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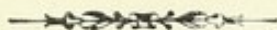
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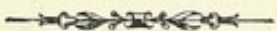
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ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH
Rural Sanitary District.



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1913.




G. S. HART, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

MARCH, 1914.

Deasham :

A. H. Thirlby & Sons, Printers.



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To

THE ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
MEASHAM.

March, 1914.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report
for the year 1913.

The Area of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District
is 31,995 acres, and it is subdivided into nineteen
parishes.

Population.

Population at the census of 1901 was 14,449
" " " 1911 was 16,302
,, Estimated for the middle of 1913...16,670

Births.

Four hundred and eighty four births were
registered during the year, viz. 230 boys and 254 girls.

This gives a birth rate of 29 per 1000 of the
estimated population.

Birth rate for 1906 was	32'5
" " 1907 "	28'3
" " 1908 "	32'0
" " 1909 "	30'4
" " 1910 "	30'0
" " 1911 "	27'0
" " 1912 "	26'0

Deaths.

One hundred and ninety seven deaths were
registered as belonging to your district, of these twenty
three were transferable, death having taken place out-
side your area, in public institutions for the most part.

This gives a death rate of 11·8 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Death rate for 1906 was 12'29

„	1907	„	11'9
„	1908	„	14'0
„	1909	„	13'6
„	1910	„	11'12
„	1911	„	13'0
„	1912	„	11'0

Causes of Death.

Measles caused 2 deaths; Scarlet Fever 2; Whooping Cough 2; Diphtheria 1; Influenza 1; Erysipelas 1; Pulmonary Tuberculosis 11; Tuberculosis Meningitis 1; other Tubercular Diseases 1; Cancer 15; Rheumatic Fever 3; Meningitis 3; Heart Disease 18; Bronchitis 12; Pneumonia 9; other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs 1; Diarrhoea and Enteritis 10; Appendicitis 2; Cirrhosis of the Liver 4; Bright's Disease 3; Diseases and Accidents of Parturition 8; Congenital Debility, Prematurity and Malformations 12; Violent Deaths 10; Suicides 4; other defined Diseases 33; and ill defined, or unknown causes 28.

Infantile Mortality.

Forty deaths occurred under 1 year; this gives an Infantile Mortality of 82·6 per 1000 births registered.

Infantile Mortality for 1906 was 108'7

„	„	1907	„	82'3
„	„	1908	„	109'0
„	„	1909	„	111'0
„	„	1910	„	105'0
„	„	1911	„	119'0
„	„	1912	„	105'0

Causes of Infantile Mortality.

Whooping Cough caused	...	2 deaths
Tubercular Meningitis	...	1 "
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	1 "
Convulsions	...	4 "
Bronchitis	...	4 "
Pneumonia	...	6 "
Enteritis ...	...	7 "
Overlying ...	...	1 "
Congenital Malformations	...	2 "
Premature Births	...	4 "
Debility and Marasmus	...	8 "
		<hr/>
		40

Zymotic Death Rate.

Measles caused	...	2 deaths.
Scarlet Fever	...	2 "
Whooping Cough	...	2 "
Diphtheria	...	1 "
Diarrhœa	...	10 "
		<hr/>
		17

This gives a Zymotic Death Rate of 1·01 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Phthisical Death Rate.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused 11 deaths. This gives a Phthisical Death Rate of 7·66 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Two deaths were caused by Tubercular Diseases other than Phthisis. These, if added to the above, would give a Tubercular Death Rate of ·77 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

Summary of Deaths according to Age.

Under 1 year	...	40
1 and under 2 years	...	5
2 " " 5 "	...	10
5 " " 15 "	...	7
15 " " 25 "	...	10
25 " " 45 "	...	21
45 " " 65 "	...	36
Over 65	...	68
		<hr/>
		197

Infectious Diseases.

One hundred and thirty-one cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year, viz. :—

Diphtheria ...	...	10
Erysipelas ...	...	12
Scarlet Fever ...	...	29
Enteric Fever ...	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	22
Other Forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	7
		—
		131

Diphtheria.

