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❧ **REPORT** ❧

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,



FOR THE

BOLSOVER URBAN DISTRICT,

For the Year 1904.

GEO. KENT, PRINTER, BOLSOVER.



The Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Bolsover Urban District, for the Year 1904.

To the Bolsover Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1904.

General Remarks.

The past year does not compare favourably with 1903 as regards sickness, but in looking through the tables at the end of my report and making comparisons, you should carefully note that all my calculations are based on the census of 1901, (Population 6844, Inhabited Houses 1272), whereas at present the population must be at least 9000, and the number of Inhabited Houses 1500.

Please notice also that there is another Table added, relating to the Factory and Workshop Act of 1901.

Although sickness has been greater than in 1903, you must take into account the several epidemics which visited us; notwithstanding these visitations there is only an increase of nine deaths.

The weather on the whole has been mild, and the rain-fall considerably less than in 1903. The summer was dry and warm, consequently we had an increase in the cases of Epidemic, or Summer Diarrhoea.

Mortality.

During the year 132 deaths were registered as actually occurring in the district, and 7 of residents who died in Public Institutions

outside the district, making a total of 139, the rate being 20·30 per 1000 per annum, of the estimated population 6844.

In 1903 there were 128 deaths, the rate being 18·7. It must be remembered that the population has increased slightly during 1904.

Infantile Mortality.

68 deaths occurred of children under one year, being a rate of 158·5 per 1000 births registered.

In 1903 fifty deaths occurred of children under one year, making the Infantile death rate 131·9 per 1000 births.

A glance at Table IV. will shew you the causes of death of Infants under one year of age.

To my mind this large number of infantile deaths is in a great measure preventible, if parents would only exercise a little common-sense in the feeding of their babes. It is very common to be called to see a poorly child from six to twelve months old, due to being fed on cheese, potatoes, and other indigestible food, in fact having what their parents use. Of course the only result that can possibly follow is vomiting and diarrhoea.

Another very silly practice, which is I suppose due to fashion, consists in the keeping of tiny children's arms and legs uncovered and exposed to the cold and chilly misty weather.

I frequently see these sights, the infant's arms being blue with cold, and the mother when asked why she doesn't put long sleeves & stockings on the child says "It isn't the fashion to do so."

I have no hesitation in saying that respiratory diseases in children would be less frequent if proper and warm covering were provided for their limbs, instead of having such a large skin surface exposed to the cold.

Causes at all ages.

A glance at Table IV. will shew you the causes of death at all ages.

Eight deaths are attributed to Phthisis and fifteen to Pneumonia, eight of the latter occurring in infants under one year of age

and the remaining seven in children under five years old. Most of the Phthisis cases occurred in strangers who came to live in the district, it being a well-known fact that this disease is exceedingly rare amongst us.

Summer Diarrhœa, or Epidemic Diarrhœa.

Although the summer of 1904 was dry and warm, and suitable for breeding this complaint, we had not a large number of cases.

It may be that the leaflet issued by you on my suggestion accounts for the small number of cases. Seven children under 1 year old died of this dread complaint.

Births.

The number of births registered during the year 1904 was 429 (211 boys and 218 girls). This is an increase of 70 births over the number in 1903, and is the largest total ever recorded in the district, the rate being 62.68.

Infectious Diseases.

A glance at Table III. will shew you the number, variety, and ages of those attacked by disease of an infectious nature.

Scarlatina.

This disease has been with us all through the past year, and no less than 118 cases were reported to me. This disease was very prevalent during June, July, Aug. Sept. Oct. and Nov., but scattered cases cropped up all through the winter months. Although 118 cases occurred, not a single death was caused by this disease, shewing the very mild type of this complaint which visited us.

Several parents of infected children disobeyed orders as regards isolation and other precautions, and in any future case of this negligence I shall advise prosecution, as several people imagine there is no penalty at law for spreading infectious diseases.

Now that the New Hospital for Scarlatina and Typhoid is open, it may be possible by removing the first few cases notified to the hospital to prevent further spread.

Erysipelas.

Twenty six cases of this disease occurred in 1904. I am

still of the opinion that a large number of the cases reported are not genuine cases of the disease. Erysipelas caused one death

Smallpox.

Smallpox visited us, two cases being notified, one in March and the other in July. Both cases occurred in the lodging-house and were removed to the Smallpox Hospital at Chesterfield.

Enteric Fever.

Fourteen cases of this disease were notified but only one death was attributed to this complaint. The cases were scattered all over the district and had no connection with one another.

