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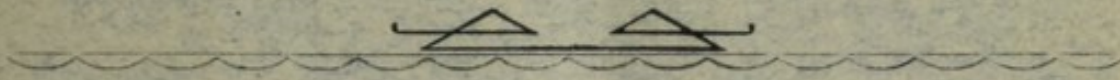
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ANNUAL REPORT

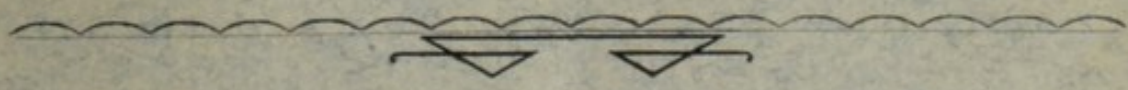
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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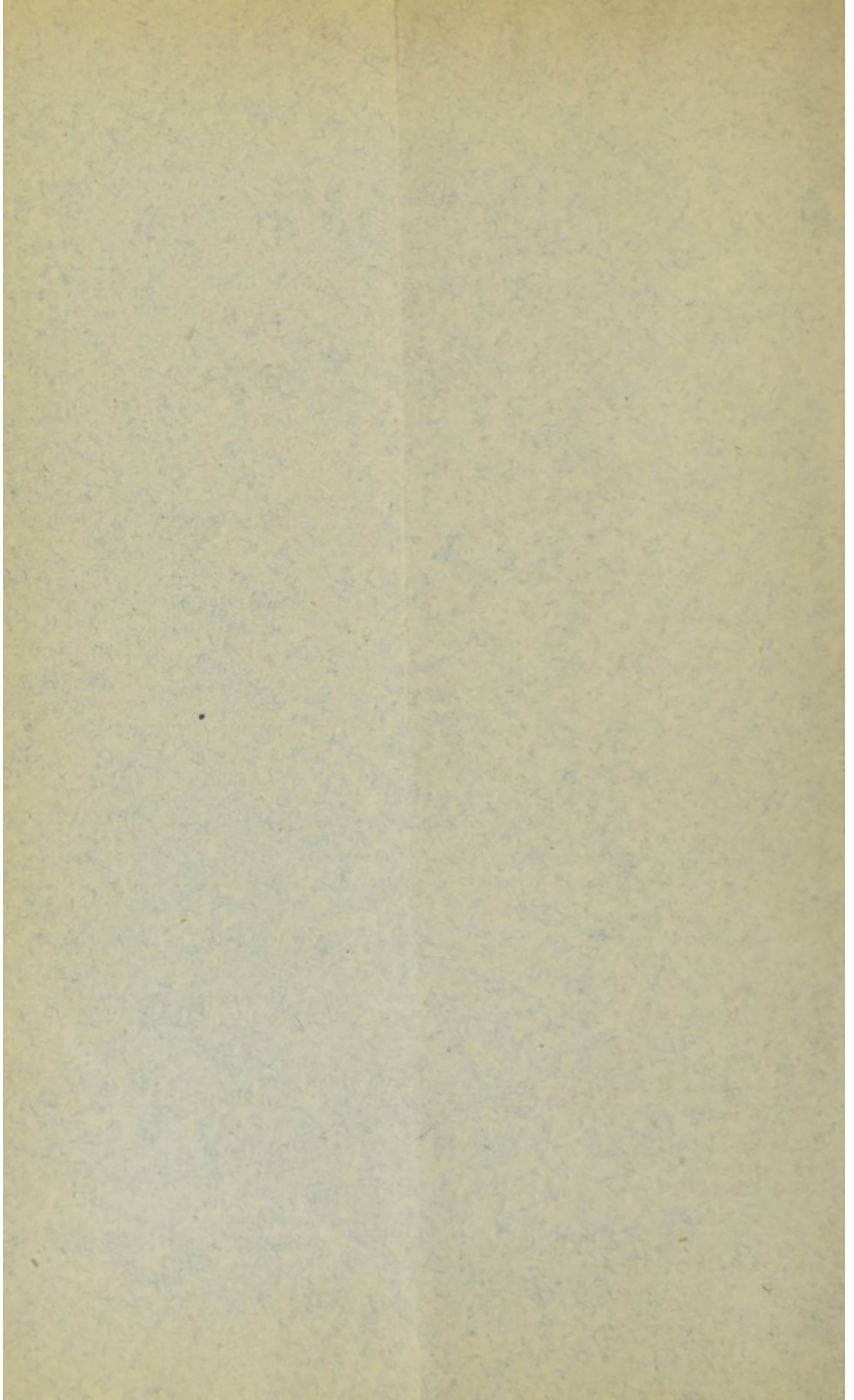
Cannock Urban District Council

FOR THE YEAR 1898.