With reference to the cases of Diphtheria, they all occurred in more or less modern houses, with good sanitary surroundings. One case proved fatal. Anti-toxin is kept in stock by me, on behalf of your Council, and is supplied where required.

Enteric Fever.

Only one case of Enteric Fever occurred during the year. This case was at Barden, and was, I believe, contracted outside your district.

Scarlet Fever.

Seventy-nine cases were reported during the year :—

Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe ...	47
Appleby Magna ...	15
Coleorton ...	3
Worthington ...	4
Swannington ...	2
Bardon ...	6
Heather ...	1
Packington ...	1
—	
79	

As is seen above, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe suffered most severely from this disease which was epidemic there in 1912 and especially towards the latter end of that year. During the first half of 1913 the disease was more or less continuously present in this Parish. In all, 51 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed from the affected parishes to Swannington Isolation Hospital during the year.

Tubercular Diseases including Phthisis.

No Institution for the reception of persons suffering from these diseases exists in your district.

Persons insured under the National Health Insurance Act can apply for Sanatorium Benefits, and may be received in Monsley Hospital if suitable. A number of patients go to Sanatoria in distant parts of the country, either paying themselves or being assisted in so doing by the generosity of others.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The new system of Sewerage at Swannington continues to work well, and no difficulty of any kind has been experienced.

Ravenstone Scheme which for some reason or other was deferred, although a loan had been sanctioned for the purpose, is, I understand, about to be commenced, a tender having been accepted.

No progress has been made with any scheme for dealing with the parish of Measham.

No scheme for dealing with the sewerage of Donisthorpe, as a whole, has yet been matured, although this matter is receiving considerable attention.

The district in the village known as the Sand Holes, which until recently drained into a large cess-pit near the road has been considerably improved. The pit in question has been filled up and the sewage conveyed by a covered carrier well down the field, and eventually disposed of by broad irrigation.

An order for Public Scavenging of Donisthorpe has been obtained, and although the work has not yet commenced, it soon will, and will be of considerable benefit to the village.

Water Supply.

The general sources of supply for your district are wells and springs.

Portions of Snarestone, Swepstone, and Newton are supplied from the Hinckley Water Main.

New Swannington is now in a position to obtain an ample supply from the Coalville Mains, and thirty houses have availed themselves of this source.

The supply of your district is as a whole fairly ample, but portions of Measham, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Thringstone are deficient.

Hospital Accommodation.

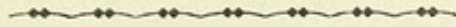
I regret that apparently no progress has been made during the year, with the erection of the Joint Isolation Hospital at Ashby-de-la-Zouch. During 1913, your little hospital at Swannington had its resources taxed to the uttermost, for the isolation of scarlet fever alone, and at one time a tent had to be erected to provide additional room.

Housing of the Working Classes.

In view of the development of the Coalfields and other works in and around your district, and the steady increase of your population, a considerable number of new houses will soon have to be provided. Especially will this be necessary at places like Measham, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe, Heather, Coleorton and Swannington. These conditions, along with the yearly closure of a number of old houses, and the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Acts, make this matter one of considerable importance.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

See Inspector's Report.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.**Factories.**

Factories in your district include Lount Earthenware Works, Measham Shoe Factory, Swepstone Cheese Factory, Bardon Stone Mills, Organ Factory at Measham, several Brick and Pipe Yards; one at Blackfordby has undergone considerable enlargement during the year.

Workshops.

Workshops including Bakehouses in your district number 91. The Bakehouses are well kept and number 10. No underground Bakehouses exist.

Homework.

Homework of the nature of Hosiery is carried on to some extent. Number of out-workers, 59. No cases of infectious disease have occurred as far as I know in any of these houses during the year.

In conclusion I would point out with satisfaction the diminished Infantile Mortality in your district as well as the freedom from Enteric Fever which we have enjoyed during the year.