Defective drains, untrapped sinks, and insanitary closets were found in several of the cases. These were at once remedied, but in half the cases the source of the fever could not be found.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

Sixteen cases of Diphtheria and four of Membranous Croup occurred. Three of the cases of Membranous Croup were removed to the Chesterfield General Hospital and two recovered, as well as the fourth case which was treated at home. Diphtheria caused no deaths.

Measles.

This disease was epidemic in January and February 1904, and the Bolsover National Schools were closed from January 23rd until February 28th, both dates inclusive.

The Bolsover Colliery Schools were closed from Jan. 30th until Feb. 28th, to the date inclusive owing to the same cause.

The Shuttlewood Schools were closed from Feb. 5th until Feb. 28, both dates inclusive.

The epidemic abated during March and April. Measles became epidemic in Whaley Thorns late in September, and these Schools were closed from Sept. 29th, until Oct. 22nd, both dates inclusive.

During 1904 there must have been between 1500 and 2000 cases in the whole district, and I consider Measles to be the most

difficult infectious disease to prevent becoming epidemic.

The value of Isolation in this disease is not so marked as in the other exanthemata, since in Measles seclusion of the patient is not possible sufficiently early to prevent risk of spread.

Measles is popularly regarded as a trifling ailment, and it is difficult to impress the public with the importance of segregating the sufferers. Several children attended school in the invasion stage, (which is of course highly infectious), and they were merely thought to be suffering from "cold in the head." I regard this as being a very potent factor in spreading this disease.

The closure of the Schools has not a very marked effect in checking the epidemic, the good that would have been done being counteracted by children from infected houses and healthy children playing together.

Where houses are built in blocks with one large yard at the back, the communication between infected and healthy children is almost unpreventible. Measles accounted for fifteen deaths, and is not a notifiable disease in this district.

Chicken-Pox and Mumps.

Mumps was prevalent in January 1904, and several cases of Chicken-Pox occurred during the summer and Autumn months. The cases were all extremely mild and no deaths occurred.

Roads.

The Roads of the district are considerably better than they were twelve months ago, and under the continued and able supervision of the Surveyor, I have no doubt that when my next Annual Report becomes due, I will be able to report further improvement.

The state of the roads has a most important bearing on the health of the district, accumulations of filth and stagnant pools being decidedly detrimental to the public health. Under these circumstances I should be remiss did I not note an improvement in this department.

Schools.

The Elementary Schools of the district are in a satisfactory

sanitary condition, the only thing I should like doing would be the substitution of pan closets for the existing privy-middens, the pans to be emptied twice a week. Of course I should much prefer a water carriage system.

Lodging House.

There is only one common lodging house in the district, situated in Town End. It is kept clean and well lime-washed, and there is sufficient arrangement for the separation of the sexes.

There are no bye-laws relating to the common lodging house.

Factory & Workshop Act.

I would direct your attention to the table relating to factories and workshops at the end of my report.

The only factory of any importance in the district is the Jam Factory, which is well managed and fulfils the necessary sanitary requirements.

There are several workshops in the district, but they are small and insignificant, and employ only a very few hands.

The dairies and cowsheds have undergone considerable improvement, two new ones being built and several remodelled, but much still remains to be done.

The bakehouses are fairly satisfactory.

The slaughterhouses are kept clean and properly drained, but their nearness to dwelling houses and general situation cannot but cause them to be detrimental to health, and injurious to the people who reside in close proximity thereto.

I should like to see a Public Slaughterhouse for the district, and commend this matter to you for your careful consideration during 1905.

Several of the surroundings are contemplating the erection of Public Slaughterhouses.

Where the present slaughterhouses have not been built expressly for the purpose, a public abattoir would be a decided boon to the neighbourhood.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.

Great good has been done by your action in closing and insisting on improvements in the poorer dwellings. There is yet much room for improvement in the poorer parts of the district.

Improvements.

- 1.—Provision of a good, sufficient, and pure water supply which will be completed in a few weeks.
- 2.—Joint Isolation Hospital at Mastin Moor,
- 3.—Great improvements in the Scavenging of Whaley Thorns and Carr Vale.
- 4.—The Roads of the district are very much improved.
- 5.—Erection of several additional street lamps.
- 6.—Improvement of dwellings used by the poorer inhabitants

Requirements.

