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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health

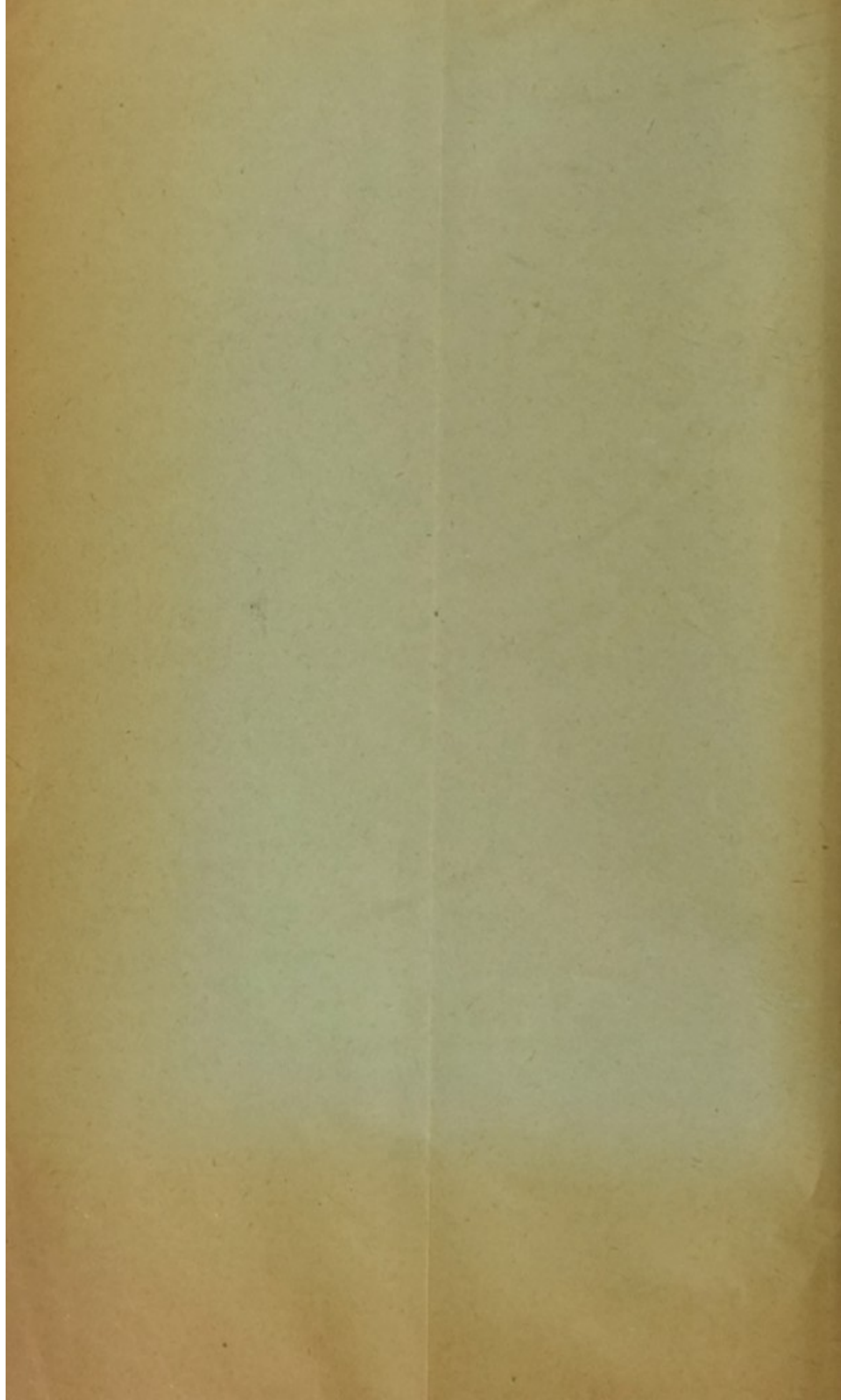
— TO THE —

Staff
Cannock Urban District Council

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

CANNOCK :

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ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Medical Officer of Health

— TO THE —

Cannock Urban District Council

FOR THE YEAR 1897.



ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
 MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
 FOR THE YEAR 1897.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cannock Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report dealing with the vital statistics and general health of the district for the past year.

The number of Births registered for the year 1897 is 846, which includes 448 males and 398 females, and, calculated on a population of 22,000 to Midsummer, 1897, gives a birth rate per 1000 per annum of 38·45, as against an annual birth rate of 35·45 per 1000 for the year 1896. The natural increase of population is 530, as against 403 in the preceding year. The total mean birth rate for the past ten years is approximately 40·81.

Births.

The number of deaths registered for the year 1897 is 316, which, on a similar calculation, gives a death rate per 1000 per annum of 14·36, as against a death rate in the preceding year of 17·18, and lower than it has been for the past 11 years. This must be looked upon as very satisfactory, considering the prevalence last year of infectious disease. The proportionate mortality per 1000 per annum at all ages and from all causes in the three Wards of the district, and calculated upon the estimated population of each Ward, is approximately—

Deaths.

Cannock Ward (excluding the Workhouse)...	11·73
Hednesford Ward	12·14
Chadsmoor Ward	13·32

The total mean death rate from all causes for the past 10 years is 18·4, the mean death rate from the 7 principal Zymotic diseases during the same period being 1·76.

Deaths under 1
Year.

(1) Cannock Ward—In this ward 34 deaths (excluding the Workhouse, in which one death occurred) have been recorded for the year, indicating approximately a rate of 4·7 per 1000 per annum on the estimated population of this ward.

(2)—Hednesford Ward—In this ward 23 deaths have been recorded, indicating approximately a rate of 3 per 1000 per annum on the estimated population.

(3)—Chadsmoor Ward—In this ward 37 deaths have been recorded, indicating approximately a rate of 5 per 1000 per annum on its estimated population.

The infantile mortality in the three wards, reckoned upon the births registered during the year, is at the rate of 11·2 per cent., as against 16·41 per cent. for the preceding year.

The total number of deaths under 1 year in the district amounts to 95, which is at the rate of 4·3 per 1000 per annum, as against 5·8 for the preceding year. This is a satisfactory improvement in the death rate from infantile mortality, which has never been less for the past 11 years. It is also a matter of satisfaction to know that the lectures embracing Hygiene, given originally by Miss Lonsdale, have been continued by Mrs. Grier and Mrs. Hosegood, and it is to be hoped that the efforts of these ladies will be the initiative to more general hygienic instruction in the district.

Below is given the number of deaths from the various diseases named:—

Smallpox.	None.
Measles.	None, as against 25 in the preceding year.
Scarlatina.	Four deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 6 in the Hednesford Ward, and 2 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 12, of which 6 occurred under 5 years, and 6 over 5 years old, and indicating a death rate per 1000 of ·54, as against ·22 death rate for the preceding year.
Diphtheria.	None.
Membranous Croup.	One death under 5 occurred in the Cannock Ward, and 1 death over 5 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 2, as against 1 for the preceding year.
Typhoid Fever.	One death over 5 years occurred in the Hednesford Ward.

Two deaths occurred from this fever, 1 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and 1 in the Cannock Ward.

Puerperal Fever.

One death over 5 years has occurred from this disease in the Cannock Ward. One similar death was recorded in the preceding year.

Erysipelas.

Five deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 1 in the Hednesford Ward, and 2 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 8, all under 5 years, giving a death rate of $\cdot 36$ per 1000, as against $\cdot 59$ for the preceding year.

Whooping Cough.

Five deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 5 in the Hednesford Ward, 13 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and 3 in the Workhouse, total 26, with a ratio of 1.18 per 1000, and of which 21 occurred under 5 years, against 9 for the preceding year, with a ratio of $\cdot 4$ per 1000.

Diarrhoea.

One death over 5 years occurred in the Chadsmoor Ward, against two recorded for the whole district in the preceding year.

Rheumatic Fever.

Six deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 2 in the Hednesford Ward, and 3 in the Workhouse, total 11, with a ratio of $\cdot 5$ per 1000, and of which 8 occurred over 5 years; against 27 for the preceding year, with a ratio of 1.23. Of the above deaths recorded, one was a blacksmith, one a forgerman, one a printer's compositor, one a domestic servant, and one a labourer.

