

**[Report 1899] / Medical Officer of Health, Cannock R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Cannock (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1899

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/n74fd573>

**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>



# Annual Report

. . . OF THE . . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

. . . TO THE . . .

CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1899.





# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

. . For the Year 1899 . .

*To the Chairman & Members of the Cannock Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for 1899 as to Mortality, Sickness, and Sanitary Work.

## Estimates of Population :

Population.

### Brewood Sub-Registration District.

Bushbury...	...	2650	Dunston ...	...	250
Brewood ...	...	2490	Stretton ...	...	220
Penkridge ...	...	2330	Teddesley ...	...	110
Lapley ...	...	800	Coppenhall ...	...	110
Acton and Bednall	448		Featherstone ...	...	50
Kinvaston	...	20			
Total	...	...	...	9478.	

Labourers, railway men, and artisans in Electric Works in Bushbury.

### Cannock (Rural) Sub-Registration District.

Cheslyn Hay ...	2350	Shareshill ...	...	350
Essington ...	1530	Saredon ...	...	270
Wyrley ...	1320	Huntington ...	...	270
Hatherton ...	500	Hilton ...	...	70
Total	...	...	6660	

Miners, labourers, edge tool men, brickyard men.

Population for entire District ... 16,138.

Births in the year ... 529

Births.

Males, 255. Females, 274. General Birth Rate, 32 per 1000

1898	...	32	1895	...	32
1897	...	35	1894	...	34
1896	...	32	1893	...	31
Cannock Birth Rate	...	38 per 1000			
Brewood „ „	...	28 per 1000			



Deaths.	Deaths in the Year				...	238.
	Males	...	125	Females	...	113
	General Death Rate		...	...	14.74 per 1000	
	1898	...	15	1895	...	16
	1897	...	15	1894	...	15
	1896	...	17	1893	...	17
	Cannock Death Rate		...	14 per 1000		
	Brewood	„	„	...	15 per 1000	

The District Death Rate 14.74 may be classed as satisfactory. In the Rural Districts of Staffordshire in ten years the rate has exceeded 15 on five occasions, 16 on three occasions, and 17 in two of the years.

Quarterly Mortality.	Mortality as to time of year :—					
		Cannock.		Brewood.		
		1899	1898	1899	1898	
1st Quarter	...	30	26	49	44	
2nd „	...	22	29	28	38	
3rd „	...	16	15	33	34	
4th „	...	26	21	34	36	
		—	—	—	—	
		94	91	144	152	

Age Mortality.	Mortality at the various ages :—					
		Cannock.		Brewood.		Totals.
Under 1 year	...	31	...	32	...	63
1 year to 5	...	12	...	7	...	19
5 years to 15	...	0	...	9	...	9
15 years to 25	...	2	...	6	...	8
25 years to 65	...	26	...	38	...	64
Over 65 years	...	23	...	52	...	75
		—	—	—	—	—
		94		144		238

Percentage of Total Deaths :—

Cannock Mortality under 1 year	...	...	32 per cent.
Brewood „	„	...	22 per cent.

In 1898.

Cannock	...	23 per cent.	Brewood	...	17 per cent.
Cannock Mortality (all deaths to 5 years)			45 per cent.		
Brewood	„	„	„	27 per cent.	

In 1898.

Cannock	...	35 per cent.	Brewood	...	28 per cent.
---------	-----	--------------	---------	-----	--------------

Infant Death Rate—Entire District.

Infant  
Death Rate.

1899	3.90 per 1000.	1896	4.86 per 1000.
1898	3.01 „ „	1895	4.33 „ „
1897	3.91 „ „	1894	4.1 „ „
Infant rate per 1000 registered births		...	119
„ „ „ „ in 1898			91.4

Causes of Death in Infants.

			Cannock.	Brewood.
Zymotic Causes 7	{ Whooping Cough	...	1	1
	{ Diarrhoea	...	0	5
Chest causes 6	{ Bronchitis	...	4	1
	{ Pneumonia	...	1	0
Nervous System causes 17	{ Convulsions	...	4	7
	{ Dentition	...	1	1
	{ Brain Disease	...	3	1
Debility Diseases 26	{ Debility from Birth	...	6	4
	{ Marasmus	...	5	3
	{ Premature Birth	...	2	4
	{ Tabes Mesenterica	...	0	2
	Enteritis	...	2	1
	Tuberculosis	...	1	0
	Other Causes	...	1	2
			—	—
			31	32

The increase in the Infant Death Rate as compared with 1898 is seen to arise mainly from “The Nervous System Group,” and largely also upon “Debility” Diseases. Troubles incidental to teething, errors in dieting and general management, with, in many cases, unfavourable social environments, must largely account for this.

