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Contributors

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THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF
MERTHYR TYDFIL,

BEING THAT FOR THE YEAR 1894,

PREPARED FOR THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

BY THEIR

Medical Officer,

THOMAS JONES DYKE,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, ENGLAND, AND OF
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AND OF LA SOCIETE FRANCAISE D'HYGIENE,
ETC.

MERTHYR TYDFIL :

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THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District of the Local Board of Health of Merthyr Tydfil.

MERTHYR TYDFIL, 1ST JANUARY, 1895.

GENTLEMEN,

At the end of the year, 1894, I have again to report to you on the sanitary condition of the district under your supervision. Appointed your Officer of Health in October, 1865, I have had year by year to present to you reports summarising the Returns of Births and Deaths, supplied by the Registrars, and the reports presented to you monthly during the current year. In this, the Thirtieth Annual Report, I propose to follow in the same lines of remarks as in the preceding ones.

CHAPTER I.—POPULATION, &c.

1. **POPULATION.**—Mr. W. J. Jones, the Assistant-Overseer, has again kindly had prepared the following table (A), showing the actual number of occupied houses in each *Ward* in the summer collection for Poors' Rate, &c. :—

TABLE A.

Number of occupied houses in the several Wards.

Wards.	Houses.
Dowlais ...	2,337
Penydarren ...	2,410
Cyfarthfa ...	1,902
Merthyr Town ...	2,295
Plymouth ...	1,312
Merthyr Vale ...	1,518
Total Parish of Merthyr Tydfil ...	11,774
Quaker's Yard added ...	267
Total Local Board District ...	12,041

But I would here again say that to adopt the areas of *Wards* as the standards of divisions for sanitary statistical purposes would ill serve the end of enquiries as to the comparative healthiness of each district; as, for example, half of Dowlais *Town* is in the Penydarren *Ward*; three-fourths of Tydfil's Well is in Cyfarthfa *Ward*. In this latter instance the births and deaths are registered—those occurring at Tydfil's Well District in the *Upper Merthyr* Registration District, those occurring at Georgetown, &c., in the *Lower* Registration District.

Hence I propose to adhere to my original plan of following very closely the lines of the divisions into hamlets, and taking as boundaries the streams of water dividing those hamlets, &c.

I will now direct your attention to a return prepared by your Book-keeper, Mr. Rowland Harris, showing the rateable value of the occupied houses in the District of the Local Board.

TABLE B.

5,560	houses not exceeding rateable value of £4.	
3,681	„ above £4, not exceeding	7.
1,244	„ „ 7,	10.
728	„ „ 10,	20.
471	„ „ 20,	40.
114	„ „ 40,	80.
33	„ „ 80.	
<hr/>		
11,831		

From the following Table C it will be seen that I estimate the population of the District of the Local Board for the year 1894 at 65,579 persons, occupying 12,041 houses.

TABLE C.

*Estimated Population of the Parish and District of Merthyr Tydfil,
1st July, 1894.*

Registration Districts, Divisions and Boundaries.	Occupied Houses.	Population.
A.—MERTHYR UPPER REGISTRATION DISTRICT :		
1. Dowlais Division. Boundaries—North of Dulais and East of Morlais Brooks... ..	3,260	18,000
2. Penydarren Division. Boundaries—North of Morlais and East of Goytra Pond Brooks	886	5,096
3. Tydfil's Well Division. Boundaries—West of Goytra Pond Brook and East of Taff River	1,400	7,000
Total	5,546	30,096
B.—MERTHYR LOWER REGISTRATION DISTRICT :		
4. Merthyr Town Division—South of Morlais, East of Taff, and North of Cwm Blacks Brook	2,300	12,650
5. Gellideg Division—South of Ffrwd and North of Canaid Brooks and West of Taff River	1,050	5,250
6. Troedyrhiw Division—South of Canaid and Cwm Blacks Brook to the South Parliamentary Boundary	1,360	7,140
7. Merthyr Vale District—South of Parliamentary Boundary to Aberfan Brooks and Lanes	640	3,840
8. Treharris and Goytra Coed Division—South of Aberfan Brooks to South Boundary of Parish	878	5,268
Total	6,228	34,148
9. Quaker's Yard Sub-District—South of Parish Boundary to Fabon's Brook, Llanfabon Parish	267	1,335
Totals in District	12,041	65,579

2. **BIRTHS.**—There were registered during the year the births of 1,201 male and of 1,102 female children. The sum of these is 2,303; on the estimated population the birth rate would be 35.1 per 1,000 of the population. The rate is 2 per 1,000 less than in the preceding year. The number of illegitimate births was 81—3½ per cent. of the whole.

3. **MARRIAGES.**—The marriages which were registered during the year were 669; there were thus 100 more than in the preceding year. The number of marriages solemnised in Churches was 72, and of those legalized before the appointed registrars, 597.

4. **VACCINATIONS.**—Public vaccinators successfully performed this health and life-saving operation on 1685 children, while private practitioners of medicine also successfully vaccinated 328 infants—giving a total of 2,013. Comparing this number with the total of births, 2303, and deducting the great mortality of weakly infants in the first two months of life, 178 (before the period for vaccinating), it will appear that 20 out of 21 of the infants born had been protected by the mild form of “Cowpock” from the deadly and exceedingly contagious form of the malady Small-pox.

5. **DEATHS.**—The number registered was 604 in the Upper Registration District (excluding Vaynor), and 696 in the Lower District, the total being 1,300. As to the sex of those who died 664 were males and 636 females. The death rate was 19.8 per 1,000. This rate is less by 2½ per 1,000 than in 1893, and is the lowest recorded during the 29 years I have been your medical officer.

The number of births registered in the added District of Quaker's Yard were 40, and of deaths 10. As the population as counted was found to be 1335, occupying 267 houses, the rates respectively of births and of deaths would be 30 of the former and 7.5 of the latter.