I would ask for your careful consideration of ways and means to improve the sewerage of Measham and Donisthorpe, as well as their water supplies. These matters, along with the provision of more housing accommodation in the parishes named above seem to be the most important points for your more immediate attention.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

G. S. HART, M.D.

(COPY)

Ashby-de-la-Zouch,

30th June, 1913.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashby Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to present my half-yearly report on the Dairy Cows in your district.

I found three cases of Tuberculosis of the Udder. One of the animals was sold to be slaughtered forthwith, the other two were isolated and the milk stopped for human consumption, the owners decided to get rid of them as quickly as possible.

In four cases I stopped the milk being sold as the bags were of a suspicious character. Two cases of General Tuberculosis were condemned, and both the animals were disposed of to the knacker man. I am glad to say that the improvement in the milking cows is well maintained, and their general condition very satisfactory

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

(Signed)

SIDNEY STURGESS, M.R.C.V.S.

Veterinary Inspector.

ASHBY RURAL DISTRICT.

List of Schools closed on account of Infectious Illness
during the year 1913.

SCHOOL.	PERIOD.	DISEASE.
Appleby Magna Boys ...	May 16th— June 14th	Scarlet Fever
„ „ Girls and Infants ...	May 16th— June 14th	Scarlet Fever
	Sept. 19th— Oct. 4th	Scarlet Fever
Blackfordby C.E. ...	April 1st— April 19th	Measles
Coleorton C.E. ...	Oct. 7th— Nov. 22nd	Measles and Colds
Donisthorpe Council ...	Feb. 12th— May 29th	Scarlet Fever
Heather C.E. ...	Sept. 10th— Sept. 29th	Measles
Measham R.C. ...	Jan. 26th— March 1st	Whooping Cough
Ravenstone C.E. ...	Nov. 25th— Dec. 20th (Xmas Holidays were taken from Dec. 20th to Jan. 5th, 1914)	Measles
Swannington C.E. Mixed	May 29th— June 21st July 28th— Sept. 1st	Measles and Whooping Cough Measles
Swannington C.E. Infants	April 26— June 21st July 28th— Sept. 1st	Measles and Whooping Cough Measles
New Swannington Council	July 19th— Aug 2nd	Measles and Mumps.
Thringstone C.E. Mixed ...	Feb. 11th— March 8th	Measles and Whooping Cough
„ Council Infts.	Feb. 4th— March 8th	Measles

(COPY)

Ashby-de-la-Zouch,

31st December, 1913.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Ashby Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my half-yearly Report on the inspection of the Dairy Cows in the Council's area.

I found four cases of Tuberculosis of the Udder. Two of the animals were slaughtered the next day. The other two cases were reported to the County Authorities and dealt with by them.

I condemned one cow for General Tuberculosis, and the owner sent her to be slaughtered the same day.

During the year I have examined 4,487 cows. I am glad to say that the condition of the Dairy Cows in the Council's district is very satisfactory, and the benefits of the regular inspection are very apparent.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

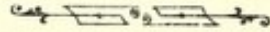
Yours obediently,

(Signed)

SIDNEY STURGESS, M.R.C.V.S.

Veterinary Inspector.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,
FOR THE YEAR 1913.**



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Report upon, and works carried out during the year just ended of 1913.

Building Works and Plans.

During the year, thirty-six plans were deposited for the Council's approval. Three of these were disapproved, but were later re-deposited and approved.

The Plans represented a Girls' Home at Thringstone (now nearly completed), large Factory extensions at Blackfordby, nine Dwelling-houses, one Farmhouse, and the remainder consisted of Stables, Cowsheds, two Slaughter-Houses, additions to existing Dwelling Houses, such as Sculleries, Piggeries, w.c.'s, and other Outbuildings.

During the year the following Buildings have been completed, viz. : Seven Dwelling Houses, one large Factory extension, two Slaughter-Houses, five Sets of Cow-Sheds, Stabling, &c., seven additions to existing Dwelling Houses, and fourteen Miscellaneous Buildings.

Trades, &c.

No new Trades have been commenced in your district during the year, and only one extension to existing Factories, of any importance.

Existing Properties.

The work of improvement to existing property drags along very slowly, and much difficulty is experienced in getting works carried out.