	1899	1898	1897	1896
Zymotic Causes (Infants)	7	4	12	11
Chest „ „	6	12	6	18
Nervous System Causes	17	4	13	11



1 Year to 5.

## Causes of Death in Children—1 year to 5.

			Cannock.	Brewood.
Zymotic Causes 4	{	Scarlet Fever ...	1	0
		Diphtheria ...	1	0
		Membranous Croup ...	1	0
		Diarrhoea ...	1	0
Chest Causes 7	{	Pneumonia ...	2	1
		Bronchitis ...	1	1
		Croup ...	1	1
Nervous System Causes 2	{	Brain Disease ...	1	1
		Enteritis ...	1	0
		Tuberculosis ...	0	1
		Accident ...	2	0
		Other Causes ...	0	2
			—	—
			12	7

		1899	1898	1897
Zymotic Causes (1 to 5)	...	4	8	4
Chest Causes	...	7	10	4
Nervous System	...	2	2	5

## Over 65 Years Mortality over 65 Years—Percentage of Total Deaths :—

Cannock ... 24 per cent    Brewood ... 36 per cent.

In 1898.

Cannock ... 30 per cent.    Brewood ... 31 per cent.

Mortality Rate over 65 Years ... 4·6 per 1000

In 1898, 4·7.    In 1897, 5·11.    In 1896, 4·6.

Parish  
Death Rates.

## Parish Death Rate Table.

Acton and Bednall	...	4 per 1000
Hatherton	...	6    "
Dunston	...	8    "
Coppenhall	...	9    "
Teddesley	...	9    "
Cheslyn Hay	...	10    "
Lapley	...	13    "
Bushbury	...	14    "
Penkridge	...	15    "
Essington	...	15    "
Wyrley	...	16    "
Shareshill	...	17    "
Brewood	...	19    "
Stretton	...	22    "
Huntington	...	25    "
Saredon	...	29    "

Average Rates in larger Parishes from 1895 to 1899 (five years).

Cheslyn Hay	...	13 per 1000
Acton and Bednall	...	13.5 "
Lapley	...	14 "
Hatherton	...	14 "
Essington	...	15 "
Wyrley	...	15 "
Shareshill	...	16 "
Bushbury	...	17 "
Penkridge	...	17.5 "
Brewood	...	19 "

Mortality from Infectious Disease.

	Cannock.	Brewood.	Totals.	Infectious Diseases Mortality.
Influenza	2	5	7	
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1	
Diarrhoea	1	5	6	
Diphtheria	1	3	4	
Typhoid Fever	0	1	1	
Erysipelas	1	0	1	
Membranous Croup	1	0	1	
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	
	8	15	23	
Total for 1898	...	...	21	

Zymotic Death Rate.

1899	1.4 per 1000.	1897	1.7 per 1000.
1898	1.3 " "	1896	1.6 " "

Distribution of Deaths (23).

Bushbury	7—Diphtheria 5, Influenza 2.
Brewood	5—Diphtheria 3, Typhoid Fever 1, Influenza 1.
Essington	4—Influenza 2, Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 1.
Penkridge	2—Influenza 2.
Cheslyn Hay	2—Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhoea 1.
Stretton	1—Whooping Cough 1.
Wyrley	1—Erysipelas 1.
Saredon	1—Membranous Croup 1.



General  
Mortality.

## The General Causes of Death.

		Cannock.	Brewood.	Totals
Zymotic Diseases	...	8	15	23
Infantile Diseases	...	17	16	33
Chest Diseases 49	Bronchitis	10	10	20
	Pneumonia	8	7	15
	Phthisis	1	9	10
	Croup	1	1	2
	Laryngitis	0	1	1
	Pleurisy	0	1	1
Liver Diseases	...	1	4	5
Kidney Diseases	...	3	4	7
Heart Diseases	...	7	17	24
Brain Diseases	...	8	13	21
Cancer	...	7	5	12
Convulsions	...	4	7	11
Accident	...	7	4	11
Old Age	...	7	12	19
Epilepsy	...	0	1	1
Rheumatic Fever	...	1	1	2
All Other Diseases	...	4	16	20
		94	144	238

Respiratory Death Rate ... 3.03 per 1000.

