For the Library. T G Parrott

AYLESBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1912.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Aylesbury Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1912.

Area of District	3,301 acres.
Population (Census 1911)	11,048
Estimated to middle of 1912	11,273

Births.

Statistics for the previous 5 years:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Per 1,000 Population.
1907	119	109	228	24·10
1908	117	112	229	24·10
1909	101	108	209	21·90
1910	108	117	225	23·50
1911	123	99	222	20·01

Average for the 5 years.

1907-11	113·90	109	222·60	22·72
1912	89	133	222	19·60

The birth-rate shows a decline in common with the experience of the country as a whole, but although the birth-rate for 1912 is low, it must be borne in mind that probably the rates for the years immediately preceding the census year of 1911 are too high, as the population was under estimated for those years. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1912 was 23·8. The excess of 44 female births over male is worthy of notice, the general experience being an excess of male births, with an excess of male deaths under one year of age.

Deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Corrected death rate per 1,000 of Population.
1907	81	78	159	12·80
1908	78	68	146	13·30
1909	92	86	178	14·60
1910	85	73	158	13·30
1911	81	84	165	12·20

Average for the 5 years.

1907-11	83.40	77·80	161·20	13·24
1912	76	80	156	10·47

The corrected death-rate for England and Wales for 1912 is 13·3.

The death rate is below the average of the previous five years. The deaths in each quarter of the year were 57, 37, 29, and 33.

Forty two deaths occurred in Public Institutions within the district; viz., 28 in the Royal Bucks Hospital, of which 21 were non-resident; and fourteen in the Workhouse, of which six were non-resident.

23	deaths	occurred	under one year of age.		
4	„	„	between 1 and 5 years.		
7	„	„	„	„	5 and 15 years.
5	„	„	„	„	15 and 25 „
49	„	„	„	„	25 and 65 „
68	„	„	„	„	65 and upwards.

Five males and eighteen females attained to eighty years of age and over, and of these one male reached 91, and four females 90, 90, 91 and 92 respectively.

The causes of death were: –

Cancer	21
Bronchitis	18
Broncho-pneumonia	10
Phthisis	8
Nephritis	7
Congenital debility and premature birth	7
Violent deaths	7
Tuberculous Meniagitis	1
Other Tuberculous diseases	2
Whooping Cough	3
Appendicitis	2
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	1
Enteritis	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Other Causes	66
	156

The deaths from cancer were 21, this form of disease was therefore the cause of death in one case out of every 7·40 deaths; in 1911, the rate was 1 in 9·70; in 1910, 1 in 10·40, a disquieting increase in ratio.

Consumption and other tuberculous diseases caused 11 deaths, or a rate of 1 in 14·10, in 1911 this was 1 in 15, and in 1910, 1 in 11·0.

Diseases of the lungs, excluding consumption, were responsible for 29 deaths, or a rate of 1 in 5·30.

Infant Mortality.

		Per 1,000 births registered.
1907	30	131·50
1908	21	91·70
1909	21	100·40
1910	20	88·88
1911	27	120·90
Average for the 5 years.		
1907-11	23·80	106·67
1912	23	103·60

The Infant Mortality is thus below the average for the previous five years, but is still too high, the rate for England and Wales during 1912 being 95.

The causes of death under one year were certified as due to:—

Broncho-Pneumonia	6
Bronchitis	5
Premature Birth	5
Whooping Cough	3
Gastro-enteritis	1
Marasmus	1
Congenital heart disease	1
Asphyxia during birth	1
	23

The low temperature during the summer months accounts for the fact that only one death occurred from enteritis; during the hot, dry summer of 1911 seven deaths from this cause took place. Eight of the eleven deaths from Broncho-pneumonia and bronchitis occured during the first and last quarters of the year. The three deaths from whooping cough took place in the second and third quarters of the year when there was a widespread epidemic of the disease in the town.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907 is not in force in the district.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.

		Per 1,000 of Population.
1907	8	·80
1908	9	·90
1909	10	1·05
1910	7	·70
1911	22	1·90
Average for the 5 years.		
1907-11	11.20	1·07
1912	4	·30

The Zymotic death-rate of ·30 per 1,000 of population is the lowest rate recorded for 28 years, viz., since the year 1883, the earliest year for which I have records.