6. **AGES AT DEATH.**—The number of deaths of children under 1 year was 429, and of those of 1 and under 5, 207. These amount to 636 and represent 49 per cent. of all deaths. Of persons of 5 years and under 25, the proportion was 10 per cent.; of those of 25 and under 65, 30 per cent.; of persons aged 65 and upwards, the proportion was 11 per cent.

7. **AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH.**—The sum of the years lived by those whose deaths were recorded, divided by the number of deaths, gave 25 as the average, as compared with $17\frac{1}{2}$ years in the dark days of Merthyr. I must here, as usual, record the fact that the average age at death before any means were instituted for the sanitation of the town and outlying villages, when there was no scavenging, no water supply, except from the pump wells sunk into the underlying gravel bed, into which also the cesspits were discharged; when Typhoid Fever was always prevalent, and destroyed hundreds of lives annually; when sewers were unknown, but when so-called *box gutters*, formed of four pieces of paving stone, conveyed house refuse from streets and lanes to the brooks or rivers, a fact, alas, but too well known to your officers, as being made evident from week to week by the occurrence of cases of Typhoid (for the situation of these breeders of pestilence is not known); but under the wise direction of your predecessors and yourselves, these wants have been supplied, a well-worked system of street and lane cleansing, a plentiful supply of thoroughly pure water, an admirably laid system of sewerage, the provision of two methods of purifying sewage, by downward intermittent filtration, and by wide irrigation on grazed lands; by these means disease has been prevented, health has been promoted, and the average age at death extended to 25 years.

CHAPTER II.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CAUSES OF DEATHS.

8. **NOTIFICATION OF DISEASES.**—On Table D. may be read the numbers of the cases of infectious maladies reported during the year, the total being 530, as compared with 998 in 1893, 1,030 in 1892, 1,087 in 1891. Scarlet Fever was very less generally prevalent, though still claiming many young children as sufferers; 211 children were affected as against 595 in 1893. In this year, as formerly, whenever a few imported cases occurred in a district from which children of the infant class were sent to the school of that district, there, in houses in streets in various parts of that district, after an interval of a fortnight, cases of the malady would be reported, the sufferers being those of the age stated who attended that particular school. And thus by direct contagion from school, and from sick beds in workmen's houses, the malady would be diffused. The occurrence of a holiday period of 16 days, or the closure of that school, would in most instances put an end to the prevalence of the disease.

9. **DIPHTHERIA.**—No such local outbreak of Diphtheria occurred in 1894 as was reported to you as having happened at Pantyscallog in 1893.—47 persons were affected; 28 of these cases occurred at Pantyscallog. The total of deaths was four. In every instance which occurred a local cause, either imperfect drain traps or broken closet pans, was discovered.

10. **TYPHOID FEVER** was more than usually present in certain localities. In the occurrence of this malady also imperfection of the sanitary appliances in closets, yards, and drains were in *every instance* discovered. The use of the smoke test very quickly indicated whence the sewer gases escaped. A few cases of

11. **TYPHUS FEVER** were reported. The subjects of the malady were two labourers returning from hop-picking in Herefordshire. Two females who attended to them, during the very brief time before their removal to the fever hospital, were effected, and a nurse at the hospital. Happily, so thoroughly efficient was the removal of the sick, the removal and disinfection of the clothing, and the fumigation and cleansing of the two houses infected carried out by your Inspector, Mr. John T. Owen, that no spread of this most infectious malady took place.

12. **ERYSIPELAS.**—It will be remarked that the cases of this malady were numerous; in nearly all instances the face was the part of the person affected. The generally accepted cause of this fever is held to be exposure to cold blasts or air. No cases of the spread of the malady to other occupants of the house were reported.

13. **PUERPERAL FEVER.**—A certain number of cases have occurred, but it has not given any indications of being spread by contagion. This is a happy result, as you are well aware that I have had to inform you that in my opinion the facts disclosed by enquiry showed that the midwives attending certain cases were distinctly to blame, as being clothed in garments used upon occasions such as funerals, charged with the bad odours of the death chamber.

14. **OTHER FORMS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**—

The maladies included in this group are those which have not been required to be notified, and yet Measles and Whooping are quite as amenable to the *preventive treatment* so successfully adopted against the spread of Scarlet Fever. I mean, of course, the forbidding children affected by either malady, or any scholar from the infected house, attending a school for children. Bearing in mind,

on the one hand, the enormous mortality from these two diseases, on the other, the great loss to schools by the excessive number of young children simultaneously affected during an epidemic of either of these ailments, it would, I feel sure, be economy of money to enforce the absence of any infected child, and an immense saving of child life by requiring notification of all cases, by requiring parents under penalty to keep their children at home, and by enabling school managers to claim payment for absentees under the terms of article 101 of the Code.

15. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.—Cancer was assigned as the cause of death in 43 instances; this number is nearly the usual average. Tubercular diseases of the brain, of the lungs, or of the intestines were the reported causes of 172 deaths, equal to the proportion of 132 per 1,000 of all deaths in the year. The delicate structures of the lungs, the organs of breathing, were the seat of the disease in 7 per cent. of all deaths. Taking the population at 65,569, the deaths of 95 persons from tubercular disease of the lungs, would represent a proportion of 14 per 10,000 persons *living*. In the dark days of Merthyr, before any sanitary measures were commenced, the deaths numbered 38 per 10,000 living. Great as this progress is, in comparative freedom from lung disease, there are yet many matters which claim the attention of the public, but certainly two which call for especial mention. First, Consumption, that is tubercular disease of the lungs, is a contagious disease; the air breathed out from the air passages contains germs of the disease, which, inspired by another person, may find resting place in the air passages, where they can and will grow and produce tubercles in the lungs. The matter expectorated also contains these germs; this, if discharged on a *pocket* handkerchief, and that used by another person, may convey this disease to that other person; if the matter is spit on the floor, and becomes dried, and the dry dust floats in the air and is inspired with the air of the room, thus also the disease may be taken into the system and grow.