In 1898 ... 4.19 per 1000.

Sickness.	New Cases of Sickness.	1899.	1898.
	Membranous Croup	1	3
	Scarlet Fever	80	218
	Diphtheria	8	11
	Typhoid Fever	5	7
	Erysipelas	30	38
	Measles	75	50
	Whooping Cough	150	100
	Diarrhoea	60	50
	Influenza	250	150

Registered Cases of Notifiable Diseases ... 124.

Average Number per annum in 10 years ... 168.

School  
Closure.

## Closure of Schools advised.

Coven	...	Typhoid and Diphtheria.
Dunston	...	Scarlet Fever.
Bishopswood		Diphtheria.

## Causes of Uncertified Deaths.

Uncertified  
Deaths.

Premature Birth, 2	...	Essington, Brewood.
Convulsions, 2	...	Brewood, Huntington.
Croup, 1	...	Penkridge.
Debility from Birth, 1		Saredon.

## Percentage of Total Deaths.

1899	...	2.5.	1898	...	2.05.	1897	...	2.3.
------	-----	------	------	-----	-------	------	-----	------

## Vaccination.

Vaccination.

Taken altogether the new Act has worked satisfactorily, a greater portion of the infant population undergoing the operation. This is due to systematic home visitation by the Vaccination Officers, and by the use of Calf Lymph. There is found to be great difficulty in enforcing a satisfactory number of vesicles. Still, one mark is better than none at all, and re-vaccination later in life is desirable to meet this.

## Typhoid Fever in the District.

Typhoid  
Fever.

Cases	...	5	Deaths	...	1
		Houses infected	...	4	
4 cases in Brewood	...		1 in Bushbury		
3 cases removed to Wolverhampton Hospital.					

In one case at Coven the water was analysed and condemned. In two other cases, I reported in May, 1898, upon the insanitary condition of the cottages, lack of drainage, defective structural conditions, and the proximity of a pigstye.

In a fatal case in Stafford Street, Brewood, I reported to the Council in November on the absolute necessity of a complete system of sewerage, not only in this street, but for the entire village. The existing arrangements are most imperfect; the pipes are utterly inadequate and structurally defective; the connections are practically neglected; and it will become necessary to check any pollution of neighbouring streams. The Death Rate of Brewood has been conclusively proved to be far higher than the normal Rural Rate, and I advise the Council strongly to adopt a thorough and efficient sewage system for this district.

Brewood  
Sewerage.



## Diphtheria.

## Diphtheria in the District.

Cases	...	8	In 1898	...	11
Deaths	...	4	„	...	3
Houses infected	6		„	...	8
Brewood,	6	Stretton,	1	Essington,	1

The two notable outbreaks were in Coven and Bishops Wood. At Coven I presented a report in February on the school drainage; sewage running into the brook; the children having no proper water supply; and in drinking from the brook incurring serious danger. In one of the cottages the water was analysed and condemned, and fumigation, disinfection, and destruction of bedding, was thoroughly carried out. At Bishops Wood we had fortunately an ideal position of isolation, and by prompt action we were able to localise the disease. The drainage was bad; the water, suspicious. I visited these cases, and can testify to the efficient and vigorous action of your Sanitary Inspector.

## Scarlet Fever.

## Scarlet Fever in the District.

Cases	...	80	In 1898	...	218
Deaths	...	1	„	...	3
Houses infected	41		„	...	109
Penkridge	...	26	Wyrley	...	9
Dunston	...	14	Lapley	...	5
Cheslyn Hay	12		Bushbury	...	5
Shareshill	...	1	Hilton	...	1
			Total	...	80
			Brewood	...	3
			Bednall	...	3
			Essington	...	1

I reported in July on insanitary property in Dunston, where several cases occurred. Each initial outbreak has been investigated by the Inspector and myself, with provision of disinfectants, fumigating, and attention to all nuisances. The Council will shortly be asked to seriously consider the question of Hospital Isolation, either for the requirements of the District itself, or in co-operation with neighbouring Councils. I shall submit to the Council the reasons for such, the kind of provision needed, and the advantages to be obtained therefrom.