Phthisis.

Three deaths occurred in the Hednesford Ward, 2 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and 4 in the Workhouse, total 9, indicating a ratio of $\cdot 4$ per 1000 from this disease.

Cancer.

Thirteen deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 24 in the Hednesford Ward, 23 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and 6 in the Workhouse, total 66, with a ratio of 3 per 1000, and of which 22 were under 5 years; against 89 for the whole district in the preceding year, with a death rate of 4.04 per 1000. The proportionate death rate per 1000 from these diseases in each ward, calculated on their respective populations, is approximately as follows:—

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.

Cannock Ward	...	...	...	...	...	1.8
Hednesford Ward	...	...	...	...	...	3.1
Chadsmoor Ward	...	...	...	...	...	3.1

The following table shows the mortality from these diseases for the past ten years :—

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Under 5 ...	30	47	37	83	39	33	55	45	62	22
Over 5 ...	32	33	37	63	48	46	33	39	27	44
	62	80	74	146	87	79	93	84	89	66

It will be noted that the mortality from these diseases last year was less than in any year since 1888.

Heart Disease. Seven deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 4 in the Hednesford Ward, 4 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and 2 in the Workhouse, total 17, with a ratio of $\cdot 77$ per 1000, and all over 5 years; against 28 recorded for the preceding year, with a death rate of 1 \cdot 27.

Premature Birth. Eight deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 2 in the Hednesford Ward, and 5 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 15, giving a death rate of $\cdot 68$ per 1000, as against $\cdot 95$ for the preceding year.

Injuries. Five deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 2 in the Hednesford Ward, 4 in the Chadsmoor Ward, 2 in the Hednesford Accident Home, and 2 in the Workhouse, total 15, with a ratio of $\cdot 68$ per 1000, of which 14 occurred over 5 years, and 1 under 5 years old; against 12 recorded for the preceding year, with a death rate of $\cdot 54$ per 1000.

Subjoined are the chief details of the respective injuries :—(1) Jan. 16, Thomas Wedge, aged 21 years, whitesmith, of Cannock, from fracture of the base of the skull, inquest. (2) Feb. 10, Charles Finn, aged 14, nipper, died in the Hednesford Accident Home from injuries received in the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery, inquest. (3) April 6th, George Henry Tolley, aged 17, died in the Workhouse from injuries received at the Cannock and Leacroft Colliery, inquest. (4) May 25th, Harry Dyke, aged 33, accidentally killed at the West Cannock Colliery, inquest. (5) May 30th, Fanny Titley, aged 5, scalded in Chadsmoor, inquest. (6) June 19th, Thomas Hall, aged 11, the Workhouse, died from shock and syncope due probably to a blow, inquest. (7) July 18th, Thomas Thacker, aged 19, drowned whilst bathing in a colliery reservoir at Hednesford, inquest. (8) Aug. 3rd, Wilfred Porter, aged 11, drowned whilst bathing in the Birmingham Canal at Rumer Hill, Cannock, inquest. (9) August 15th, Edward Thomas, aged 26, found drowned in Gilpin's Brook, Bridgtown, inquest. (10) Aug. 21st, Wm. Williams, aged 40, Hednesford, hanged himself whilst insane, inquest. (11) Sept. 1st, Alfred Brooks, aged 4, Rumer Hill,

Cannock, accidentally killed by a bullet wound in the head, inquest. (12) Oct. 2nd, Annie Stevenson, aged 43, Chadsmoor, died from shock and syncope consequent upon a fall downstairs, inquest. (13) Oct. 21st, Ada E. Phillips, aged 6, Hightown, accidentally killed through being run over by a brewer's dray, inquest. (14) Nov. 16th, John Holmes, aged 52, drowned in a lock of the Birmingham Canal at Churchbridge, inquest. (15) Dec. 20th, Alfred Riley, aged 43, stallman, died in the Hednesford Accident Home from the effects of burns accidentally received at the East Cannock Colliery, inquest.