16. These modes of PROPAGATION OF TUBERCLE are to be met with by measures of precaution which the medical attendants will instruct their patients, but there is another mode which comes within the cognizance and duty of Sanitary Authorities.

It is this, as the *flesh* of animals labouring under Tubercular Disease, if eaten uncooked, may be the means of spreading the germs of tubercular disease to those who eat it, it seems to me a duty incumbent on Sanitary Authorities to ensure to the Public that the animals slaughtered for human food should be ascertained

to be free from this malady. It is no great thing for any community of men to effect this freedom from disease of the flesh food provided by butchers. Our brethren, the Hebrews, have from ancient, very ancient, times practically ascertained the healthy condition of the flesh food they mark as "Coshir;" why should not similar care be taken by other communities, other nationalities. Why should not "Cymru Fydd" look forward to a *healthy* beef-steak?

17. **MILK FROM TUBERCULOUS COWS.** — Alas, there is again another peril to be engaged with—the *milk of a tuberculous cow* taken as food by a sucking child can, and alas, often does deposit in the system of the infant (the darling of its parents) seeds of this most destructive malady, for the milk so drawn from a diseased animal contains the germs of the malady in most readily absorbed form. The infant takes its milk (only half-boiled, mind, THOROUGH BOILING for ten minutes would kill the germ), does not thrive, becomes thin, except the belly, which becomes large and lumpy to the feel, and gradually wastes away. Now, does it ever occur to the public that the cows used for the provision of milk should be certified by a skilled veterinary surgeon to be free from *Tubercle*? You will answer no, and rightly, for until very recently we had no means of testing; it has, however, been shown that by vaccinating a cow in milk with Tuberculin that the healthiness, or otherwise, of the animal may be proved. Is it possible to hope this may be done?

18. **COWSHEDS.**—Lastly, I would ask you and every reasonable man to consider whether animals, kept as milch cows in this town are, can be expected to give sound good milk. Observe the filth of the yard surrounding the cowshed; penetrate, if you are bold enough, into the shed; observe the *litter* on the floor, the hay bespattered—all things the reverse of that cleanliness which those who drink the milk think, (fond thought) should surround the food they use. Can you correct this? I believe you can. Under the Dairy and Cowsheds Act you have the authority to regulate these places. Your predecessors have made Bye-Laws, they have required all cowkeepers in your district to register their cow-lairs. If this were done, your officers might be able to effect some improvements.

19. **DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE, &c.**—Accidents in the Ironworks, in Collieries, or on Railways, were the assigned causes of 33 deaths. Bearing in mind the perilous nature of the labours in which the workmen are engaged, the number of fatalities does not appear to be in excess of the average. Ten persons were drowned, while in eight instances the excessive use of alcohol was the recorded cause of death.

TABLE D.

Numbers of Cases of Infectious Sickness notified in each Division in 1894.

DISEASES.	Small-pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Typhus.		Enteric Fever.		Erysipelas.		Puerperal Fever.		Totals.	
	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.	Over.	Under.
Ages under and over 5.																
1. Dowlais ...	1	22	52	10	18	0	0	34	0	19	3	34	0	19	3	127
2. Penydarren ...	0	1	2	0	2	5	50	2	0	4	1	3	0	4	1	64
3. Tydfil's Well...	0	15	19	0	1	0	11	0	0	16	6	16	1	16	6	53
4. Merthyr Town	0	20	19	4	4	0	11	2	2	16	4	26	0	16	4	54
5. Gellideg ...	0	15	22	0	5	0	3	1	1	15	2	17	1	15	2	47
6. Troedyrhiw ...	0	2	1	0	0	0	14	2	2	10	2	5	1	10	2	27
7. Merthyr Vale..	0	6	3	0	1	0	6	1	1	6	1	8	1	6	1	17
8. Treharris ...	0	7	5	2	0	0	7	0	0	7	2	11	2	7	2	21
Totals ...	1	88	123	16	31	5	136	10	6	93	21	120	6	93	21	410
Cases ...	1	211		47		5	146		99		21	530		99		
Deaths ...	0	9	2	10	1	2	18	1	0	6	8	20	0	6	8	37
Total Deaths...	0	11		11		2	19		6		8	57		6		

TABLE E.
Showing Deaths from other Febrile Diseases in 1894.

DISEASES	AGES	Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Diarrhœa.		Totals.		Total.
		Under 5.	Over.	Under 5.	Over.	Under 5.	Over.	Under 5.	Over.	
DIVISIONS OF DISTRICT.										
1. Dowlais...	...	0	0	14	0	19	0	33	0	33
2. Penydarren	...	0	0	7	0	7	0	14	0	14
3. Tydfil's Well	...	6	0	7	0	12	1	25	1	26
4. Merthyr...	...	8	2	16	0	13	0	37	2	39
5. Gellideg	...	3	0	2	0	5	1	10	1	11
6. Troedyrhiw	...	4	1	1	0	8	2	13	3	16
7. Merthyr Vale	...	0	0	3	0	4	0	7	0	7
8. Treharris	...	0	0	4	0	3	0	7	0	7
		21	3	54	0	71	4	146	7	153

CHAPTER III.

STATISTICS AND INSPECTION OF EACH DIVISION,
WATER SUPPLY, RAINFALL, &c., &c.

20. **DOWLAIS DIVISION.**—Elevation above sea level, 800ft. at Gellyfaelog Bridge, to 1,200 at Dowlais Top.