- 1.—Better Scavenging in No. 1 District.
- 2.—The prevention of the pollution of the Doe Lea Stream from the sewage farm.
- 3.—The providing of ash pans in Carr Vale for those houses that have only pail closets.
- 4.—The re-making and taking over of certain streets in Carr Vale, under the Private Street Works Act of 1890, or Section 150 Public Health Act, 1875, by which cost of re-making can be recovered from the owners.
- 5.—Provision of better class of Street Gullies & Grates where required.
- 6.—The revision of your bye-laws under the Public Health Amendment Acts of 1890.

I remain Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM STRATTON.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of District during 1904 and previous years.

Name of District, BOLSOVER.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births		Total Deaths registered in the District				Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district	
		Number	Rate	Under 1 year		At all ages			Number	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate			
1894	... 5500	216	39·27	39	180·5	47	15·63			
1895	.. 5500	277	50·36	42	151·63	63	17·27			
1896	.. 5500	258	46·9	31	120·15	100	18·18			
1897	.. 5500	258	46·9	47	183·59	91	16·54			
1898	... 5500	286	51·5	51	178·32	104	28·4			
1899	... 5500	265	48·1	46	173·58	52	17·81			
1900	... 6844	306	46·8	68	222·2	144	26·18			
1901	.. 6844	282	41·2	46	163·1	89	13·004			
1902	... 6844	356	52·01	46	129·29	113	16·51			
1903	.. 6844	359	52·45	50	131·9	119	17·38			
Averages of Years										
1894—1903	5903	286	47·54	46	163·41	92	18·69			
1904	.. 6844	429	62·68	68	158·5	132	19·28	7	139	20·30

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)
4697½.

Total population at all ages, 6844.

Number of inhabited houses, 1272.

Average number of persons per house, 5,

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons
persons from the district :—

Sheffield Royal Infirmary, Sheffield Royal Hospital, The Jessop
Hospital, Sheffield, Chesterfield Union Hospital.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						
	At all ages	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards
Small Pox	2					2	
Diphtheria	16	1	3	8	1	3	
Membranous Croup ..	4		4				
Erysipelas	26	1	2	7	4	11	1
Scarlet Fever... ..	118	2	34	74	6	2	
Enteric Fever	14		1	6	2	5	
Totals... ..	180	4	44	95	13	23	1

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics in 1904 and previous years.

Name of District, BOLSOVER.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
1893 ...	5500	216	47	39
1894 ...	5500	277	63	42
1895 ...	5500	258	100	31
1896 ...	5500	258	91	47
1897 ...	5500	286	104	51
1898 ...	5500	265	52	46
1899 ...	5500	306	144	68
1900 ...	6844	282	89	46
1901 ...	6844	356	113	46
1902 ...	6844	359	129	50
1903 ...	—	—	—	—
Averages of years 1894—1903	5903	286	93	46
1904 ...	6844	429	139	68

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Causes of death.	All ages	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 upwards
Measles	15	6	8	1			
Whooping-cough ...	4	3	1				
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	1		1				
Enteric fever... ..	1					1	
Diarrhœa	9	7	1				1
Erysipelas	1						1
Other septic diseases...	1			1			
Phthisis	8		1	1	1	4	1
Other tubercular diseases	6	1	4			1	
Cancer, malignant disease	1					1	
Bronchitis	7	4	1			1	1
Pneumonia	15	8	7				
Premature birth ...	15	15					
Heart diseases ...	4					3	1
Suicides	3					3	
Convulsions	9	8		1			
Meningitis	5	3		2			
Gastritis	2	2					
Marasmus	1	1					
Nephritis	1					1	
Rheumatic fever ...	1					1	
All other causes ...	29	10	1	2	1	7	8
All causes	139	68	25	8	2	23	13

SANITARY AUTHORITY.

[illegible]

TABLE V.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

Name of District, BOLSOVER.

1.—Inspection.					
			No. of Inspections		No. of Written notices
Factories...	...	...	13	...	2
Workshops	...	...	59	...	6
Homeworkers' Premises			7	...	1
			—		—
Total,	...	...	78	...	9

2.—Defects found.					
			No. of Defects found		No. of Defects remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	4	...	4
Want of Ventilation	...	...	1	...	1
Other Nuisances...	...	...	8	...	8
Unsuitable Sanitary Accom-					
modations	...	...	2	...	2
Giving out work to be done					
on premises which are					
infected	...	...	1	...	1
			—		—
			16		16

Homework.—No. of Outworkers, 7.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in homeworkers premises : (1)

No. of Workshops on register at the end of 1904 : 19.