

**[Report 1894] / Medical Officer of Health, Neath R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Neath (Wales). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1894

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/btdfftg5>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Neath Rural Sanitary Authority,

---

**Medical Officer's Report**

**For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1894.**


---

T. P. WHITTINGTON,

Medical Officer.

STACEY, PRINTER, NEATH.

1895.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28864840>

# Neath Rural Sanitary Authority.

---

*Medical Officer of Health,*

*Neath, Dec. 31st, 1894.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Neath Rural Sanitary Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

I wish to lay before you my report for the year ending December 31st, 1894. The death of 379 persons (182 males, and 197 females) have been registered making a death-rate of 15.80 per thousand, per annum. During the same period the birth of 436 males and 409 females (in all 845) have been registered, giving a birth-rate of 35.27 per thousand.

On January 18th, three cases of Small Pox were notified from 19, Copper Row (Cwmavon). All of them were very mild, but as there was ample room for isolation and disinfection, I thought it best not to remove them to the Cimla Hospital, which was, however, being got ready in case of need, and a nurse from the Small Pox Hospital in Bristol, installed there. There being a large number of houses in Copper Row, Dr. James was asked to re-vaccinate as many children and adults as he was able.

In February another case of Small Pox was reported at 17, Copper Row. This patient (a woman) caught the infection by persistently visiting the other three cases in spite of all remonstrance. It being impossible to isolate, I got an order from the Magistrates and had her removed to the hospital at once. She made a good recovery, and I believe that the prompt removal checked any further spreading.

About this time Small Pox made its appearance in Briton Ferry, and as the Local Authority there had no means of isolation, the cases were removed to your hospital on the Cimla. It was quite evident that these people had contracted the disease at Aberavon.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

Thirty-nine cases came under observation. The localities in which the cases chiefly occurred were Burrows Road and New Road (Skewen), and Cwmavon. Upon analysis all the water from the different wells were found to be free from all contamination, and good for drinking.

Most of the cases which I have seen have certainly commenced with Influenza, which, after having reduced the patients considerably, was followed by Enteritis, caused by some indiscretion in the diet.

I do not think the disposal of excrement in the cottagers' gardens is a proper system, as they will often bury it quite near the surface, without using any disinfectant whatever.

The gardens are so small that the excreta is often turned up, and exposed, and washed by the rains from one place to another. The gases which escape are certainly injurious to health.



Out of the whole number of Enteric cases I am happy to say there have been only two which proved fatal.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

The total number of cases was 43, which were distributed widely throughout your district. The disease at no time assumed an epidemic form owing chiefly to the compulsory notification; for though in rural districts, where the houses are small, and the children, sometimes numerous, it is impossible to totally isolate the patients from the rest of the family; yet still, by the liberal use of disinfectants, and by preventing the attendance at school of the other children of the house, much may be done by the Medical Officer and Inspectors towards checking and limiting the spread of the disease.

#### MEASLES.

During the year there have been 985 cases. The disease commenced in Llantwit Tower, and gradually spread from hamlet to hamlet until it became general throughout the whole district.

The outbreak was so severe at Cadoxton, Aberdylais, and Tonna, and the attendance of the school children so small, that I was compelled to close the schools. Out of this large number there have been only eleven fatal cases.

There have been a few cases of Whooping Cough scattered over your district, but only three proved fatal.

#### PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two cases of this disease occurred at Michaelstone Tower, one of which proved fatal. Both of these were attended by the same midwife. She was therefore ordered to discontinue her attendance upon any fresh lying-in cases for a period of six weeks. This she did with good results, and no more occurred. I think it a grave mistake to allow women to dress sloughing wounds, or lay out dead bodies of those who have succumbed to any infectious disease, (whilst in attendance upon cases of parturition) as none of them think of disinfecting their hands in any way.

#### CROUP AND DIPHTHERIA.

There were seven deaths from Croup reported during the year, but only two were notified, and for the same period only one case of Diphtheria was reported.