Population 18,000, occupying 3,260 houses. Deaths from all causes under five years, 162; of and above five, 190; total, 352. Death-rate, 19 per 1,000. The deaths from scarlet fever were fewer in this division than in the past years. Diphtheria, however, was very prevalent in the village of Pantyscallog, where, as I have stated, cases occurred. It is a cesspit village. The project of sewerage for the localities has long been before you; it is to be hoped that the work may be carried out in 1895. There were very many cases of typhoid fever reported from houses situated in Sand Street, David Street, and the vicinity. Frequent inspections, and the use of the smoke test, in every instance demonstrated that the sewer drains and closet pans were imperfect, as they permitted the escape of sewer gases. The cleansing of the mains and laterals, the re-laying of damaged ware pipes, and the substitution of new pans and syphons for the broken ones, was followed in every case by a cessation of the returns of new cases. At this point, I wish especially to remark that the continual recurrence of cases of typhoid fever and of diphtheria (both "filth diseases") in some or other of the houses in the lower part of Dowlais points to many imperfections in the sewerage system in that locality.

The rubbish tip at the bottom of the High Street, Dowlais, should be enclosed, and the surface covered by builder's refuse, and enclosed for garden ground.

21. **PENYDARREN DIVISION.**—Height above sea level, 600 to 800ft.

Population, 4,873; houses, 886. Deaths under five years, 54; of and above five, 62; total, 116. Death-rate, 23·8. Only one case of scarlet fever occurred in this division during the year, but of typhoid fever 50 persons of adult ages, and two children under five were affected. The inhabitants of two parts of this division were especially affected; one portion was *the north side* of Plantation Street, Penydarren. In a field at the rear of this row an offensive nuisance was discovered, and has been removed, but as the main and lateral sewers here are not fully ventilated, I believe the placing of a sufficient number of ventilators at the dead ends of the sewers would tend to prevent the recurrence. The other part,

whence the reports of sickness from typhoid were sent, was that part known as the Old Company Houses, upper and lower, and Crystal Palace Court. A large proportion of the cases occurred in 15 houses in these localities. The removal of the sick to the Fever Hospitals quickly put an end to the diffusion of the malady. The owners of these houses have done much to remedy the imperfections complained of, and I trust cases may not recur. The houses in Crystal Palace Court are many of them very small, and very ill ventilated. Notices have been served, and I hope to have to report that the suggestions made for their improvement may be carried out.

22. TYDFIL'S WELL DIVISION.—Above sea level, 600ft. to 800ft. Population, 7,000 in 1,400 houses. Deaths under five years, 85; of and above five, 52; total, 137. Death-rate, 19.5. Scarlet fever broke out in many localities in this division, children of the younger school ages being chiefly affected. The care exercised here as elsewhere by the teachers of the various schools (having been advised by the Health Officer of the residences of the sick) in preventing the attendance of children from infected houses was evidenced by the quick cessation of the epidemic. Typhoid fever occurred to 11 persons. Your Sanitary Inspector's observant searches soon discovered the imperfect drain or broken closet pan whence the foul sewer gas escaped.

In this division, along the Bank of the Taff River are some hundreds of old and dilapidated dwellings. A considerable number of new houses of a superior character have been built on the higher ground.

23. MERTHYR TOWN DIVISION.—Above sea level, 450 at Plymouth Street, to 1,400ft. at Twynywaun. Population, 12,650, residing in 2,300 houses. Deaths under five years, 127; of and above five, 101; total, 228. Death rate, 18. Scarlet fever prevailed in a mild form in this division throughout the year; the malady was in a very mild form evidenced by only two deaths. Isolated cases of typhoid fever also occurred to the number of 13. In the dwellings where the sick lay, the test applied of forcing dense smoke into the lateral drains quickly showed the places where the drains were imperfect. The old parts of Merthyr are full of ancient waterways close under the surface, the means, in earlier times, of conveying away surface drainage to the few main channels leading to the river, or to the Mill Race from the river to the Old Grist Mill near the tower of the Parish Church. These old waterways are now found frequently to be the means by which sewer gases are led from the new sewerage system into some of

the best built residences. Many illnesses have been thus traced, and, sad to say, the loss of many lives. Of course, there are no known tracings of the courses of these old waterways.

24. GELLIDEG DIVISION.—Above sea level 400 to 1,200 feet. Population, 5,250; houses, 1,050. Deaths under 5 years, 55; of and above 5, 51; total, 106. Death-rate, 20 per 1,000.

Scarlet Fever was notified as affecting 37 persons, one death therefrom being registered. The cases of Childbed Fever were fewer than in preceding years. The sewerage of this Division may, it is hoped, be commenced in the near future.

25. TROEDYRHIW DIVISION.—Elevation above sea level 400 to 600 feet. Population, 7,480, occupying 1,360 houses. Deaths under 5 years, 53; of and above 5, 71; total, 124. Death-rate, 16·3.

At Pentrebach, one house in Church Street was the scene of an outbreak of Typhoid Fever. Seven of the members of one family were successively, at intervals of 14 days, affected. No neighbour or relation was attacked. The closet arrangements were good, but in front of the house an untrapped grating communicating with a covered drain was found, into which slop drainage from the street channels was discharged. The water in the drain was green in colour, and foul in smell. The drain was cleansed, a proper gully grate placed in the channel, and soon the malady disappeared.

At Newton Street, Abercanaid, the long-standing unsanitary condition of things has been removed by laying a short line of ware pipes from the closets of some 15 occupied houses to the main sewer.

Troedyrhiw itself, the largest of the villages in this Division, has been very healthy. The rows of well-built houses on the east side of the high road has added to the appearance of the place.

It would appear that permission may soon be granted by the Local Government to proceed with the sewerage of Plantation Square and Ash Road, and also with the removal of the straining tanks from the side of the parish road below Pontyrhun.

