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Contributors

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BRIERLEY-HILL

Urban Sanitary Authority.

THE ANNUAL

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector,


FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1894.

BRIERLEY-HILL:

FORD AND ADDISON, PRINTERS, "ADVERTISER" OFFICE.

1895.



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The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

During the past year the number of deaths registered was 200, of which 100 were males, and 100 females.

The population is estimated at 11,922.

The Death Rate for the Year 1894 is therefore 16·08 per 1,000 of the population.

The Death Rate in the preceding year is 18·99 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of Births during the year is 416, of which 209 were males and 207 females.

The Birth Rate is 34·08 per 1,000 of the population; that of the preceding year being 39·17 per 1,000 of the population.

The ages at which the deaths took place during the year are as follows:—

Under 1 year	...	71	|	15 years and under 25	10
1 year and under 5	...	22	|	25 years and under 65	44
5 years and under 15..		12	|	65 years and upwards	41

Twelve Inquests were held during the year. The verdicts were:—
Natural Causes, 9; Accident, 1; Suicide, 1; Found drowned, 1.

Comparative Tables of Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Zymotic Death Rate, with corresponding rates taken from the Report of the County Medical Officer for the year 1893 :—

	Birth Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Date.
Brierley-Hill ...	34·08	16·08	2·18	1894
County of Stafford Urban ...	36·6	19·5	2·41	1893
England and Wales ...	30·8	19·2	2·47	} 1893
Large Towns ...	31·8	21·5	3·17	

The above figures are satisfactory. The Council may be congratulated upon the low Death Rate for the year 1894. Appended to this Report will be found several tables, which will give further information as to the causes of death, and which, I hope, will be found satisfactory and useful.

SMALL-POX.

Known cases, 16; Deaths, 2.

At the close of the year 1893, I reported 39 cases, as having been notified throughout the year. The epidemic continued through January, February, and March, and then was stamped out. In January, 9 cases were notified; February, 3 cases; and in March, 2 cases. All these cases were treated in the Hospital.

In June two more cases were notified, and removed to the Hospital. At this time the disease was prevalent in the neighbouring town of Dudley. Both the patients worked at a brickyard, within a few hundred yards of the Dudley Isolation Hospital. I believe the near proximity of the brickyard to the Hospital was the source of infection. I wrote to the Medical Officer of Health of the Dudley Town Council, calling his attention to these cases. Both were promptly removed to the Hospital, and any further spread of the disease thus prevented.

From the commencement of this epidemic of Small-pox in May, 1893, to its close in March and June, 1894, the total number of cases notified was 56. Looking back over the history of this epidemic, and comparing it with previous epidemics of Small-pox in this district, I think there is ample proof of the great benefit and protection which the adoption of the Notification Act, the establishment of an Isolation Hospital and Disinfecting Apparatus has secured to the inhabitants, completely justifying the late Board in the expenditure which such measures involved. Many of you, doubtless, recollect the disastrous results of the epidemic of 1872. I believe the same thing would have happened again if we had not had the means at hand to promptly isolate the cases as they occurred.

Before leaving this subject I would like to state my experience of the nursing. When we first commenced isolating the cases in tents, before the Hospital was ready for the reception of patients, an inexperienced nurse was engaged (inexperienced in hospital work), and the consequences were anything but satisfactory. After giving this plan a fair trial, I secured the services of a well trained and experienced hospital nurse. The advantage of this step was immediately apparent—the discipline improved, and the patients were not only much more manageable, but their comfort was much better attended to. In any future epidemic, I would most strongly recommend that the services of a trained and experienced nurse should be secured. The isolation of infectious diseases is an immense advantage to the general public; but to make it successful, every possible effort should be made to ensure confidence in its administration.

In his Annual Report for 1893 the County Medical Officer draws attention to this subject, and advises his Council to establish a system by which the difficulty of obtaining properly trained nurses in infectious diseases would be overcome. Knowing the great difficulty I had in obtaining the services of a properly qualified nurse for the Small-pox cases, I think some such plan as the County Medical Officer suggests very desirable.

Of the two deaths, one was an infant aged 17 days. The mother and child were sent in with Small-pox. The other was a man aged 27 years,

a very severe case, in which no vaccination marks could be detected.

