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Contributors

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Staff

The Rural District Council of Blore Heath.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
DECEMBER, 1913.

To the Rural District Council of Blore Heath.
Gentlemen,—

I have the honour to submit to you my
Annual Report upon the health of your district
for the year 1913.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Blore Heath has an area of upwards of 13,660 acres, and comprises the three parishes of Ashley, Mucklestone, and Tyrley. The parishes of Mucklestone and Tyrley include some very fertile, highly-cultivated land, but as these parishes rise towards that of Ashley the land becomes poorer in quality. At Ashley begin the moorlands of Staffordshire, the Southern extremity of the Pennine Range. Ashley Heath is upwards of 750 feet above sea level, and is the highest cultivated table land in England. The trend of the drainage of the district is for the most part westward to the River Tern, except the eastern portion of Ashley parish, which is drained by tributaries of the River Sow. The springs forming the source of the Market Drayton Water Company's supply are situated in the Burnt Woods. The mains run through the fields upon which the Battle of Blore Heath was fought in 1459.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—The population of the district at the last census (1911) was 2,287. The estimated population at the middle of 1913 was 2,322. The natural increase (i.e., the excess of the births over the deaths) during the year was 25. The population has varied considerably, for a small district, in the last thirty years, as shown by the census returns:—1881, 2,335; 1891, 2,227; 1901, 2,141; 1911, 2,287. The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 511 (an increase of 45 since 1901), and the average number of persons in each house was 4.4 against 4.5 1901.

MARRIAGES.—Eight marriages were registered during the year.

BIRTHS.—Forty-five children were born and registered in the year. Of these, five were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 19 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average rate for the preceding ten years was 23.5.

DEATHS.—Twenty deaths were registered in the year, giving the low annual death-rate of 8.6 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average death-rate for the previous ten years was 11.9.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS. — Of the twenty deaths, 13 were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards. Five deaths were certified as due to heart disease, four to kidney disease, two to disease of the liver, and one each to cancer, consumption, bronchitis, and influenza. There was one suicide, two deaths were not certified, and two were certified by the Coroner.

INFANT MORTALITY.—No infants (under one year) died during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—Only four cases were notified in the whole district, viz.: Two of tuberculosis, and one each of scarlet fever and erysipelas. None of the schools were closed.

Measles and whooping cough are not included in the list of notifiable diseases. Ophthalmia neonatorum became compulsorily notifiable by order of the Local Government Board, but no cases have been notified. Pulmonary tuberculosis has been voluntarily notifiable in the district since 1900, but very few cases have been notified; now that notification of all forms of tuberculous disease is compulsory, an estimate of the prevalence of the disease in the district will be obtained and measures taken for treatment and for the prevention of its spreading.

In all cases of infectious disease notified to me, printed instructions are sent to the occupiers of the infected houses, stating the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of contagion. At the termination of all cases, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. School teachers are given notice of the occurrence of notifiable infectious diseases, and children from infected houses are excluded from school.

VACCINATION.—The following statistics of vaccination in your district have been furnished to me by the Vaccination Officer:—Of the 45 children born and registered in the year, 25 were successfully vaccinated, 12 were not of age at the end of the year, the vaccination of one child was postponed by medical certificate and 7 remain unvaccinated, because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination, and made statutory declarations to that effect.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES. — Over fifty new houses have been built in the district during the past ten years. There is still a shortage of good houses for the working class, especially in Mucklestone parish. The Inspector of Nuisances was recently appointed Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

WATER SUPPLY.—Chiefly derived from deep and shallow pump wells and draw wells. Mucklestone village and some of the farms in the parish have water laid on from a small reservoir in the village. Aston has a public supply from a reservoir at Myn Bank, and arrangements are being made for the supply of Weymouth from the same source.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—A portion of the village of Ashley has been sewered. The scheme was carried out by a committee of rate-payers. The enlarged scheme for the inclusion of Woore, Dorrington, Knighton, Pipe Gate and Weymouth in one system of drainage and sewage disposal is nearly completed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—The application of the Act in the district is very limited, there being only a few workshops (wheelwrights and blacksmiths), one cheese factory, and two bakehouses. The Home Office table is affixed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885.—The number of milk-sellers on the register is 21. Inspections of the cow-sheds and dairies are made regularly.

NUISANCES, ETC.—A summary of the work done by your Sanitary Inspector is printed below.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

Market Drayton,
29th April, 1914.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1913, in the Rural District of Blore Heath:—

Number of Inspections and Observations made, 378.

Number of Defects Found:—

Dwelling-houses and Schools:	
Foul Conditions	1
Structural Defects	19
Overcrowding	2
Unfit for Habitation	1
Dairies and Milkshops	2
Cowsheds	7
Ashpits and Privies	11
House Drainage:—	
No Disconnection	47
Water Supply	40
Pigsties	7
Animals Improperly Kept	2
Other Nuisances	6

145

Abatement Notices: Informal by Inspector, 75; Formal by Authority, 18.

Nuisance Abated after Notice by Inspector, 89; Authority, 16.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis ... 6
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use 3

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed and... 1
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease 1

(Signed) HUGH JONES,
Inspector of Nuisances.

12th May, 1914.