26. MERTHYR VALE DIVISION.—Elevation above sea level 300 to 400 feet. Population, 3,840; occupied houses, 640. Deaths under 5 years, 32; of and above 5, 26; total, 58. Death-rate, 15 per 1,000.

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever occurred here. The head teachers of the schools were informed of the infected residences, and

sedulously carried out the exclusion of infected scholars. Seven cases of Typhoid were also reported. In each instance here, as elsewhere, imperfect closet pans and yard traps were discovered; the necessary repairs of these appliances having been effected, the malady ceased to spread.

The newly-erected houses on the Troedyrhiw Road promise to be healthy dwellings.

27. TREHARRIS DISTRICT.—Elevation above sea level 400 feet. Included in this District besides the Town of Treharris, with 878 houses and 5,268 people, is the Village of Quaker's Yard, with 267 houses and 1,335 people, giving a total of 1,145 houses, occupied by 6,603 people. In this District 47 deaths of children under 5 were registered, and of persons of 5 and upwards 52, giving a total of 99. Death-rate 15 per 1,000.

The whole of this District has been exceptionally free from epidemic diseases. Twelve cases of Scarlet Fever were reported, seven of Typhoid and two of Diphtheria.

28. UNION HOUSE.—The deaths in the House during the year numbered 80, of these 25 were above 65 years of age.

29. MERTHYR AND DOWLAIS FEVER HOSPITALS.—These Isolation Hospitals have been for many years maintained by the Urban Sanitary Authority, assisted by contributions from the Board of Guardians of the Union. The number of patients received during the year was 23 at the Pant Hospital at Dowlais, under the care of Dr. Cresswell, and 29 patients at the Brecon Road Hospital at Merthyr, under Dr. Webster's care. Of these 52 cases, 8 died. One of the Nurses at the Pant Hospital, in attending on 4 cases of Typhus Fever, caught that contagious malady; she happily recovered.

Two cases of Whooping Cough were most wisely removed from the Union House to the Brecon Road Hospital. Five cases of Typhoid Fever (and two infants not ill) were brought in the ambulance from one household at Trelewis to the same Hospital. All recovered. The distance from Trelewis to Merthyr is not less than nine miles, too long a distance to convey sick people. A small Fever Hospital situated midway between Troedyrhiw and Treharris is greatly needed.

TABLE F.
Number of Cases of Infectious Sickness removed to Isolation Hospitals.

HOSPITALS. WHENCE REMOVED.	Small-pox.	Diphtheria.	Typhus.	Enteric.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Pertussis.	Measles.
1st. DOWLAIS FEVER HOSPITAL :								
From Dowlais Division ...	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0
„ Penydarren „ ...	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	0
„ Union House ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
„ Nurse at Hospital ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total at Dowlais ...	0	0	5	15	0	1	2	0 = 23
2nd. MERTHYR FEVER HOSPITAL :								
From Dowlais Division ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
„ *Penydarren „ ...	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
„ Tydfil's Well „ ...	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0
„ Merthyr „ ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
„ Gellideg „ ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
„ Merthyr Vale „ ...	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
„ Treharris „ ...	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
„ †Gelligaer Parish ...	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Total at Merthyr Division	1	1	0	19	1	4	0	1 = 27
Total both Hospitals ...	1	1	5	34	1	5	2	1 = 50

† And 2 young children not ill. * One child, aged 3, from Penydarren, ill of Typhoid, all others above 5.

30. INSPECTION OF DISTRICTS AND NUISANCE REMOVAL.—The labour incident to the due fulfilment of these duties, has yearly become more and more onerous.

The increase has been due to two causes, new Acts of Parliament have been passed imposing new duties occupying much time, and as the works of sewerage and house drainage have now been in operation more than a quarter of a century, as these works are of a character which tend to become more and more imperfect, it has resulted that diseases, notably, Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria (which, as I have continuously and continually informed you, give rise to cases of these maladies) affect residents in houses where the drains and sanitary arrangements have been found by Mr. Owen, your Inspector, to be imperfect. As time goes on these sanitary works will become more and more insanitary, hence the necessity of early and prompt discovery and removal of imperfections. I beg earnestly to direct your attention to this matter, believing that by adequate assistance you may be able to discover imperfections, and by proper structural means, under the guidance of your Surveyor, *prevent* many cases of the sicknesses I have named occurring, and save many lives.

31. WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply has been duly watched, and its purity ascertained. The provisions sought by the Bill before Parliament for a large increase in the storage reservoirs will, when obtained and the works executed, be a great boon to the inhabitants of the parish and district.

32. COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—These homes for wanderers, under the supervision, as to cleanliness and overcrowding, of Superintendent Thorney, are regularly visited by Inspector Owen and myself. A new well-arranged house has been built and licensed at River Side, Merthyr, where there are five other licensed houses. In Dowlais there are two such dwellings.

33. THE SEWAGE IRRIGATION AREAS, those by downward intermittent filtration at Troedyrhiw, and those at Berwyddy, are in due and proper cultivation.

34. RAINFALL.—I have to thank T. H. Bailey, Esq., J. H. James, Esq., and your Surveyor, Mr. Harvey, for details as to the rainfall here given :—

TABLE E. RAINFALL IN 1894.

Elevation above Sea ..	PENTWYN RESERVOIR.		BRYNTEG, MERTHYR.		PENTREBACH, MERTHYR.	
	1,300 feet.	..	685 feet.	..	497 feet.	..
January ..	8'59	..	6'66	..	8'23	Inches
February ..	9'23	..	4'98	..	5'39	"
March ...	6'45	..	5'03	..	6'2	"
April ..	3'55	..	4'08	..	4'22	"
May ..	3'68	..	3'38	..	4'24	"
June ..	3'29	..	2'69	..	2'85	"
July ..	5'88	..	4'41	..	3'83	"
August ..	4'69	..	4'16	..	4'41	"
September ..	2'42	..	2'12	..	2'22	"
October ..	8'69	..	7'86	..	8'72	"
November ..	10'22	..	9'05	..	9'98	"
December ..	6'25	..	4'41	..	4'93	"
Total	72'24		58'83		65'22	
	T. F. Harvey, Surveyor.		J. H. James Esq., Brynteg		T. H. Bailey, Esq., Pentrebach House.	

35. THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS ACT.—I stated

in my last report that there were probably from 450 to 500 cowsheds in use, where milch cows are kept, within the district of the Board, the area of which is now 29 square miles of surface, extending from north to south 9 miles, with an average width of 3 miles. It has been found impossible for your Inspector to supervise these cow houses and attend to his other all-important duties. Mr. Charles Davies, Clerk of the Works under your Surveyor, has given willing assistance. You directed public notices under the Act to be printed and issued, requiring all cowkeepers to apply for registration. I learn that only a few have applied. Bearing in mind the number of maladies which are conveyed by impure milk, knowing as you do the quantity used in preparing the food of young children (the workmen and ratepayers and voters of 20 years hence), you will, I hope, give a thought to, and take some action in this matter.

36. The details given in the preceding pages will, I trust, show that the year's work has not been less satisfactory than in bye gone years. The population has increased from 58,080 in 1894 to 65,569 in 1894; the number of inhabited houses from 11,092 to 12,041. The marriages in the year were 669, 100 more than in 1893. The births numbered 2,303, giving a birth-rate of 36, while the deaths amounting to 1,300, represent a death rate of 19 per 1,000. This is the lowest death rate recorded from 1866 to 1894.

The deaths from Infectious Fevers show a fever death-rate of under 2 per 1,000; the deaths from diarrhoea also under 2 per 1,000; from phthisis, 13 per 10,000, instead of 38 per 10,000; and average age at death, 25 years, instead of as in 1846-55, 17½ years.

With this report, the 30th, comes prominently before my memory the recollection of the very many expressions of approval of my work received from you and your predecessors from the 5th of October, 1865, when you first appointed me your Medical Officer of Health. I will endeavour to earn like expressions from your successors.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. J. DYKE.

Medical Officer of Health.

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



TABLE I.

Showing the Population, Inhabited Houses, Marriages, Births, and Deaths
in the years from 1866 to 1894.

GROSS NUMBERS.

YEARS.	Estimated Population.	No. of Inhabited Houses.	Marriages.	Registered Births.	CORRECTED NUMBER OF DEATHS.			Deaths in Public Institu- tions.
					Total all Ages.	Under One Year.	Under Five Years.	
1866 to 1870	52,352	10,328	630	2034	1288	340	229	53
1871 to 1875	52,590	10,575	648	2088	1422	345	299	60
1876 to 1880	50,400	9,815	545	1682	1108	242	185	45
1881 to 1885	50,573	10,304	684	1777	1255	279	225	55
Mean of 20 years.	51,524	10,255	635	1895	1275	302	234	53
1886	55,900	10,757	585	1961	1420	368	266	87
1887	57,000	11,000	670	1879	1239	323	213	58
1888	57,000	11,000	553	2013	1246	289	149	93
1889	57,235	11,047	716	1946	1330	407	199	59
1890	57,500	11,056	703	2020	1500	415	284	108
Mean of 5 years.	56,927	10,972	645	1964	1347	360	222	81
1891	58,436	11,092	733	2302	1793	445	170	125
1892	63,155	11,440	640	2341	1706	569	333	71
1893	64,090	11,600	567	2408	1433	529	191	153
1894	65,569	12,041	669	2303	1300	429	270	80

1.—Population at Census, 1891, 58,080.

2.—Average number of Persons in each House at Census, 1891 : 5.

3.—Area of District in Acres : 17,400.

TABLE II.

Shewing the Annual Birth and Death Rates, Death Rates of Children, and Proportion of Deaths in Public Institutions per 1,000 Deaths for the years 1866 to 1894.

YEARS.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Deaths of Children under 1 year, per 1,000 of Registered Births.	Deaths of Children under 1 year, per 1,000 of Total Deaths.	Deaths of Children under 5 years per 1,000 of Total Deaths.	Deaths in Public Institutions, per 1,000 of Total Deaths.
1866—1870	38.7	24.5	169	259	439	41
1871—1875... .. .	39.3	26.8	165	240	445	41
1876—1880... .. .	33.3	21.9	124	220	417	40
1881—1885... .. .	35.0	24.7	158	223	404	44
Mean of 20 years	36.5	24.5	154	235	426	41
1886	33.3	25.3	182	258	438	61
1887	32.8	21.7	177	260	432	47
1888	35.3	21.8	143	232	353	75
1889	34.0	23.1	209	306	455	47
1890	34.7	26.0	205	277	466	72
Mean of 5 years	34.0	23.6	183	266	428	60
1891	39.3	30.6	106	284	343	70
1892	37.0	28.3	242	333	342	41
1893	37.5	22.3	219	368	502	106
1894	36.7	19.8	186	323	488	63

TABLE III.

Shewing Deaths Registered from all Causes during the year 1894.