Besides the inquests held on the above injuries, inquests have been held on the following:—(1) May 6th, Charles A Edwards, aged 1 month, Chadsmoor, died from bronchitis and diarrhœa. (2) May 10th, John Davies, aged 50, Leacroft Colliery, died from syncope. (3) Nov. 29th, James Upperdine, aged 55, Old Fallow, died from blood poisoning. (4) Dec. 28th, Annie E. Bishop, aged 9, Green Heath, died from malignant scarlet fever.

Twenty-eight deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, 40 in the Hednesford Ward, 39 in the Chadsmoor Ward, and 23 in the Workhouse, total 130, with a ratio of 5·9 per 1,000.

Deaths from all other Diseases.

Forty-five deaths occurred in the Cannock Ward, excluding the Workhouse in which two deaths occurred, indicating a death rate of 6·28 per 1,000 on its approximately estimated population, as against 8·4 for the preceding year.

Deaths under 5 years.

Thirty-one deaths occurred in the Hednesford Ward, indicating a death rate on its approximately estimated population of 4 per 1,000, as against 8·71 for the preceding year.

Fifty-two deaths occurred in the Chadsmoor Ward, giving a death-rate on its estimated population of 7·1 per 1,000, as against 9·48 for the preceding year.

The total deaths for the whole district amount to 130, which gives a ratio of 5·9 per 1,000, as against 9·09 per 1,000 for the preceding year.

The deaths from Zymotic Disease, as applied to the seven principal diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever, and diarrhœa, number 47, which gives a death rate per 1,000 of 2·1; as against 5·3 deaths for the preceding year, giving a death rate of 2·4.

Zymotic Diseases.

The following table shows the number of deaths from these diseases for the past 10 years, and also the Zymotic death rate :—

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897
Deaths from Zymotic Diseases . .	23	19	32	58	19	71	18	29	53	47
Deaths from all other Causes . .	318	322	293	419	422	352	313	318	325	269
Total Deaths for each year . .	341	341	325	477	441	423	331	347	378	316
Death Rate at per 1000 from Zymotic Diseases	1.35	1.11	1.56	3.3	.9	3.38	.85	1.38	2.4	2.1

Deaths in the Workhouse. Forty-three deaths occurred in the Workhouse, 2 under and 41 over 5 years of age. Twenty-five deaths occurred among persons belonging to the district, and 18 among persons from other districts.

Mr. Roach, the master, informs me that the average number of inmates during the year is 242, and that no vagrants admitted during the past year to the wards have died there. The death rate per cent. last year would approximately be 17.7 estimated on the average number of inmates, as against 17.95 for the preceding year.

Uncertified Deaths. The number of deaths recorded as not certified is 14, of which 11 were under 5 years, against 15 recorded in the preceding year. They occurred as follows :—

(1) Cannock Ward.—Four deaths occurred in the Ward, 2 from convulsions, 1 from natural causes, and 1 from heart disease.

(2) Hednesford Ward.—Three deaths occurred in this ward, 2 from natural causes, and 1 from convulsions.

(3) Chadsmoor Ward.—Seven deaths occurred in this ward, 6 from convulsions, and 1 from premature birth.

Notification of Diseases Act. The number of cases notified last year under this Act was 547, against 262 for the preceding year. Of these cases, 487 were scarlatina, constituting a rate of nearly 89 per cent. upon the sum total of diseases notified.

I will now give particulars of the notifiable diseases in their order.

Smallpox. None.

Scarlatina. The cases in the district from this disease occurred as follows :—

Cannock Ward.—Forty-nine occurred in the Cannock portion of this ward in 27 houses, 31 in fourteen houses in

the Bridgtown portion, and 35 in 15 houses in the outlying portions; the total being 115 cases in 56 houses.

Hednesford Ward.—Ninety-nine occurred in 67 houses in the portion of the Ward which includes Green Heath, Pye Green, Mount Street, Railway Road, and Bradbury Lane. Sixty-seven occurred in 36 houses in that portion, which includes Hednesford Town, Church Hill, and Littleworth. The total for this ward being 166 cases in 103 houses.