HEDNESFORD

EVANS, PRINTER AND STATIONER, "ADVERTISER" OFFICE.



Medical Officer of Health's
ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year 1898.

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 year 1898.

The number of births registered for the year 1898 is 836, which includes 417 males and 419 females, and, calculated on a population of 22,000 to Midsummer, 1898, gives a birth rate per 1000 per annum of 38, as against an annual birth rate of 38·45 for the year 1897. The natural increase of population is 447 as against 530 in the preceding year. The total mean birth rate for the past 10 years is approximately 40·41.

Births.

The number of deaths registered for the year 1898 is 389, which, on a similar calculation, gives a death rate per 1000 per annum of 17·68, as against a death rate in the preceding year of 14·36, and of 17·18 for the year 1896. 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 approximately estimated population of each ward is as follows—

Deaths.

Cannock Ward (excluding the Workhouse) ...	16·21
Hednesford Ward	14·25
Chadsmoor Ward... ..	16·76

The total mean death rate from all causes for the past 10 years is 18·17, the mean death rate from the seven principal Zymotic diseases during the same period being 2. The subjoined table indicates the number of births and deaths, with their respective rates, for the 10 years 1889-1898, viz. :

TOTAL BIRTHS FOR YEARS—

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
	738	838	877	906	888	840	861	780	846	836
Birth rate at per 1000 of pop.	42·17	41·07	42·57	43·14	42·28	40	41	35·45	38·45	38

TOTAL DEATHS FOR YEARS—

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
	341	325	477	441	423	331	347	378	316	389
Death rate at per 1000 of pop.	20	15·93	23·15	21	20·14	15·76	16·5	17·18	14·36	17·68

Deaths under 1
Year.

CANNOCK WARD.—In this ward occurred 50 deaths (excluding the Workhouse, in which one death occurred), indicating a death rate, based on the ward's approximately estimated population, of 6·9 per 1000, as against 4·7 for the preceding year.

HEDNESFORD WARD.—In this ward occurred 41 deaths, indicating a death rate of 5·4 per 1000 on its approximately estimated population, as against 3 for the preceding year.

CHADSMOOR WARD.—In this ward occurred 56 deaths, indicating a death rate of 7·7 per 1000 on its approximately estimated population, as against 5 for the preceding year.

The infantile mortality in the three wards, reckoned upon the births registered during the year, is at the rate of 17·7 per cent., as against 11·2 per cent. for the preceding year, and 16·41 per cent. for the year 1896.

The total number of deaths under 1 year in the district amounts 148, giving a death rate of 6·7 per 1000, against 95 recorded for the preceding year, with a death rate of 4·3.

Of the above deaths, 24 occurred from diarrhœa, 23 from premature birth, 16 from marasmus, 16 from convulsions, 13 from measles, 10 from atelectasis or imperfect aeration of lungs, and 31 from bronchitis and pneumonia, besides cases recorded of gastritis and dyspepsia due to bad feeding.

Some of these deaths have been brought about by unavoidable factors, such as the excessive summer heat of last year, the measles epidemic, and the natural prevalence of bronchitis and pneumonia in this district, but it can be safely asserted that a good many of them would be avoided were it not for either parental ignorance or carelessness as regards the feeding and clothing of infants.

The number of deaths from premature birth, marasmus, and atelectasis points also to improvident and early marriages resulting in congenitally feeble offspring with unhealthy home surroundings.