DISEASES.	AGES AT DEATH.						TOTALS.
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE ...	103	86	8	13	13	2	225
IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL ...	46	26	11	40	83	30	236
V.—DEVELOPMENTAL ...	39	1	1	0	12	51	104
VI.—LOCAL	192	90	22	13	143	57	621
VII.—VIOLENT DEATHS ...	2	3	7	12	38	2	64
VIII.—CAUSES ILL-DEFINED	47	1	0	0	1	1	50
All Causes	429	207	49	78	390	147	1500
I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE.							
1. MIASMATIC.							
Measles	2	21	1	2	0	0	26
Scarlet Fever	1	8	0	0	0	0	9
Diphtheria	3	7	0	0	1	0	11
Typhoid Fever	2	1	7	7	2	0	19
Typhus "	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Whooping Cough	25	29	0	0	0	0	54
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2. DIARRHŒAL.							
Diarrhœa	59	18	0	0	2	2	81
3. VENEREAL.							
Syphilis	11	2	0	0	0	0	13
4. SEPTIC.							
Pyæmia	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	4	4	0	8

DISEASES.	AGES AT DEATH.						TOTALS.
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
4. DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.							
Dentition	5	3	0	0	0	0	8
Enteritis	0	3	0	0	2	3	8
Peritonitis	0	0	1	2	3	1	6
Intestinal Obstruction	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Hepatitis	2	0	0	0	7	1	10
Pelvic Abscess	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
5. URINARY SYSTEM.							
Bright's Disease	0	1	0	3	8	1	13
Prostatic	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Calculus	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Stricture	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
6. REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM.							
Childbirth	0	0	0	2	7	0	9
10. BONES AND JOINT DISEASE							
	1	3	3	0	2	0	9
11. SKIN DISEASE.							
Boils	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
VII. VIOLENT DEATHS.							
Accident Fractures, &c.	0	1	5	10	21	2	39
Drowning	0	2	2	1	5	0	10
Overlying	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Hanging Suicide	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Alcoholic Poisoning	0	0	0	0	8	0	8
Murder, Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
VIII. DEATHS FROM ILL-DEFINED CAUSES.							
Debility	46	1	0	0	0	0	47
Ulcers	1	0	0	0	1	1	3

DISEASES.	AGES AT DEATH.						TOTALS.
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
IV. - CONSTITUTIONAL.							
Rheumatism	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Cancer	0	1	0	0	28	14	43
Tubercle---Brain	3	8	3	0	1	0	15
" Lungs	0	0	7	38	53	14	112
" Bowels	43	17	0	1	0	0	61
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
V. -- DEVELOPMENTAL.							
Premature Birth	34	0	0	0	0	0	34
Congenital Malformation	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Age	0	0	0	0	9	51	60
Pernicious Anæmia	0	1	1	0	2	1	5
VI. LOCAL DISEASES.							
1. NERVOUS SYSTEM.							
Inflammation of Brain	6	11	5	1	4	0	27
Apoplexy	0	0	0	0	16	27	43
Convulsions	72	6	0	0	0	0	78
Epilepsy	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Locomotor Ataxy	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mania	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
2. CIRCULATORY SYSTEM.							
Heart Disease	0	1	4	4	72	15	96
Plebitis	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
3. RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.							
Laryngitis	1	6	0	0	1	0	8
Bronchitis	63	18	0	2	57	0	140
Asthma	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Pneumonia	38	37	7	0	50	10	142
Influenza	1	1	0	0	1	0	3

SUMMARY TO TABLE III.

DISEASES.	No. of Deaths.
I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES :—	
1. Miasmatic	122
2. Diarrhœal	81
3. Venereal	13
4. Septic	9
II.— CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES	
236	
III.— DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES... ..	
104	
IV.—LOCAL DISEASES :—	
1. Nervous System	154
2. Circulatory	97
3. Respiratory	295
4. Digestive	36
5. Urinary	19
6. Reproductive	9
7. Bones and Joints	9
8. Intergumentasy	2
V.— DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE	
64	
VI.—DEATHS FROM ILL-DEFINED CAUSES	
50	

1,300	

TABLE IV.

Shewing the number of Deaths at all ages in 1874, from certain Groups of Diseases, and proportions to 1,000 of Population, and to 1,000 Deaths from all causes; also the number of Deaths of Infants under one year of age from other groups of Diseases, and proportions to 1,000 Births and to 1,000 Deaths from all causes under one year.

DIVISION I.	Total Deaths	Deaths per 1000 of Population at all ages.	Deaths per 1000 of total Deaths at all ages.
1. Principal Zymotic Diseases ..	196	3	105
2. Pulmonary Diseases... ..	295	4.5	226
3. Principal Tubercular Diseases	173	2.6	133
DIVISION II. (Infants under one Year).	Total Deaths	Deaths per 1000 of Births.	Deaths per 1000 of total Deaths under One Year.
4. Wasting Diseases	81	35	188
5. Convulsive Diseases	118	51	274

NOTES.

1. Includes Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Typhus, Enteric (or Typhoid), and Simple Continued Fevers, and Diarrhœa.
3. Includes Phthisis, Scrofula, Tuberculosis, Rickets and Tabes.
4. Includes Marasmus Atrophy, Debility, Want of Breast Milk, and Premature Birth.
5. Includes Hydrocephalus, Infantile Meningitis, Convulsions and Teething.

TABLE V.

Proportion of Deaths from each kind of Zymotic Disease per 1000 Deaths from all Causes.

YEARS TOTAL DEATHS	1865 to 1875 13,849	1876 to 1885 11,819	1886 to 1890 6,732	1891 1,793	1892 1,706	1893 1,433	1894 1,300
DISEASES.	Deaths Pro- portions	Deaths Pro- portions	Deaths Pro- portions	Deaths Pro- portions	Deaths Pro- portions	Deaths Pro- portions	Deaths Pro- portions
Smallpox ...	381 27	0 0	1 0'1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Measles ...	364 26	430 36	123 20	2 1	176 103	28 22	24 18
Scarlet Fever ...	518 37	408 35	308 47	35 20	55 32	18 12	11 8
Diphtheria ...	101 7	59 5	13 2	11 6	14 8	23 16	11 8
Whooping Cough ...	429 31	210 18	177 26	3 1'7	19 11	25 26	54 41
Typhus Fever ...	198 14	19 1'5	5 0'7	0 0	0 0	0 0	2 1'5
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	8 0'5	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Enteric Fever ...	275 19	159 14	80 12	13 7	8 4	12 8	19 14
Continued Fever ...	6 0'4	14 1	7 1	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Diarrhœa and Dysentery...	197 14	210 17	192 30	54 30	56 32	87 60	75 57
Cholera and Diarrhœa ..	139 10	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
TOTALS ...	2616 186	1509 127	906 134	118 66	328 186	193 138	106 97'5

APPENDIX I.
REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Notices Served for the Abatement of Nuisances, 1894.

