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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH  
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.




ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
FOR THE YEAR 1905.



G. S. HART, M.D.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.  
FEBRUARY, 1906.

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To

THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH

RURAL SANITARY COUNCIL.

MEASHAM,

FEBRUARY, 1906.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of your district during the year 1905.

The district, which consists of nineteen parishes, covers an area of 31,995 acres.

The population as estimated by the census of 1901 was 14,447.

Population estimated to middle of 1905 is 15,132.

#### Births.

Five hundred and four births were registered during the year, viz: 246 Males, and 258 Females.

This gives a birth-rate of 33·3 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Birth-rate	of	1902	was	34·13
"	"	1903	was	37·32
"	"	1904	was	35·59

#### Deaths.

One hundred and ninety deaths were registered during the year, viz: 108 Males, and 82 Females.



This gives a death-rate of 12·55 per 1000 of estimated population.

Death-rate for 1902	was	13·72
„ „ 1903	was	14·84
„ „ 1904	was	14·35

#### Infantile Mortality.

Fifty-three deaths occurred under one year.

This gives an Infantile Mortality of 105 per 1000 children born.

Infantile Mortality for 1901	was	112
„ „ „ 1902	was	158
„ „ „ 1903	was	119
„ „ „ 1904	was	103

As will be seen from the above table the Infantile Mortality of the last two years is a considerable improvement on that of some of the preceding years. Still something more, I think, might be done to reduce it still further. The lines on which the attempt might be carried out are like the following:—

(1) Careful attention to the sanitary condition of the houses, and their surroundings, of the working classes.

(2) A strict supervision of the milk supply of your district, as milk of inferior quality is a prolific source of disease in artificially fed children.

(3) Lastly, the education of mothers as to the best way of bringing up their children. This might be done by the encouragement of classes dealing with Infantile Nursing in the various parts of



your District, or failing this by the distribution of pamphlets, dealing with the subject, say by the various Registrars when registering the birth of children in their several sub-divisions.

In connection with this subject I might add that I hope the time is not far distant when the eyesight of school children, and the condition of their teeth will be systematically looked after, as derangements of both have a bad effect on the mental and physical developement of the race.

**Causes of Infantile Mortality.**

Whooping Cough	...	...	3
Enteritis ...	...	...	8
Premature Births	...	...	9
Congenital Defects	...	...	2
Debility, Marasmus	...	...	7
Tubercular Per ...	...	...	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	1
Meningitis	...	...	1
Convulsions	...	...	6
Pneumonia	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	5
All other causes ...	...	...	4
			<hr/>
Total			53

**Zymotic Death-rate .59.**

Nine deaths were caused by Zymotic Diseases.

Enteric Fever	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	2
Croup	...	...	2
			<hr/>
			9



This gives a Zymotic Death-rate of  $\cdot 59$  per 1000 of the estimated population.

Zymotic Death-rate for 1902 was 2.82

„ „ „ 1903 was 1.14

„ „ „ 1904 was 1.3

Phthisical Death-rate  $\cdot 59$ .

Nine deaths were caused by Phthisis.

This gives a Phthisical Death-rate of  $\cdot 59$  per 1000 of population.

Seven deaths were caused by Tubercular Disease other than Phthisis.

These if added to the above would give a Tubercular Death-rate of 1.05 per 1000 of estimated population.

#### Summary of Deaths according to Age.

Under 1 year	...	...	53
1 and under 5 years	...	...	16
5 „ „ 15 „	...	...	5
15 „ „ 25 „	...	...	9
25 „ „ 65 „	...	...	44
65 and upwards	...	...	63

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Total 190

#### Causes of Death.

Scarlet Fever caused 1 death, Whooping Cough 3, Diphtheria 2, Croup 2, Enteric Fever 1, Influenza 2, Enteritis 8, other Septic Diseases 1, Phthisis 9, Other Tubercular Diseases 7, Cancer 10, Bronchitis 13, Pneumonia 12, Pleurisy 2, Cirrhosis of Liver 3, Premature Births 9, Diseases and Accidents of Parturition 2, Heart Disease 27, Accidents 7, All other causes such as Kidney Disease, Nervous Disease, and Senile Decay, 69.