Chadsmoor Ward.—In the Hightown and Chadsmoor portion, 99 cases occurred in 54 houses; in Wimblebury, 41 cases in 23 houses; in Heath Hayes, 61 cases in 34 houses; and in the outlying portions of the ward, 5 cases in 4 houses. The total for this ward being 206 cases in 115 houses. The sum total of scarlatinal notifications for the whole district being 487 cases occurring in 274 houses.

While we can congratulate ourselves on a low death rate, we cannot do so with regard to this scarlatinal epidemic, which bids fair to be endemic in this district, and which has more than doubled during the year 1897, when compared to its prevalence in the preceding year.

This is a mining district in which more house accommodation is urgently needed, so that we find at present the working class households generally too crowded, and under such circumstances home isolation from this disease is practically impossible.

I advised last year the temporary use of the Smallpox Hospital for isolation of cases occurring in or near crowded centres, so as to minimise, as much as possible, the spread of infection, and the Urban District Council assented to this, but the matter was subsequently allowed to drop at a meeting of the Smallpox Hospital Joint Committee, composed of members of the Urban and Rural Sanitary Authorities.

The only reliable means of checking the spread of this disease in this district is hospital isolation.

Disinfectants and written instructions have been provided for at three different stations in the district, but unless there is proper isolation of patients, disinfectants are practically valueless, and I may go so far as to say that their use in such cases, to a certain extent, induces the belief that they are all sufficient to limit the spread of the disease, and people drift into negligent exposure.

The advantages of hospital isolation are manifold and obvious when we consider that the removal of the first case in each house limits the spread of the disease, that the cost of notification is reduced, and that there would be better nursing, and in more healthy surroundings. The patient, moreover, need not be confined long in one room, and school attendance of the other members of the family could be resumed in a week after removal of patient to hospital, and disinfection of the home premises.

With regard to the prejudice that exists amongst parents against the removal of infected children to an Isolation Hospital, I would point out to them that there is a double gain in protecting a child from infection in early years because he becomes less and less susceptible to attack from his fifth year upwards, and the longer the attack is delayed the less danger is there of life and complications in the disease. On the premises of several of the houses attacked I found defective drainage, and insanitary closets and ashpits, which have been duly reported upon in my monthly reports to the Council.

The disease has been of a mild type, the case mortality being 2·4 per cent., as against 2·3 per cent. for the preceding year.

Diphtheria.

Two cases were notified in the Cannock Ward, 1 in the Hednesford Ward, and 1 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 4 for the whole district, against 5 recorded for the whole district in the preceding year.

Membranous
Croup.

Two cases were notified in the Cannock Ward, and 1 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 3 for the whole district, against 2 recorded in the preceding year.

Typhoid Fever.

One case was notified in the Hednesford Ward, and 1 in the Chadsmoor Ward. In the latter case I found an insanitary condition of the closet and ashpit, and defective drainage from an adjoining pigstye. In the preceding year 5 cases were notified.

Puerperal Fever.

One case occurred in the Cannock Ward, 3 in the Hednesford Ward, and 3 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 7 for the whole district, as against 2 notified in the preceding year.

Twenty-four cases occurred in the Cannock Ward, 10 in the Hednesford Ward, and 10 in the Chadsmoor Ward, total 44 for the whole district, against 36 notified in the preceding year.

Erysipelas.

Towards the end of the year the district was visited by an epidemic of this disease, which, though general, was fortunately of a mild type, and affected more the gastro-intestinal than the respiratory tract.

Influenza.

With regard to well water supply, I have had occasion to condemn well water in Bridgtown and Chadsmoor. On August 6th last, acting on information received from Heath Hayes and Littleworth, with regard to the impurity of the water from the South Staffordshire Water Works, I visited the Company's reservoir on the Rawnsley Hills, and, finding the water impure, had it immediately cut off from the above-named districts, which were then supplied direct from the Company's well in the Rugeley-road, the water from the latter being excellent. This well usually suffices for the whole of the district, but the exceptionally dry summer called for an additional supply from the reservoir, which had been stagnating under a hot sun, and herein, I think, lay the cause of the impurity. The reservoir has since been emptied and thoroughly cleaned out.

Water Supply.

In the course of my sanitary rounds I have had occasion also to condemn a house in the Hednesford Ward as unfit for human habitation, and also a lodging house in Cannock, and have paid visits to the meat markets and slaughterhouses of the district. I have also had occasion to report upon and condemn several nuisances.