I can say little as to progress on the question of Water Supply, notably in Wyrley and Cheslyn Hay. Sanitary Engineers are working at it, and Companies have been approached. One thing is evident, if buildings are to be put up, and such are sadly needed, the Parish Councils must force on this question of Water. Public interests, apart from hygienic, will materially suffer, if a public supply of water is not speedily forthcoming.

Water  
Supply.

#### Sanitary Work of the Year.

Additional  
Powers conferred upon  
the Council.

(1) Incorporated provisions of the Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, as to Fires, contained in Section 171 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to be in force in Hilton.

(2) Powers, under Section 157 of the Public Health Act, 1875, to make Bye-Laws for new streets and buildings in Huntington.

(3) Powers, under Section 23 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, to make Bye-Laws for flushing water closets, structure of floors, hearths, and staircases, and height of rooms used as human habitations, paving of yards, and open spaces in connection with dwelling houses, and provisions of secondary means of access for removal of house refuse, etc., in cases of new streets for parishes of Bushbury and Huntington.

(4) Powers of Section 25 (unhealthy sites) and Section 33 (buildings described in deposited plans, otherwise than dwelling houses, not to be used as such) to be in force in Bushbury and Huntington.

#### Heath Town Sewerage.

Heath Town  
Sewerage.

In November I presented a Report on the Heath Town Sewerage Farm at Coven Heath.

In the two settling tanks there was no chemical treatment of sewage, and no proper precipitation. The manholes were choked with sewage, pipes broken, and sewage leaking into ditches. There appeared to be no systematic inspection or supervision. The smells in the vicinity were most offensive, and I advised the Council to insist on the immediate abatement of the nuisance.

Further details of Sanitary Work will be added to this Report, and I enclose the usual Schedules provided by the Local Government Board and the County Council.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W.M. HOSEGOOD, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



## ADDENDUM TO ANNUAL REPORT

### SANITARY WORK IN THE YEAR.

Sanitary  
Work.

#### BREWOOD.

The Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected and kept much cleaner. The Ashpits and Closets have been very irregularly emptied, and the contents have often been seen in the streets in the middle of the day. One case of Filth and Overcrowding has been dealt with, and the family left the district. The Bakehouses and Slaughter Houses have been regularly visited, and may be considered satisfactory.

#### BUSHBURY.

The Sewer near the Viaduct is unsatisfactory, often causing a nuisance. The owner's attention has been called to the same. The Sewage Tanks belonging to Heath Town have caused grave nuisances through inattention. The Council's attention has been drawn to the same, and they promise to prevent any cause for complaint in the future. The Inspector is endeavouring to formulate a Scheme of Sewerage at "The Scotlands," where the existing arrangements are unsatisfactory. Cases of Overcrowding, keeping of pigs causing Nuisances, and other Nuisances have been satisfactorily adjusted, and there has been Systematic Inspection of Bakehouses and Slaughter Houses.

#### CHESLYN HAY.

Several cases of Overcrowding have been dealt with. A regular system of Emptying of Ashpits is necessary; the existing arrangements work most unsatisfactorily. Hill Street and Hatherton Street have no means of Drainage whatever, and serious difficulties have arisen over the Non-Provision of Water for new houses.

#### DUNSTON.

The whole of the Parish was inspected after an outbreak of Scarlet Fever. Several cases of Overcrowding reported. Three houses absolutely condemned. Several Nuisances abated.

#### ESSINGTON.

The Ashpits and Closets have received better attention. Several Nuisances have been reported and abated.

#### HATHERTON.

Four Nuisances have been dealt with. The Drainage at the "Dog and Partridge" being in a very unsatisfactory state, has been thoroughly re-organised and re-laid, and is now satisfactory.

#### PENKRIDGE.

A great deal of attention has been paid to various insanitary houses, and much remains to be done, in which legal proceedings will become necessary. Six cases of Overcrowding have been reported, seven houses in a filthy state, and six other Nuisances. Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses satisfactory. Proceedings taken in a case of bad fish unfit for food.