The causes of death were:—

Whooping Cough	3
Influenza	1

Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.—Sixty notifications were received during the year, cases of consumption accounting for nearly half the number.

The cases notified were:—

Phthisis	28
Scarlet Fever	19
Erysipelas	10
Enteric Fever	2
Puerperal Fever	1
	60

Phthisis. Six of the 28 cases notified were patients attending at the Royal Bucks Hospital from outside the district, leaving 22 cases notified of persons residing in the district, of this number five died during the year.

The Council provide.—

1. Free bacteriological examination of sputum.
2. Free provision of disinfectant and sputum bottles.
3. Free supply of tuberculin.
4. Disinfection of rooms, periodically and after death.
5. Printed instructions.
6. A portable shelter.

Dr. Burra has recently been appointed Tuberculosis Medical Officer for the County of Buckingham, by the Bucks County Council.

Scarlet Fever.—Nineteen cases were notified, of this number five contracted the disease outside of the district. Eleven cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the remainder being treated at home, one boy after being in the Hospital six weeks, was discharged apparently well, desquamation being completed, and there being no nasal, throat or aural discharge, but five days later a brother and sister were admitted with the disease, this I ascribe to the inefficient means existing of disinfecting the clothing, no steam disinfector being provided.

Every case of the fever was of a mild type, and no deaths took place.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases only notified, the first was that of a boy aged 11, admitted to the Royal Bucks Hospital for another complaint, from a neighbouring village, as he fell ill two days after admittance, the disease must have been contracted while he was at home.

The second case was notified in October, in a boy aged 11, and was due to bad sanitary arrangements at his home.

Puerperal Fever.—One case notified, this occurred in the practice of a midwife, after a severe and protracted illness the patient recovered, injections of antistreptoccic serum apparently being of great benefit.

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported from the Elementary Schools of the town, were as follows:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.
Mumps	10	6	3	1	4	1
Measles	6	3	6	4	1	—
German Measles	7	3	4	—	—	—
Ringworm	3	—	4	6	5	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping-cough	—	—	—	—	—	29
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
	July.	**Aug.**	**Sep.**	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ringworm	2	—	5	1	2	—
Whooping-cough	129	—	12	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	—	1	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	9	37	23
Mumps	—	—	—	1	—	3
German Measles	—	—	—	—	—	1

Table of notifications for the past 5 years :—

	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Enteric Fever	0	0	20	5	2
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	9	6	4	16	10
Scarlet Fever	4	3	7	14	19
Diphtheria	0	2	1	0	0
Phthisis	5	11	7	6	28

Voluntary notification of phthisis was adopted by the Council June 1906.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1908, came into force on the 1st, January 1909, by which the notification of all cases of phthisis occurring under the Poor Law, was made compulsory.

Notification of all cases of phthisis in Hospitals was made compulsory on the 1st May, 1911.

General compulsory notification of phthisis came into force on the 1st. January 1912, this order accounts for the larger number of phthisis cases notified in this year, as compared with previous years.

Isolation Hospital. —The Hospital is situated about one mile out of the town, and consists of two distinct blocks; a nurse's room has been added to the new block during the year, the total number of beds available is now 12, the addition of two new wards is contemplated, the accomodation provided has hitherto been found quite sufficient, but the population of the town is increasing.

Eleven cases of scarlet fever were treated in the Hospital during the year, and it was in use from the 1st March to the 15th April; from the 5th June to the 12th October, and from the 30th October to the 14th December, a total period of thirty one weeks and two days; during seven weeks of this time it was occupied by two cases of scarlet fever admitted from a village outside the district.

Disinfection.—A steam disinfector is much needed, the present available means by soaking in liquid disinfectant, and spraying not being sufficiently reliable.

Housing Accommodation.—Many improvements, such as the removal of floors laid directly on the ground, have been carried out during the year, by the action of Mr. Lee, your Sanitary Inspector, and a large number of automatic flushing cisterns have been fitted to closets previously hand flushed, but much still remains to be done, and the condition of some of the old cottages is very bad, their structural arrangements precluding the possibility of any real benefit resulting from spasmodic attempts at patching up.