I have paid several visits to the Sewage Farm, and took on each occasion samples of the effluents, which I subjected to quantitative analysis. I am pleased to state that the effluents have steadily improved, a result which can only be attributed to the fact that the farm is under the direct control of the Urban Council, who have appointed a bailiff to manage the farm.

Sewage Farm.

It would be a great advantage if the Bridgtown sewage could be pumped from the low point where it enters the farm on to the top part of the farm, where it could be treated by the ridge and furrow system of filtration, and finally turned on to the filter beds if necessary.

Sewerage
Scheme for
Heath Hayes,
Etc.

It is gratifying to know that the Local Government Board have sanctioned a loan for the effectual sewerage of Heath Hayes and other portions of the district, and that this work is being promptly carried out.

Chadsmoor and Green Heath are in a very defective condition as regards drainage, and need urgent attention, and so does also Bridgtown.

Primary
Vaccinations.

Mr. J. T. Spooner, the Vaccination Officer, has kindly supplied me with a return, in which the births are stated as 850, the number successfully vaccinated 463, dead unvaccinated 50, unsuccessfully vaccinated 2, and postponed vaccinations 6, the number unvaccinated being 329. He also states that judging from the vaccination returns of previous years, more than 50 per cent of the unvaccinated will be vaccinated during the next six months.

The ratio of vaccinations to births is $\cdot 544$, against $\cdot 566$ for the preceding year.

Additional
Water Supply.

Mr. J. Peake, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, informs me that 192 yards of water mains were laid in Longford-lane, Bridgtown, and 72 yards in Church Street, Bridgtown. He also states that the number of houses supplied with water by the Company during the year is 120, as against 200 for the preceding year.

Additional
Buildings.

The number of new buildings erected during the past year is 79, which includes 77 houses, 1 church, and 1 public school; the total number of houses in the district for the year 1897 being 4,142.

I append the Tables required by the Local Government Board and the County Council, and beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. NORTHEY PHILLIPS.

Hednesford.

March 9th, 1898.



CANNOCK URBAN

(A) *TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Cannock Urban Sanitary District*

NAMES of LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							i	MORTALITY FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES.			
	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 Typhus.
Cannock Ward	84	34	11	4	1	18	16	Under 5 5 upwds.		3 1		
Hednesford Ward	90	23	8	5	5	22	27	Under 5 5 upwds.		3 3		
Chadsmoor Ward	97	37	15	6	6	24	9	Under 5 5 upwds.		2		11
Hednesford Accident home	2			1		1		Under 5 5 upwds.				
Workhouse	43	1	1	2	1	13	25	Under 5 5 upwds.				
Totals ... {	316	95	35	18	13	78	77	Under 5 5 upwds.		6 6		11 11

(B) *TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES in the year 1897, in the Cannock Urban Sanitary District*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Registered Births.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, compared with 1896.				
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1897.	e		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.
Cannock Ward	20613	22000	846	Under 5		40	1	1	
Hednesford „				5 upwds.		75	1	1	
Chadsmoor „ B				5 upwds.		68			
				5 upwds.		98	1		
				5 upwds.		80			
				5 upwds.		126	1	1	
Workhouse				Under 5					
				5 upwds.					
TOTALS {				Under 5		188	1	1	
				5 upwds.		299	3	2	

SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Urban Sanitary District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE																					
FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTALS.				
Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
			1		1		5	5			2	10		1	19	46					
1							1	5			4	3	7	4	17	38					
											1	4			15	29					
							2	11			1	20	4	2	30	61					
			1					2	1			7			27	47					
												16	4	4	19	50					
														2		2					
												1			1	2					
								3			3	5	2	2	26	41					
1			2		1		8	21		3	22			1	62	124					
								5	1	8	44	17		14	92	192					

CONTAGIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

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 HOSPITAL.	
FEVERS.								
Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
		1		1			No Isolation Hospital except for Smallpox.	
		3		23				
		3		10				
		3		3			H.—The locality in which the Smallpox Hospital is situate.	
				7				
		7		4				
				40				



