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Contributors

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Belper Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR 1901.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with Local Government Act, I have again the honour to submit for your consideration my Report on the health and sanitary condition of my District for the above period.

The intricate and voluminous statistics now required by the Local Government Board make the preparation of this Report considerably more arduous and much more exacting than heretofore.

The general health of the District has continued much the same as in the previous years, that is fairly good. There has been no fatal case from the three major zymotic or preventible diseases—Small Pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet or Enteric Fever.

It is very gratifying to me to be able to state that the number of cases intimated under the Notification Act is much smaller than in 1900, in fact, there have never been so few since the Notification Act was adopted in 1892.

I may here state that in my previous Reports I had unintentionally considerably exaggerated the growth of the population, and was much astonished to discover that by the census of April, 1901, our population was only 10,934 against 10,420 by the census of ten years previously, an increase of only 514 in the decade, or not 52 per annum, which is far from being the number of births over deaths. Fifty years ago the population was 10,082, and it was then described as the second town in the county in population, it ranks now as the eighth as to the number of its inhabitants. In point of fact the increase of the population in the last fifty years was only 961, or not 20 per annum.

Vital and Mortality Statistics.

BIRTHS.—During the year 334 births were registered, as compared with 344 in 1900 and 365 in 1899. Of the births 174 were males and 160 females.

		MALES.		FEMALES.
First quarter	....	39	...	40
Second „	....	43	....	46
Third „	....	53	....	41
Fourth „	....	39	....	33

The Birth Rate for the year is 30.5 per thousand of the population estimated to be at the middle of the year, 10,934.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED AT THE MEETING OF THE SENATE
Held at Chicago, Illinois, June 1, 1908

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
FOR THE YEAR 1907-1908

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
1908

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DEATHS.—There were 212 registered, against 216 in 1900 and 210 in 1899. Of this number 44 took place in the Union Workhouse, 27 belonged to other parishes of the Union. I therefore tabulate them so that it will be seen at a glance how the deaths have been distributed during the year.

		DISTRICT.			WORKHOUSE.	
		MALES.	FEMALES.		MALES.	FEMALES.
First quarter	....	21	20	....	6	4
Second „	....	18	32	....	13	—
Third „	....	19	24	....	5	5
Fourth „	....	21	13	....	8	3

The gross Death Rate for the year is 18'9. The mean Death Rate is 16'11 per thousand of the estimated population.

Zymotic Death Rate.

23 deaths were ascribed to Zymotic Causes :—

Whooping Cough	....	13 deaths.
Measles	....	1 „
Diarrhœa	....	7 „
Croup	....	2 „

The Zymotic Death Rate for the year is 2'1 per thousand of the population.

All these deaths were in children under 5 years, and a great number as will be seen from the appended statistics under one year.

Inquests were held and certified as follows—

- No. 1. Obstruction of bowels.
- „ 2. Syncope.
- „ 3. Syncope.
- „ 4. Convulsions.
- „ 5. Shock from cold and wet.
- „ 6. Syncope.
- „ 7. Burns.
- „ 8. Drowning.
- „ 9. Alcoholism.

Infantile Mortality.

56 deaths took place in children under the age of 1 year, giving an Infantile Death Rate of 167 per thousand born.

Phthisis Death Rate.

From Phthisis or Pneumony Consumption 11 deaths were registered in the District, and 1 in the Union Workhouse, giving a Death Rate of 1'1 per thousand. This is not at all high compared with other places. At the same time I would again caution the public against infection in this terrible malady. I think the people should be instructed by leaflets as to the cause of the disease and its infectious nature, and that in all cases the rooms and articles of furniture should be thoroughly disinfected, and that the filthy habit of spitting indiscriminately should be discouraged. No doubt in time all these cases will be treated in specially erected sanatoria in some spot chosen for the dryness and pureness of its atmosphere.



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The following are the various causes of death over and above those previously mentioned—

			DISTRICT.		WORKHOUSE.
Cancer	....	....	10	...	3
Scrofulous Disease	....	....	1	....	....
Disease of Nervous System	....	....	11	....	2
Convulsions	....	....	17	....	....
Premature Birth	....	....	11	....	....
Disease of Organs of Circulation	....	....	13	....	3
"	"	Respiration	20	....	9
"	"	Digestion	8	....	1
"	"	Urination	7	....	1
Old Age	....	....	15	....	24
Atrophy	....	....	5	....	....
Childbirth	....	....	1	....	....
Peinicious Anæmia	....	....	1	....	....
Influenza Epidemic	....	....	4	....	....
Purpura	....	....	1	....	....
Fistula	....	....	1	....	....