Total number of Small-pox cases treated from May, 1893, to June, 1894, with particulars as to number of Vaccination Marks found on each patient :—

No. of Cases.		With 4 Marks.	3 Marks.	2 Marks.	1 Mark.	No Marks.	Deaths.
1893	... 39						
1894	... 17						
	... 56						
Vaccinated	... 48	9	13	16	10	8	1 with 4 marks, 2 with 1 mark.
Never Vaccinated.	8	...	...	...	...	...	4
Re-vaccinated	... 0						

In comparing the above figures, it should be borne in mind that none of the above patients had been vaccinated since infancy.

A large number of people protected themselves by re-vaccination, as recommended in the placards which were posted throughout the district.

No one who had been recently re-vaccinated contracted the disease.

SCARLATINA.

Known cases, 74 ; Deaths, 5.

This was a continuation of an epidemic, which commenced in the last quarter of 1892, and continued through 1893 (32 cases). At the close of the year 1893, we had two cases under observation. Four cases were notified in January, 1894, five in February, one in April, two in May, five in July, eleven in August, six in September, fifteen in October, seventeen in November, and eight in December. The disease has been generally of a mild type. Between February and July the epidemic had practically died out, only three cases having been notified.

At the end of July, and in the first week in August, it appeared at Bull-street and Silver-street, six cases being notified in that locality within a fortnight. On the 18th of August, I gave notice to the managers

of Silver-street Sunday Schools to close the schools for one month, and this was complied with. No further cases were notified in that locality. Cases were notified, however, in other parts of the district, and as the disease appeared to be spreading, all the cases were notified to the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools, with a request that they would exclude all communication with the infected houses, and particularly avoid sending children to enquire after absentees. This latter precaution was on one or two occasions evaded, and the offending persons were written to, directing their attention to the omission. The increase of the epidemic in October and November was traced to the Moor-street Infant Schools, and notice was given to the Head Teacher to exercise greater vigilance, or the school would be closed. This increase was mainly due to the fact that some of the cases were of a very mild type, not requiring medical attendance, and these cases escaped notification. In two instances, where the omission to notify was discovered, the parents were subsequently taken before the magistrates and fined.

The preventive measures adopted were :—The Inspector visited the houses when necessary, and delivered printed notices, giving directions for isolation and disinfection. Disinfectants were freely applied, and after recovery each house was disinfected and fumigated, under the superintendance of the Sanitary Inspector, and the clothing and bedding were taken to the Steam Disinfector.

The disease has been prevalent with varying intensity for a little over two years. It has been of a remarkably mild type, and has been attended with a very low rate of mortality. Though we have not been able to stamp it out for any lengthened period, I think the greater attention paid to the insanitary conditions during the past few years, and the increased facilities for disinfection, have helped to mitigate the effects of epidemic, and prevented it from attaining to such extensive and serious results, as has been the case in former epidemics in the district.

The notifications of infectious diseases, which I receive weekly from the County Medical Officer, show that Scarlatina has been very prevalent through the county, during the whole of the year 1894.

DIPHTHERIA.

Known cases, 2 ; Deaths, 1.

Two cases were notified, one at Church-street and one at Dudley-street, The case that died was notified to the Quarry Bank Local Board, as the patient was then in that district. The patient died on the 37th day of her illness, at Turk-street in our district, where I believe she contracted the disease. I visited the premises and pointed out several defects needing attention.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Known cases, 1 ; Died, 1.

At Bull-street, close to and below the level of the canal, in a house without thorough ventilation.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Known cases, 16 ; Deaths, 2.

Table No. IV., appended, shows the localities in which these cases occurred. One of the deaths occurred in April, and the other in October, at Pearson-street, and Tackeroo Buildings, Moor Lane.

The case at Moor Lane was imported from Worcestershire, the patient had been there hop-picking, and returned home ill. He died in a few days after his return.

Of the notified cases, two occurred at Dudley-street, one of these houses was stated to be in the habit of using "Goodman's Well." In my report for 1893, I attributed two cases of Enteric Fever to the use of this water, I had examined and condemned. Another of the cases at Dean-street, occurred in one of a row of houses, where the drainage had been flowing on the garden in front of the house for some months, and the ground had become saturated like a sewage bed.

The nuisance has since been abated. I had called attention to this nuisance in 1892, it was then temporarily abated. It should not have been allowed to recur and continue so long as it did.