## Infectious Diseases.

73 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, viz:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	56
Erysipelas	...	...	...	10
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3
Total				73

## Scarlet Fever.

17	cases at	Sweepstone
9	„	Worthington
3	„	Thringstone
4	„	Donisthorpe and Oakthorpe.
1	„	Coleorton
7	„	Ravenstone
1	„	Bardon
4	„	Measham
5	„	Willesley
4	„	Heather
1	„	Packington
Total		56

## Distribution over the year.

January	...	9	July	...	10
February	...	3	August	...	2
March	...	5	September	...	0
April	...	4	October	...	2
May	...	5	November	...	7
June	...	6	December	...	5
Total 56					

One case proved fatal.

As will be seen from the above table, the parish of Sweepstone suffered most from this disease, and the epidemic occurred mostly in July. The disease was of a very mild type, and was thought by the parents to be Measles, and Medical Aid was not called in. On my first visit I found 10 cases in the peeling stage. Thus it is easy to understand how the disease spread.



The Schools were closed for one month, from July 26th, in consequence.

Out of the total number of 56 cases of Scarlet Fever, 50 per cent were removed to Swannington Hospital. We still experience great difficulty in getting consent for removal.

Sulphur disinfection is the method employed in dealing with infected houses.

#### Diphtheria.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified, which is a great improvement on the nineteen cases of the previous year.

Two cases proved fatal. In connection with one of the fatal cases, which occurred at Donisthorpe, defective drains and a dismantled Water Closet in the house were found to be the most likely causes of the disease. I am pleased to be able to say that the use of Antitoxin in the treatment of this disease is most satisfactory, and your action in defraying the cost is to be highly commended.

#### Enteric Fever.

Four cases of Enteric Fever occurred during the year, 3 at Measham and the other at Ravenstone. One of the Measham cases proved fatal. It was, I believe imported, as the patient, a girl, came home from service ailing.



One of the other cases at Measham was also imported, and in connection with the third case at Measham the water supply on analysis was found to be bad.

The other case was at Ravenstone. The premises were in good condition, and no cause for its appearance could be assigned.

#### Erysipelas.

Ten cases were notified.

#### Measles.

Measles were epidemic during the year at Swannington, Newton Burgoland, Measham, and Donisthorpe. at each of which places the Schools were closed for varying periods of from three to four weeks.

#### Schools Closed (Measles).

Donisthorpe	...	June 21—July 10
Measham Mixed	...	Sep. 11—25
„ Infants	...	„ „
„ R.C.	...	„ „
Newton Burgoland...		Oct. 13—Nov. 27
Swannington Infants		Oct. 27—Nov. 27

#### Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was prevalent at Osgathorpe in October, and November, also at Staunton Harold in December, and the Schools were closed in consequence.

#### Schools Closed (Whooping Cough).

Osgathorpe	...	Oct. 13—Nov. 27
Staunton Harold	...	Dec. 17—22

#### Improvements and Suggestions.

Some of the improvements carried out during the year are as follows. For detailed account see your Inspector's Report which is included along with this.



In the early part of the year the sewerage of the newer part of Ravenstone was completed. This forms the first section of this work required in the parish, and the sewage is being disposed of satisfactorily.

I am pleased to be able to say that the lower part of the sewer at Standard Hill has been considerably improved. Owing to faulty gradients the outlet at the foot of the hill was more or less submerged by its own contents, which were not therefore efficiently distributed over the land for dealing with it.

By an alteration of the gradient and by crossing the road at a higher level on the other side of the bridge, and lengthening the outlet, the sewage is now delivered well above the Carrier and is consequently distributed over a larger area of the field.

At Donisthorpe a stoppage occurred in the main sewer in the village at two distinct places, and on two separate occasions.

On dealing with this temporarily, it was seen that the sewer will undoubtedly have to be relaid at an early date, with proper pipes and water tight joints.

At the "Cockspur" neighbourhood of this parish I am pleased to know that your Council are at present dealing with a portion of the sewage on the Moira Road, and are I believe considering a further extension of the sewers to deal with Ashby Road.



This although costly is a step in the right direction.

In Donisthorpe Parish the question of Scavenging has been under consideration for some time, but I regret to say no satisfactory arrangement has been arrived at.

#### Water Supply.

The water supply of the upper part of Measham is still most unsatisfactory, and I regret that the numerous reports presented to you on the subject have not received more attention and support. During the coming summer I fear the supply will be as it has been for several summers past inadequate for the requirements of the place.

