There does not seem to be any uniformity of treatment amongst the cowmen, all admitting that the teats and udders are washed if dirty, but not otherwise.

THE MILKERS.—In all dairies facilities are provided for the proper cleansing of the hands before milking, whilst in many instances washable aprons are provided.

THE DAIRIES.—In those cases where milk is kept the dairies were clean, well ventilated, properly constructed and lighted, and were not in direct communication with any drain.

STORING AND CLEANSING OF UTENSILS.—The store is usually a shed in the open, and the cleansing is thoroughly done.

COWSHEDS.—There are a few large cowsheds. Small ones are generally used, the accommodation varying from 50 to 2 cows.

CUBIC CAPACITY.—This varies between 1555 cubic feet and 466 cubic feet per cow. In only two instances is it below 600 cubic feet, one being 598 cubic feet and the other 466 cubic feet.

ARRANGEMENT OF STALLS.—Stalls are arranged with feeding trough in contact with the back wall, with a head walk, or in centre of cowsheds, cows being tethered on each side.

FOOD STORE.—These were generally in good order.

WALLS.—The materials used in their construction are brick, stone, chalk, wood, and corrugated iron.

ROOFS.—These are of slates, tiles, thatch, and corrugated iron. The roof water is disposed of by dripping directly from the roof to the yard, or conveyed by guttering to a rain water tank.

FLOORS.—The materials of which these are constructed are cement, laid bricks, or stone and chalk rammed until quite firm and hard. Most of the floors were graded, and raised between 6in. and 1ft. in height from the ground.

MANURE TRENCH.—Most sheds possessed these, which are drained by gutters into the yard.

STORAGE OF MANURE.—This is usually thrown out from cowsheds and stored in the yards, being removed at varying intervals.

LIGHTING.—When the cowsheds are closed this is effected by windows, roof and side. This is added to during the milking and other times by the upper half of the door being kept opened. With one exception the lighting was sufficient.

VENTILATION.—This is by special ventilators in the roof and walls, space between the roof and walls, half-doors (some being always open, others closed in rough weather), windows, and crevices in the wooden walls.

CLEANLINESS.—The floor and manure trenches were generally in a satisfactory condition, plenty of clean straw being provided in the stalls. The wood work and walls were in many instances dirty, more especially at those parts liable to be splashed.

LIME WASHING.—In the majority of cowsheds this was unsatisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY TO COWSHEDS.—This is satisfactory. The source was always pure, the quality good, the quantity ample, and the position of pumps or well convenient. No cowshed had any special arrangement for flushing the trenches and floors.

THE GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS.—The following defects were noticed:—

1. Floors in some instances were not properly graded, being level with the ground. The material used is not always impervious to moisture.

2. Lighting, in one case only, was insufficient.

3. Ventilation deficient in one case.

4. Manure trench was constructed of wood in one cowshed.

5. Windows were dirty.

6. Walls splashed and not regularly washed

7. Roofs not water-tight.

8. Cubic capacity for cows in one case not sufficient.

9. Lime washing. More than half required this done.

10. Condition of yard. In many the surface has become uneven owing to the chalk, of which it is generally made, wearing into holes and allowing water and liquid manure to collect in pools, which becomes stagnant. In one a blocked drain prevented the escape of the liquid.

11. Storage of manure. This in nearly every case is stored too near, and allowed to remain too long, within a few feet of the cowsheds. The manure must be more frequently removed.

OBSERVATIONS.—In concluding my Report I might add that a great deal can be done by those who supply milk to the public if they would only recognise the serious responsibility of their calling. I would advise them to keep their cowsheds scrupulously clean, to have the cows groomed when confined in day and night, to pay special attention to the cleanliness of the cows' udders, and the milkers' hands and clothes; also to keep the surroundings of the cowsheds pure by remedying any defect in their yards which may cause stagnant water, and by a daily removal of manure a sufficient distance from the cowsheds.

Notice was sent from the County Council that a tubercular cow was at a farm which sent milk to London. This cow was isolated from the rest of the herd, and the milk boiled and given to pigs.

The protection to the milk supply which is afforded by the regulations in force in the area of the London County Council should be extended to all parts of the country, for at the present time if a cow is notified as being tubercular your Council possess no power of dealing with it beyond seeing that it is separated from the other cows and that its milk is not used for human consumption. You cannot prevent the owner exercising his right of selling the cow, either to go to another herd, or fattening it for the butcher, and this might be done without informing your officials, or its coming to their knowledge.

I am attaching a Report from your Sanitary Inspector, from whom I have received valuable assistance during the year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST A. FARR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANDOVER,

22nd March, 1909.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF ANDOVER.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my ANNUAL REPORT as Inspector of Nuisances for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

New drains have been tested on the following premises, and in each case have proved sound and watertight:—Chilbolton, Mrs. Owens; Upcott, Mr. Pain; Church Farm, Barton Stacey, Mr. Hodgson; Chilbolton Down, Mr. Hargreaves; Redenham, Mr. Hide; Weyhill, Mrs. Faith; Newton Stacey, Winchester College; Forton House, Admiral Durnford; Longparish School House; Goodworth Clatford, Mr. Grace; Shipton, Strong & Co.

Samples of Water have been taken from the following Wells, viz.:—Amport School, two samples; Weyhill, Mrs. Faith; Upper Clatford, Mr. Greenaway; and forwarded to the County Analyst. All these samples have been reported free from any serious contamination.

There were a number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified at Shipton in April and May, and on the 27th April, on the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health, the Berthon tent was fixed on Snoddington Down (by permission of Mr. Formby) for the isolation of the patients. On the 8th May additional tents, loaned by the Military Authorities, were fixed on the same site. These tents were disinfected and returned to the military store on the 27th June, and the Berthon tent was removed on the same date.

The scavenging arrangements at Shipton had for a long time previous to this outbreak been very unsatisfactory, but the placing of the village out of bounds by the Military Authorities brought matters to a climax. After receiving the report of a Special Committee appointed to consider the question, your Council decided to immediately undertake the removal of house refuse from premises, and the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ash pits, and cesspools. Notice was given to all occupiers that this work would commence on the 15th May, and temporary arrangements were made with a local contractor; but before the end of the year, after a conference between your Committee and representatives of the Parish of Shipton, your Council resolved to purchase a sewage cart, sewage pump and tumbler cart, and employ the necessary labour to carry out the work. Immediately this scavenging work was commenced by your Council it was found that two cesspools, receiving together the drainage of 15 dwelling houses, had been broken and converted into soak-aways. Notices were served, and in one case a summons was issued, but before the summons was returnable both cesspools had been made impervious.

All premises where infectious disease had been notified had been fumigated, and disinfectants have been freely supplied on application.

The following nuisances have been abated on my calling the attention of the responsible persons thereto:—Overcrowding, Goodworth Clatford; foul well, Upper Clatford; offensive butcher's premises, Hurstbourne Tarrant; offensive privies, Clanville; defective drain, Longparish School.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WORMALD,

Inspector of Nuisances.