Twenty-six existing houses have been completely re-drained, and the drains properly trapped, &c.

Public Works, &c.

With the exception of a Water Supply being laid on to some thirty Houses from the Water Main at New Swannington, nothing more has been done, but so far as concerns the Sewage Disposal Works at Swannington, these are doing good work, and are in good order and condition.

The Sewers throughout the district generally have been kept under supervision and are regularly flooded.

Isolation Hospital.

Since my last Report the Isolation Hospital has been cleansed, altered, painted, &c., and the new Nurse has taken up her appointment, and, although the Hospital has been almost continually full the greater portion of the time the place has been maintained in a very creditable and satisfactory condition.

Slaughter-Houses.

The Slaughter-Houses in your district have received numerous visits, and while many of them are of an antiquated type, they have been kept in a very fair condition, so far as their structural conditions will permit, but a better and more modern type of building for this purpose is most desirable generally.

Bakehouses.

The Bakehouses have been periodically visited and have been found to be fairly well kept, lime-washed etc.

We have no underground Bakehouses.

Public Health Matters, etc.

During the year the following matters have received attention under the Public Health Acts, Housing and Town Planning, etc., and copies of this report have already been forwarded to the Local Government Board and the County Council through your Medical Officer of Health.

Total Inspections for all purposes	...	...	1975
Notices served	...	...	45
Premises, houses, &c., inspected	...	...	1520
Nuisances abated	...	...	869
Pools, ditches, &c., inspected	...	...	17
Nuisances abated	...	...	17
Animals improperly kept	...	...	13
Nuisances abated	...	...	13
Privies (Middens), new provided	...	...	17
„ No. of existing, repaired	...	...	63
„ converted to pails	...	...	3
„ „ „ W.C.'s	...	...	7
Pails or Earth Closets (new provided)	...	...	—
„ „ „ converted to W.C.'s	...	...	—
Water Closets (No. of new provided)	...	...	—
„ „ converted from dry receptacles	...	...	—
„ „ supplied with water, repaired, &c.	...	...	—
Ashpits, No. of new provided	...	...	11

Ashpits, No converted to ashbins	...	...	—
Ashbins, No. of new provided	...	...	—
Cesspools, No. of same cleansed, repaired, &c.	...	...	132
„ No. abolished and drains connected to sewer	...	...	—
Drains, Traps, &c., No. inspected	...	...	513
„ „ Nuisances abated...	...	...	209
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	—
Offensive Accumulations, No. inspected	...	...	22
„ „ Nuisances abated	...	...	22
Insanitary houses (Public Health Act, 1875)			
No. inspected	...	No action taken	
„ cleansed, repaired, &c.	...	...	3
„ condemned or closed	...	...	—
Overcrowding, No. of houses inspected	...	...	55
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	2
Common Lodging Houses	...	None in district	
Offensive Trades	...	None established in the district	

Slaughter Houses—

No. in district	...	...	18
„ licensed	...	...	2
„ registered	...	...	—
„ of inspections	...	...	45
„ of contraventions	...	...	—
Food, diseased, unsound, &c.	...	...	No action taken

Infectious disease and disinfection—

No. of houses affected	...	...	74
„ „ inspected	...	...	74
Total No. of inspections	...	...	93
No. of rooms disinfected	...	See houses	
No. of schools disinfected	...	One school disinfected under rigid supervision.	
Clothing disinfected	...	...	—
„ destroyed	...	...	—
Is there a steam disinfecter?	...	...	No.

Water Supply—

No. of samples taken	...	...	—
„ „ condemned	...	...	—
„ wells closed	...	...	—
„ wells cleansed, repaired, &c.	...	...	13

Water Supply.

Number of circumstances where the public supply was substitute for the Well	...	...	30
Number of Cisterns cleansed, etc.	...	...	1
„ Cistern wastes disconnected	...	...	11

Canal Boats.—No action taken.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, 1885—1889.

Have regulations been adopted ? ...	...	...	Yes.
Has a Veterinary Inspector been appointed ? ...	...	...	Yes.