The principle defects met with in these old cottages are absence of damp course, with resulting damp walls, rooms too small, with deficient window space, deficient space at the rear of the houses, absence of sinks, unclean closets.

The Inspector is carrying out the systematic inspection of houses under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act 1909, and the records thus made are of great value.

Fisher's Yard and Court are in the same condition as when last reported on. Wheeler's Yard containing seven houses which were closed by the former owner, has now been re-opened, the houses having been cleaned and repaired by the new owner, and new closets and two coppers built, but at present the houses are without sinks and separate water supply.

The houses in Spring Gardens and Whitehall Row are unchanged.

Several houses in Walton Green have had new floors laid down, and other improvements made.

The following table shows some of the work which has been carried out.

Houses and Premises inspected	1976
Overcrowding abated	2
Dirty houses cleansed	181
Automatic cisterns to W.C.'s provided	234
Provision of sinks	34
Taps placed over sinks	106
Unventilated floors remedied	38
Defective floors.....	64
Drains repaired.....	156

Fleet Street and Havelock Street have now been made up and sewered, and gas and water laid on.

Water Supply.—A few houses are still supplied from wells, but their number is diminishing every year, and most of the houses receive their supply from the Chiltern Hills Spring Water Company, which gives a constant service of very pure water of about four degrees af hardness derived from deep wells sunk in the Chalk formation of the Chiltern hills. Eight samples of well water were examined and four were found polluted, and four satisfactory.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875.—The police carry out the duties of taking samples under this Act. During the year the following articles have been analysed and found genuine in each case:—Milk, three samples, and one sample each of olive oil, coffee, lard, pork-pie, potted meat, Gregory's powder, margarine, tinned beef, Easton's syrup.

Dairies and Milk Supply.—There are 24 registered dairymen or milk sellers in the district, an increase of 4 during the year. Their premises have been inspected, and on the whole are fairly satisfactory, although most of the premises used have been adapted from other uses, and have not been specially built for their purpose.

Cowsheds.—There are 15 cowkeepers on the register, an increase of two during the year. The cows have been found healthy and in good condition, and the premises kept fairly clean. No prosecutions have been necessary during the year.

Slaughter house and meat Inspection.—There are 16 slaughter houses on the register, 3 new premises have been opened during the year; they appear to be numerous for the size of the district, and their number renders efficient inspection and control very difficult, a public abattoir would solve the difficulty, but its provision at present does not appear to be a likely event.

In two cases tuberculous meat was destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

Other Foods.—No seizure of unsound food other than meat has been found necessary during the year.

Sewerage.—Very good reports have been received throughout the year from the Analyst as regards the quality of the effluent. Additional land is required for irrigation, and the Council are taking steps to acquire it.

House Refuse.—No uniform pattern of covered receptacles for house refuse is compulsory, and a variety of broken-down pails and boxes is used, with the result that some of the contents become scattered on the pavements.

Dust Yard.—It is generally acknowledged that owing to the growth of the town this is in a very unsuitable position, and the Council have under consideration the provision of a proper destructor, either at the Sewage Works or near the proposed Electricity Station.

Lodging Houses.—There is only one registered lodging-house in the town, and this on inspection, has been found satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.—I have received no complaints during the year of the fat-melting factory, which is the only offensive trade in the district.

The Elementary Schools and Medical Inspection of School Children.—The infectious diseases reported from the schools have been tabulated above. The sanitary condition of the schools is satisfactory and the medical inspection of the children is carried out by the Chief and Assistant Medical Officers, assisted by a Nurse.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Bakehouses.—Twenty are registered in the district, of which one is underground; they have all been inspected, and the provisions as to cleanliness and lime-washing have been carried out.

Workshops and Workplaces.—There are 118 on the register. Several of these employ only one or two people. This is an increase of six during the year. They have been visited and several minor defects remedied. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, is in force and complied with.

The Inspector's Report is supplied with this Report, and records a large amount of hard and conscientious work, which has been carried out with the minimum of friction, due to the tact displayed by your Inspector. I take this opportunity of thanking him for his valuable co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. G. PARROTT, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.