One case occurred in Fenton-street, in a back-to-back cottage, with

the cellar half full of stinking water. I condemned the house as unfit for human habitation, and advised you to take steps for that purpose, or insist upon alterations which I considered necessary.

Another case occurred at Chase Cottage, Hart's Hill. There is an open sewer across the bottom of the garden to the house. The patient was present when the drain was cleansed three weeks prior her illness, and had a severe attack of Diarrhœa afterwards. It was decided to cleanse and disinfect the drain more frequently.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Known cases, 1; Death, 1.

This was a poor woman attended by a midwife. Notice was promptly given to the midwife to abstain attending any other cases for one month. Her clothing was taken to the Steam Disinfector, and she was instructed to use personal cleanliness and disinfection.

MEASLES.

Amongst the new cases of sickness, I know that during May, June, and July, there was a very extensive epidemic of Measles. On the 9th of May, I closed the National Schools at Hill-street, for one month and on the 3rd of July I closed Bent-street Board Schools for a similar period. The epidemic ceased after this.

Eight deaths occurred from Measles.

General Death Rate.—This is again below the average of the past ten years, and is in fact the lowest rate recorded for any one year in the past ten years.

Fourteen deaths were from Phthisis; but two only were amongst glass cutters, and none of them amongst miners.

Diarrhœa.—There is an improvement here; five deaths only having occurred, as against twenty-one in the previous year.

Infant Mortality.—Seventy-one deaths, as against seventy-eight in the previous year. Seventeen were due to Premature Birth, thirty-six

appear to be due to Alimentary and Wasting Diseases, some of which a little better nursing and care might have avoided.

The remainder were mainly due to Diseases of the Respiratory Organs. In these cases a little more care against exposure in severe weather, would probably have reduced the number of deaths.

SANITARY WORK OF THE YEAR.

The Isolation Hospital is now completed, with the exception of some outside painting.

The Steam Disinfector has been of great use in the disinfecting of clothing, etc., during the epidemic of Scarlet Fever.

Sewerage.—There has not been any complaint during the year either about the filter beds or the Moor Lane outlet.

The Brook leading from the Station to the Filter Beds has been covered in, and the nuisance, about which so much complaint was made, is now removed.

In the County Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1893, some very instructive and interesting information will be found, under the heading "Slop Closets and Sewage Disposal," with an account of experiments, conducted under varying conditions.

Water Supply.—No complaint has been made to me of the Company's water supply during the year. I think the water supplied is of good quality. It has been laid on at Delph with great benefit to the inhabitants in that part of the district.

Five samples of well water have been submitted to me for examination. Three were condemned as unfit for use.

The Ventilation of Moor-street and Bent-street Board Schools has received attention. At Moor-street fourteen additional outlets have been put in, and forty-nine additional inlets. At Bent-street fourteen additional outlets, and twenty-nine inlet ventilators.

This will place the ventilation of these schools on a satisfactory footing, and will be an immense advantage to the children and their teachers.

During the Midsummer holidays both these schools were thoroughly cleansed and fumigated.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.—I have inspected and reported upon 38 dwellings. In March a cottage at Delph to be closed as unfit for habitation, and one at Church-street in November. In July, at Moor Lane, 22 dwellings, 3 of which were dangerous, the remainder to be closed unless certain defined alterations were carried out. In August at Brettell Lane, 2 dwellings, one of which had a room built over a closet. In September, 2 dwellings at Level-street. In October, 9 dwellings at Cottage-street.

Magisterial Proceedings.—Two seizures of meat exposed for sale, in which convictions were obtained.

Two prosecutions for not Notifying the Existence of Infectious Disease, in which convictions were also obtained.

I must reiterate my complaint as to the wooden huts in which swine and other animals are kept in some parts of the district. A more strict observance of the Bye-laws as to the foundations, drainage, and storing of manure, is urgently needed.

Scavenging and Night Soil Removal.—The contract system which you have adopted appears to work satisfactorily. There are still many ash-pits which remain uncovered. There is no reason why this should continue.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman of the late Local Board, and the members of the Sanitary Committee for the support which they have given me in carrying out my duties during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. D'ARCY ELLIS.

Area in Acres, 1027. Population, 1894, 11,922.

Mortality from all Causes, distinguishing Deaths in Children under 5 Years.

T A B L E I.