In my Annual Report of 1893 I drew the attention of the Board to the scarcity of water for the villages of Crynant, Cilfrew, Cadoxton, Skewen, and Aberdylais.

So far nothing has been done to increase the supply for the first-named village, although there is ample in the immediate neighbourhood, which could, without much expense, be carried into the place.

A good supply of ten gallons per head has now been obtained for Cilfrew, and the Contractor is to proceed forthwith with the work of laying the mains, &c. With regard to the Seven Sisters nothing has yet been done, though Mr. Bevan undertook last year to carry out the work. So far there has been no increase in the supply for Cadoxton and Aberdylais.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications has been rather high, Measles and Scarlet Fever taking the lead. The total number notified was 1,096, including:—

	<i>Cases.</i>						<i>Deaths.</i>
Small Pox	...	...	4	...	...	...	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	43	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	1	...	...	...	—
Membranous Croup	...	...	2 (notified)	...	...	...	7 registered.
Enteric Fever	...	...	38	...	...	...	3
Continued „	...	...	1	...	...	...	—
Puerperal „	...	...	2 (notified)	...	...	...	3 registered.
Erysipelas	...	...	20	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	985	...	...	...	11
Diarrhœa	...	...	—	...	...	...	4 registered.
Whooping Cough	...	...	— (notified)	...	...	...	3

I have to call your attention to the following sanitary work that has been done in your district in the past year.

### Cwmavon.

There have been 21 new privies erected, 62 repaired, 208 foul privies cleaned, 39 choked drains opened and put in order, 19 surface drains cleaned, 3 new ones made, 4 cesspits cleaned out, 1 sewer been opened and cleansed, 1 new ash bin erected and 4 repaired.

### Pwll-y-Glaw and Graig-y-Tewgoed.

3 new privies erected and 7 repaired, 30 foul privies cleaned out and 1 drain made, 8 choked drains been opened, 1 new ash bin been fixed.

### Pontrhydyfen, Evelfach, and Forchdwm.

There has been 6 new privies made, 7 repaired, and 43 foul privies cleaned out; 2 new drains been made, and 8 choked ones opened and cleaned; 1 ash bin fixed.

### Tonna and Clyne.

3 new privies been erected, 18 repaired, 78 foul ones cleaned, 6 choked drains opened, 9 drains repaired.

### Melincrythan.

2 new closets erected, 56 have been repaired, 14 choked drains opened and cleansed, 87 gulleys have been repaired around the stench trap, 7 foul surface drains cleaned.

### Baglan.

1 new sewer made, 4 choked drains been cleaned out, 10 foul privies cleansed.

1 house in Michaelstone Higher was closed as unfit for habitation.

1 house in Tonna closed from over-crowding.

### **Resolven.**

Miller and Co. summoned for refusing to make drains, school privies cleaned.

8 privies cleaned, 4 repaired; 1 case of over-crowding abated at Yeo Street.

2 carcasses removed and buried.

### **Clyne.**

7 privies cleaned, 1 ash-pit repaired.

### **Ystradfellte.**

2 privies repaired, 5 drains made, 4 privies erected.

### **Blaenhonddan.**

41 privies cleaned, 4 drains cleaned.

3 closets erected and 6 repaired.

Privies cleaned at Bryncoch Schools.

1 case of over-crowding abated.

### **Neath Higher.**

34 privies cleaned, 1 privy erected, 6 new drains made, 1 privy repaired, privies at National Schools repaired and cleansed.

### **Dulais Higher.**

21 privies cleaned, 10 repaired.

### **Coedfranc and Dyffryn Clydach.**

School Board privies cleaned, 131 privies cleaned, 20 repaired.

21 people summoned for not abating nuisance.

4 boys ordered to pay costs for damaging tank at Neath Abbey.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

**THOS. P. WHITTINGTON.**