Cancer. I should like to draw your attention to the number of cases of this disease which is apparently on the increase, the number as I have before mentioned being 13 against 6 last year, 8 in 1899, 6 in 1898, 5 in 1897. The whole of the 13 occurred in females generally, but not always over middle age, and one in a child as young as 3 years. A Commission is now sitting to endeavour to elucidate the cause of this terrible malady, and, if possible, to find a remedy.

The ages at which the various deaths occurred are as follows—

		DISTRICT.		WORKHOUSE.
Under 1 year	....	56	....	....
1 and under 5 years		24	....	....
5 " 15 "		3	....	....
15 " 25 "		4	....	....
25 " 65 "		36	....	12
65 and upwards	....	45	....	32

Notification.

As I have before intimated the number of Notifications compares favourably with previous years.

Scarlet Fever	....	....	9 cases.
Erysipelas	....	....	4 "
Diphtheria	....	....	3 "
Enteric Fever	....	....	3 "

The cases were pretty well distributed all over the District. 3 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the Lodging House, and had evidently been imported. 11 cases were transferred to the Isolation Hospital, viz., Scarlet Fever 6, Diphtheria 3, Enteric Fever 2, and all made good recoveries.

I attribute in no small degree the falling off of the number of Infectious Diseases to the advantages of early isolation.

Diphtheria. All these cases were in all probability due to defective drainage and foul privies, in fact, I believe that most cases are caused by the noxious gasses arising from a large collection of fæculent material which has possibly been fermenting for months or even years. This points to the fact that latrines cannot be too frequently emptied and disinfected.

Enteric. This disorder appears less frequently, and will, I am convinced, continue to do so, with our perfected supply of water, increased drainage, sweeping away of old tenements, and the replacing of the obsolete brick drain by sanitary pipes properly ventilated.

Whooping Cough. This malady was very prevalent during the spring of the year, and caused considerable mortality amongst our juvenile population. It is no doubt both infectious and contagious, and it is a pity that it is not treated with greater respect by mothers.

Water Supply. This ought to be now all that can be desired, although I heard some complaints as to insufficiency of supply at the top of the town in the summer.

Drainage. Since my last report. Over Lane, Shaw Lane, and Sandbed Lane have been drained, and are now connected with the main drainage system of the town. Whitemoor Hall still requires efficient sewerage.

Scavenging and Refuse Removal. I did not receive so many complaints during the year, of the obnoxious presence of the Night Soil Cart during working hours but I cannot protest too strongly against the system of emptying Night Soil on the top of land adjacent to roads and footpaths. It does not add to the picturesqueness of the landscape, and is far from pleasant to the olfactory organ. It was said some time ago by a high Military authority that Moses was the greatest Commissariat Officer that ever lived, whatever may have been his genius for Military organization I leave it for others to judge, but I *do* know that he was the greatest Sanitarian that ever existed, and he expressly forbids the spreading without digging in of stercoraceous material. In Deuteronomy xxiii chap. 12th verse, the following occurs :—"Thou shalt have a place also without the Camp whither thou shalt go forth abroad.

And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon and it shall be when thou wilt ease thyself abroad thou shalt dig therewith and shalt turn back and cover that which cometh from thee.

For the Lord thy God walketh in the midst of thy Camp to deliver thee and to give up thy enemies, therefore shall thy camp be holy, that he see no unclean thing in thee and turn away from thee." In the new edition paddle gives way to spade or shovel.

It is a long hark back to the days of Moses, probably five or six thousand years ago, but is it not rather humiliating to find us doing the identical thing which he expressly forbid.

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is a study of the past which is necessary for a full understanding of the present. The second part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is a study of the past which is necessary for a full understanding of the present.

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I have received numerous complaints again about the town tip at Windy Gap, and how the people living near tolerate it at all is a mystery to. It must be most unhealthy, what with stinking smoke, myriads of flies in summer, to say nothing of rats and such small deer, the lives of the adjacent inhabitants can be anything but a happy lot.

Meat Inspection. I have repeatedly visited the markets but have not been able to interfere.

The following are the recommendations—

1. Completion of drainage scheme as soon as possible.
2. The provision of a Destructor.
3. Public slaughter-houses.
4. The more extended water carriage of excrement, and whilst making this recommendation I will just quote what the late Sir Richard Thorne-Thorne, the principal Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, said—"The fact that with our present knowledge such a structure as the common midden-privy should not only exist in our midst but be clung to with a perverted tenacity, is, in my opinion, the greatest blot which attaches to the English Sanitary Administration at the close of the nineteenth century. Apart from its sanitary aspect it is a system as degrading as it is foul, and I trust the day is not far distant when we shall look back to it as a barbarism of the past."

I append the usual tables, and,

Beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours most obediently,

RICHARD G. ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

BELPER, March 18th, 1902.

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