NATURE OF NUISANCES.	No. of Notices Served.
1. Where Street Improvements were required (Private Street Works' Act, 1892)	25
2. Choked, Dilapidated, and Filthy Closets	98
3. Defective Closet Drains	44
4. Choked Slop Drains	36
5. Defective and Untrapped Slop Drains	31
6. Insufficient Closet Accommodation and Slop Drainage	12
7. Houses without Slop Drainage	6
8. Closets and Slop Drains not connected with Sewer	28
9. Foul Cesspools	21
10. Houses Dilapidated and unfit for Human Habitation... ..	5
11. Accumulation of Manure and Offensive Refuse, and to provide Receptacles for Manure	89
12. Pigs kept too near Dwellings, &c.	1
13. Defective and Foul Gutters	15
14. Filthy Premises	19
15. Overcrowding	2
16. To Cleanse and Whitewash Houses after Cases of Fever (Typhoid and Typhus)	56
17. Escape of Sewer Gas in House	6
TOTAL	494

ASPHYXIATOR.

During the year 1894, one hundred and four smoke tests were made by me, making a total (since the purchase of the machine in October, 1892) of one hundred and eighty-four tests. In all the places the drains were found to be defective, such as Drains being badly constructed and imperfectly trapped; badly-made joints, and no joints in a large number of instances; sockets and pipes broken, and defective soil pipes, &c., &c. In nearly every instance the drains have been thoroughly overhauled and made good and again tested before being covered over, and, where practicable, intercepted and ventilated.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT.

Since the adoption of this Act, forty-four summonses have been issued against Occupiers of Houses, under Section 21, for neglecting to keep their sanitary conveniences, or the approaches thereto, in a proper state of cleanliness. A fine of 5s. was inflicted in each case.

JOHN THOMAS OWEN, C.S.I.,

Inspector.

February 4th, 1895.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE FOR ANNUAL REPORTS.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF MERTHYR TYDFIL.

Medical Officer of Health, THOMAS JONES DYKE.

Date of first appointment, October, 1865.

Date of last appointment, March, 1893.

Present Salary, £300.

Term of appointment, Three years.

Rateable Value of District for General District Rate, £200,196 12s. 6d.

Water Supply -

Any extension or change? 1893. Extended to Quaker's Yard District.
 Portions of district inadequately supplied? Pengarnddu.
 Cases of Lead Poisoning in 1894? None.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal--

Extensions or Improvements during 1893? To Quaker's Yard District

Excrement Disposal -

Are the Privy Middens, &c., cleansed by Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Tenants? Tenants cleanse Cesspit Closets.
 Is the present arrangement satisfactory? Yes.

Bye-Laws and Regulations--

Any change as to Bye-laws, or as to Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order. [If so please forward a Copy]. None.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.--

	Number.	Are they Inspected, and if so, by whom?	General Conditions.	Legal Proceedings, if any
Common Lodging Houses ...	7	Supt. Thorney	Good	Two closed by order of Magistrates
Houses let in Lodgings ..	..	..	..	..
Canal Boats ...	Regt. at Cardiff	John T. Owen (Cert. San Insp.)	Fairy good	..
Slaughter Houses	28	Do.	..	..
Bakehouses ..	20	Medical Officer.	Good	None
Dairies	10	Sanitary Inspector	Good	..
Cowsheds ..	400 to 500	Not inspected.	..	..
Milkshops ..	None	..	..	..

Offensive Trades - Manure Works, Horse Slaughter, String gut Factory, Skin Yard.

Meteorological Observations (if any)

Taken in or near District.

See Table of Rainfall.

Death Returns —

What corrections (if any) are made for non-residents dying within the District?

No return of non-residents, &c., made.

Are any Returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in public institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.) outside the District?

No.

Deaths —

Please state (a) Number of each sex.
(b) Number uncertified.

664 male, 636 female — 1,300

Births —

Please state (a) Number of each sex.
(b) Number illegitimate.

1,201 male, 1,102 female — 2,303
46.**Hospital for Infectious Diseases**—Two.

Number of Beds	... ..	{	Pant Hospital, 36.
		{	Brecon-road Hospital, 12.
Charges to Patients.			None.
Construction— Brick, Stone, Wood,		{	Pant Hospital, wood.
Iron, &c.		{	Brecon-road, brick.

Adoptive Acts—

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Notification Act. Adopted when? | 7th January, 1891. |
| Diseases added. | None. |
| (2) Prevention Act " " | March 18th, 1891. |
| (3) Public Health Acts Amendment Act Adopted when? | March 18th, 1891. |

House Drainage—

Closets. Approximate number of each kind in the District :
W.C., 9,000. Trough C., 10 (at schools). Slop C (waste water C.), none.
Pail, Pan, or Tub C., 500. Privy Middens, covered, none ; uncovered, none
Cesspit Closets, 500. Number of each of the above constructed during the year 1894, W.C., 150

Loans (if any) —

Sanctioned by L.G. Board during year? None

State what action has been taken with regard to the following matter :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|
| (1) Closure of Houses unfit for habitation | 5. |
| (2) Seizure of Unsound Food. | None. |
| (3) River Pollution. | None. |

T. J. DYKE,*Medical Officer of Health.*



H. W. SOUTHEY AND SONS, PRINTERS, MERTHYR.