Premises, &c.—

No. of milk sellers in district ...	...	...	180
„ these registered ...	...	...	180
„ Inspections of above ...	...	...	37
„ „ at milking time ...	No separate events		
„ Contraventions, etc. ...	...	
„ Premises found to require—			
(a) Cleansing, etc.	} A deal of work still to be done in these matters.		
(b) Structural, or Sanitary Im- provements (to include want of impervious paving of yards and cowshed floors, &c.)			
„ Requirements (a & b) carried out ...		...	9

Water Supply—

No. of premises deriving water from wells, the greater portion.

„ samples analysed	—
------------------------	-----	-----	---

Legal Proceedings—*Nil*.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.

No. of Dwelling Houses Inspected ...	...	60
Total No. of Inspections made ...	...	87
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were found ...	...	31
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ notified (i.e.) made fit for habitation without recourse to Closing Orders, Sec. 15) ...	...	2
No. of representations to local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders, Sec. 17 (2) ...	...	3
No. of Closing Orders made Sec. 17 (2) ...	...	2

No. of dwelling houses closed—

(a) By voluntary action of owners ...	...	—
(b) As a result of Closing Orders ...	...	6

No. of dwelling houses which, after the making of Closing
Orders, were put in a fit state of habitation ...

—

No. of Dwelling Houses demolished—

(a) By voluntary action of owners ...	...	—
(b) As a result of Closing Orders ...	...	—

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

Workshops.	No. on Register (including Bakehouses)	91
	No. of Nuisances abated ...	5
Bakehouses only.	No. on Register ...	11
	No. of Nuisances abated ...	1
Homework.	No. of Outworkers ...	59
"	" " Nuisances abated ...	—
"	" " Infected " ...	—
"	" " Legal Proceedings ...	—

GENERAL INFORMATION.

What arrangements are in operation for the disinfection of :—

- (a) Rooms. Fumigation by Izial Sulphur Candles.
- (b) Articles of Clothing—Nil.
- (c) Bedding—Nil.

After Fumigation is it the general practice }
to thoroughly cleanse and strip the } Only in dirty cases.
wall-paper ?

Have Building Byelaws been adopted for the whole }
district—if not, for what (Rural) Parishes ? }

Bye-laws adopted for the Parishes of Heather, Blackfordby, Thringstone, Coleorton, Swannington, Measham, Oakthorpe, and Donisthorpe and Ravenstone.

Dairies and Cowsheds Orders, &c.

I regret to say that Cowkeepers and Milksellers appear to have been rather lax generally during the year in the lime-washing of the Cow Sheds, and of keeping the Sheds clean.

It seems to have been a very common practice for the dung, &c. accumulating during the night, to have been left in the cow-shed for a period of the following day, clearly showing that the morning milking had been carried out under conditions which ought not to exist, and in some cases I have found the cattle being brought in the sheds for the afternoon milking, whilst the sheds have not been cleaned out at all during the day.

Should this practice continue, it leaves me only one course to pursue, namely :—to report those concerned to the Council for their consideration, as to whether milk-selling should be allowed under such conditions.

Considerable sums have been expended by some landlords to make the cow-sheds fit for this business, i.e., milkselling, and such expenditure ought not to be rendered useless, by the practice referred to, and further, this procedure tends to make my duties more irksome and unpleasant, when, to visit the premises for the purposes of inspection if I could find better conditions existing, would be much more satisfactory and pleasant for all concerned.

I trust that during the year 1914, I shall be able to see a continuation of the much desired improvements to Cowsheds, Dairies, etc.

During the year 576 letters, notices, &c., were received and dealt with, and letters and notices, &c. sent out amount to 730.

(Signed) SAMUEL TURNER.



1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and interesting in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life, and shows that the most probable one is the theory of spontaneous generation.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the theory of spontaneous generation. The author shows that this theory is based on the fact that life is a complex phenomenon, and that it is therefore probable that it arose spontaneously from non-living matter. The author also discusses the various experiments which have been conducted to test this theory, and shows that they all support it.