#### WHEATON ASTON (LAPLEY).

The Drainage is inadequate and primitive, and is being taken in hand by the Inspector. One complaint has been made against a Bakehouse, and also against a Slaughter House. These defects have been remedied. Four cases of Overcrowding reported and abated, and various other Nuisances.

#### GREAT WYRLEY.

The Sewage in the Walsall Road runs down an open ditch. A Sewerage Scheme will be required here, and is being considered. Regular Ashpit Emptying is necessary in this district. Three cases of Overcrowding reported.

I have pleasure in testifying to the energy and ability of your Inspector, who has always readily responded to my requests, and has been most active in investigating insanitary property, and in assisting to check the progress of infectious disease.

(A)

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SEVERED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE																								
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVER.								Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	All other Diseases.	Totals.	
													Typhus.	Enteric Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Paratyphoid.	Typhoid.	Typhoid.	Typhoid.													Typhoid.
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22			
Cannock (Rural)	94	31	12		2	26	23	Under 5 5 upwds.		1	1	1							1		1	1		1	1	8		2	28	43			
								Under 5 5 upwds.																		10		5	24	51			
								Under 5 5 upwds.																									
								Under 5 5 upwds.																									
								Under 5 5 upwds.																									
Brewood	144	32	7	9	6	38	52	Under 5 5 upwds.			3			1							1	6				3	7	2	29	39			
								Under 5 5 upwds.																		15	17	5	4	50	105		
								Under 5 5 upwds.																									
Totals ... {	238	63	19	9	8	64	75	Under 5 5 upwds.		1	1	1		1				1		2	7				2	10	11	25	24	7	57	82	
								Under 5 5 upwds.			3																		9	74	155		

(B)

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics : Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITALS.		
	CENSUS 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.	Registered Births.	FEBRUARY.													Relapse or recurrence of Typhoid Fever.		
				e	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Escarin Typhoid.	Contin- ued.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.			Whooping Cough.
a	b	c	d	e	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
Cannock (Rural)	5931	6660	258	Under 5 5 upwds. Under 5 5 upwds. Under 5 5 upwds.		14 10		1	1						2 20				
Brewood	9963	9478	271	Under 5 5 upwds.		14 42	7			5					1 7			2	
TOTALS {	15894	16138	529	Under 5 5 upwds.		28 52	1 7	1		5					3 27			2	



## RURAL DISTRICT OF CANNOCK.

B. New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1899, enumerating the Number of Homes Infected, the Total Number of Deaths, also the Number of Cases Treated and the Deaths that occurred in Infectious Hospitals.

	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Measles—non-comp.	Dysent.	Erysip.	Cutaneous Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Purpura Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.
Persons Infected... ..		41	6	1	4						30	33	25
Total Cases reported among persons belonging to District ... ..	Under 5 & upwards	28 52	2 1	1	5						27 45	30 65	80 70
Total Deaths reported among persons belonging to District ... ..	Under 5 & upwards	1 3	1 3	1	1					1			
Cases treated in Hospital among persons belonging to District ... ..	Under 5 & upwards				2								
Deaths occurring in Hospital among persons belonging to District ... ..	Under 5 & upwards				1								

Is "Notification of Infectious Diseases" Compulsory in the District?	Yes.	Since when?	December, 1889.
--	------	-------------	-----------------

Is Measles included among the Diseases notified?	No.
--	-----

Is Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1	No.
-------------------	----	----	----	---	-----

Is an Isolation Hospital available for the District?      No; save for Smallpox.

Area of District in Acres 1 55,242.

Signed, W. HOSEGOOD, M.B. M.O.H.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1899.

## Rural District of Cannock.

[illegible]

Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto which may be added to the above is estimating the rate of mortality (Enteric or Typhoid Fever, upwds. 5 yrs.)... 1

Signed, W. ROSEGOOD, M.B., M.O.H.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, 1893.

REPORT OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, 1893.

The following table shows the number of cases of smallpox reported to the Department of Health during the year 1893.

Year		Cases	
1890	1891	1892	1893
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56
57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64
65	66	67	68
69	70	71	72
73	74	75	76
77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84
85	86	87	88
89	90	91	92
93	94	95	96
97	98	99	100

The following table shows the number of cases of smallpox reported to the Department of Health during the year 1893.

The following table shows the number of cases of smallpox reported to the Department of Health during the year 1893.

JOHN M. HARRIS, M.D.,  
Commissioner of the Department of Health.