	Fever.				Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Continuous.	Relapsing.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Rheumatic Fever.	Bronchitis & Pleurisy.	Pneumonia.	Phthisis.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All others.	
	Under 5 Years of Age	5 Years and upwards.	Under 5 Years of Age	5 Years and upwards.																			
Small-pox.	1	4																					
Scarlatina.	1																						
Diphtheria.																							
Under 5 Years of Age	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	5	..	8	6	2	..	1	59	
5 Years and upwards.	1	4	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	8	12	8	..	60	


REGISTERED BIRTHS.		REGISTERED DEATHS.				MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.					
Males.	Females.	Total	Males.	Females.	Total.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 Years and upwards.
209	207	416	100	100	200	71	22	12	10	44	41

VITAL STATISTICS.
TABLE II.

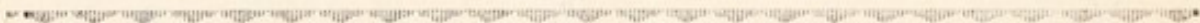
	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.	1885.	1884.
Birth Rate	34.08	39.17	36.40	38.12	34.32	30.0	32.4	31.2	38.94	36.0	37.40
Death Rate	16.08	18.99	20.3	17.83	20.9	18.0	16.9	18.6	16.7	19.5	20.2
Zymotic Death Rate	2.18	2.8	1.09	.0006	1.6	2.73	2.73	3.11	2.2	3.6	1.18
Deaths under 1 year	71	76	76	81	91	55	68	59	62	88	92

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Monthly Notifications.
T A B L E I I I.

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	
Small-pox	10	3	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Cholera .....	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Membranous Croup ..	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	2	11
Erysipelas	4	5	..	1	2	..	5	11	6	15	17	8	74
Scarlatina .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever	1	2	2	2	3	..	..	..	1	4	1	..	16
Enteric Fever .....	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	17	13	5	7	5	2	5	11	8	21	18	10	122



❖ Sanitary ❖ Inspector's ❖ Report. ❖



Brierley-Hill Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report of work done for the year ending 31st December, 1894, in the Urban District Council of Brierley-Hill, under the jurisdiction of your Council.

During the year 317 Notices have been served to abate Nuisances arising from defective Privies and Ashpits, which have been complied with.

The number of Houses Unfit for Habitation, and which have been closed in pursuance of notice, has been four, while ninety-four others have been disinfected.

The cases of Overcrowding in the district have been eleven, all of which have been abated by notice.

The Drainage in connection with 43 Houses was found to be defective, and notices served. These have since been rectified by the laying of new drains or re-construction of existing ones, and all properly trapped.

In 39 cases Animals were found kept either in the prohibited area, or so as to be a nuisance. In each case notices have been served and found to be effective.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops within the district number 16. These have been inspected periodically, and cleanliness has been observed.

The same may be said of the 15 Registered Slaughter-houses, inspected also periodically.

The properties on which notice has been served to provide a supply of Water is 26, and the number includes three cases in which the existing wells were polluted with animal or sewage matter.

These have been complied with, and the South Staffordshire Water Company have laid their water on to a considerable number of houses, of which no official complaints have been made.

During the year the men in your Contractor's employ have visited 4,641 houses, 3,227 privies, and cleansed 2,983 ashpits, which has

resulted in the removal of 11,635 loads of night soil, and also have cleansed 23 water closets.

As regards Magisterial proceedings, it has been necessary to proceed in five cases, viz.:—Two cases of unwholesome meat, one of diseased fish, and two for failing to report infectious diseases.

These proceedings were successful, and fines inflicted in each case.

Suggestions as to Sanitary improvements have been carried out, in many instances without the aid of notices.

Under this Authority 135 canal boats have been inspected this year. The general condition of the boats and their occupants has been an improvement on that of last year; there has not been one case of complaint of want of cleanliness.

One discrepancy has occurred with regard to Registration, wherein the boat had no mark whatever to identify it in any way. I was informed that it was allowed to come out by the owner as a trial trip previous to being sold; it was a new boat, and her first voyage. It is now registered.

One case of Overcrowding was reported to me, and when the boat came here it was at once enquired into and remedied.

There is but small cause for complaint in the want of cleanliness, many of the women being very neat and clean in their cabins.

No case of Infectious Disease was reported as being on any of the boats.

The number of boats on the Register is 194, and the number registered during the year being nine.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. ALLDEN,

Sanitary Inspector.