In speaking of Measham it is gratifying to be able to report that the Public Scavenging of the parish is being carried out in a very satisfactory manner, and I can only wish that the same system could be applied to every parish in your district.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. HART,



ANNUAL REPORT of the  
SURVEYOR and INSPECTOR of NUISANCES  
For the year ending December 1905.

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my report of the various works, improvements, etc., carried out during the year ending Dec. 31st, 1905.

During the year 66 Plans were deposited with the Council for their approval, representing 157 Buildings, 44 of these were approved, and represented 99 Buildings, 20 plans were disapproved, representing 54 Buildings, most of these latter have been re-deposited with the necessary requirements, and been approved.

The Buildings erected have been mostly Dwelling Houses, Stabling, &c., and outhouses.

The New Buildings completed during the year are as follows;—

74 New Houses, 20 Privies and Ashpits, 2 Cow Sheds, 2 Dairies, 12 additions to existing properties, 5 Sculleries, 1 Surgery and Consulting Room, &c., 2 Blocks of Stables and Coach-House, 1 Bakehouse, and 5 Seperate Piggeries, this making a total of 124 Buildings, being an increase of 4 Buildings on 1904.

52 New Buildings are in course of construction in your district at the present time.

During the year 52 Old Houses have been completely re-drained, properly trapped, &c.

The Sewering of the first Section of the newer portion of Ravenstone has been completed, the Sewer at the bottom of Standard Hill has been re-constructed and laid so that the outlet is now 1ft. 9in. higher than formerly, and consequently the sewage can now be treated over a larger area of land.

The Sewage disposal works at Moira Road, Donisthorpe are progressing satisfactorily.

A length of old Sewer in Moira Road has been replaced with 9in. Pipes, and two Stoppages to the main Sewer in Donisthorpe have been dealt with, this Sewer will I fear before long have to be re-laid.



During the year 634 letters have been received and dealt with, also 211 Building Notices from Builders, letters wrote and sent, &c., were 714, and also 40 Statutory Notices.

The following matters have also been dealt with in respect of Nuisances, &c., as returned to County Council.

Complaints received 26  
 Premises Visited 2340  
 Nuisances abated—  
 Foul Ditches, &c., 8  
 Nuisances abated 8  
 Animals improperly kept 10  
 Nuisances abated 8  
 Privies, Urinals. Ashpits, &c., Visited 780  
 Nuisances abated 82  
 Drains, &c., inspected 92  
 Nuisances do. 81  
 Houses overcrowded 7  
 Nuisances abated 3  
 Offensive Accumulations Visited 34  
 Nuisances abated 30  
 Slaughter Houses Licensed 1  
 No. of Inspections to Slaughter Houses 32  
 Registered Dairies 16  
 No. of do. in District, not known  
 No. of Inspections do. 43  
 Houses condemned 1  
 Houses taken down 1  
 Houses cleansed and Limewashed 9  
 Number of houses in which infectious cases occurred were 59, and to which 177 visits were made.  
 22 New Privies and Ashpits were provided on old properties, as additional accommodation and  
 34 old Privies and Ashpits repaired, and  
 3 New Pan Closets erected  
 5 Samples of Water have been taken and analysed and 4 of these were condemned  
 Wells cleansed and repaired 6  
 New additional Wells provided 6  
 Waste pipes disconnected from Drain 4

There also follows, the duties imposed under the Factory and Workshop Act which accounts for 80 inspections.

In connection with the above duties I have Cycled 2919 Miles, this in addition to Train, &c.

SIGNED,  
 SAMUEL TURNER.



**Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.**

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**Factories.**

There are eight brickyards in your district. In these however the work is carried out in large freely ventilated sheds, and with the exception of occasional suggestions from us with reference to sanitary accommodations, no interference has been found necessary.

A stone breaking Mill at Bardon, an up to date Slaughter House with Machinery for specially preparing meat near Coalville, and a number of small corn mills, more or less complete, which might be styled Factories are in your district.

**Workshops and Work Places.**

There are at present 48 on the list including bakehouses. The latter are as a rule well kept. One underground bakehouse in Measham has been altered, so that now there are no underground bakehouses in your district.

**Home Work.**

Thirty-two houses in which home work is carried on have been inspected. Home work in your district is carried on in a very intermittent way, and it is difficult to keep a record of this particular class of case, as lists come in irregularly, and on visiting the premises one often finds that the work, which had been carried on, has been discontinued. Home workers in towns get more or less constant employment. Those in the country only get surplus work when trade is good.