It is very satisfactory to know that your Technical Instruction Committee instituted free health lectures in the district last year. These lectures were given by Miss Whalley (Health and Nursing Lecturer to the Staffordshire County Council), and they embraced instruction on—

- (1) How to make the home healthy ;
- (2) How to feed and clothe the family ;
- (3) Instructions to mothers as to feeding and clothing of infants, with cautions as regards soothing syrups and hints for nursing infectious and other diseases, etc., etc.

Regular systematic instruction such as this must tend eventually to lessen the infantile death rate, and a thorough school instruction in the rudiments of Hygiene would also prove helpful in the same direction.

I will now give the number of deaths from the various diseases, viz:—

None.

Smallpox.

Four deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, 16 in the Hednesford ward, and 11 in the Chadsmoor ward—total, 31—of which 30 occurred under 5 years, and indicating a death rate per 1000 of 1·4.

Measles.

No death occurred from this disease in the preceding year, though the death rate for the year 1896 was 1·13.

This disease is non-notifiable in this district, and an outbreak of it occurred last February in the Green Heath district, and last June in the Hightown, Chadsmoor, and Green Heath districts, but not to the extent as to justify school closure, though the disease was of a more serious character than when it prevailed in 1896, as the majority of the cases drifted into pneumonia.

One death occurred in the Cannock ward, and 3 in the Chadsmoor ward—total, 4—all under 5 years, and indicating a death rate of ·18 per 1000, against 12 in the preceding year with a ratio of ·54.

Scarlatina.

None.

Diphtheria.

One death under 5 occurred in the Cannock ward, against 2 received for the whole district in the preceding year.

Membranous
Croup.

One death occurred in the Workhouse and one in Cannock, both over 5 years, against one case recorded for the preceding year.

Typhoid Fever.

- Puerperal
Fever. One death occurred in the Chadsmoor ward, against 2 recorded for the whole district in the preceding year.
- Erysipelas. None.
- Whooping
Cough. Three deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, and one in the Hednesford ward—total, 4—all under 5 years, giving a death rate per 1000 of .18, as against .36 for the preceding year.
- Diarrhoea. Twenty-nine deaths, all under 5, have occurred from this disease, seven being in the Cannock ward, six in the Hednesford ward, and sixteen in the Chadsmoor ward.
- The death rate per 1000 from this disease is 1.3, as against 1.18 for the preceding year. It will be noted that out of this number 24 deaths occurred in children under 1 year old, and the factors of summer heat and dietary errors in the causation of this disease have been referred to in my remarks on infantile mortality.
- Rheumatic
Fever. One death, over 5 years, occurred in the Chadsmoor ward, against a similar number recorded for the whole district in the preceding year.
- Phthisis. Eight deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, four in the Hednesford ward, five in the Chadsmoor ward, and one in the Workhouse—total, 18—with a ratio of .81 per 1000, and of which 15 occurred over 5 years, against 11 for the preceding year with a ratio of .5. Of these deaths recorded, two were miners and one an edge tool grinder.

Though the above number of deaths is what has been actually certified, still it may be shrewdly suspected that some of the respiratory and abdominal diseases of infancy have been affected by tuberculosis without showing symptoms of the disease during life, and hence the vital importance of sterilising milk by boiling for artificially fed infants where the source of supply is not known or may possibly be tubercular, as it appears to be well founded that the prevalence of this disease in infancy and childhood is due to infection through the alimentary canal by milk from tuberculous cows.

According to Sir Richard Thorne Thorne the mean death rate from tabes mesenterica or abdominal phthisis in England and Wales, among infants under 1 year of age per million living is 4,046 for the years 1891-1895. The prevention of phthisis or tuberculosis is more clearly recognised every year as a matter of the highest importance.

Just recently a report on tuberculosis has been issued by the Council of the British Medical Association, and in this report are given the subjoined figures with regard to the annual mortality from tuberculosis per million living during the decennium 1881-1890, viz. :

	0-5 years.	5-10 years.	10-15 years.	all ages.
England and Wales	4499	844	827	2420
Ireland	3336	1184	1491	2665
Scotland	4368	1520	1506	2743
United Kingdom	4351	962	995	2488

In this report are also recommendations which may thus be summarised, viz. :

(1) DWELLINGS.—Every house newly erected should be on a dry site and dry foundation, with sufficient space around to allow of free access of air and sunlight.

(2) MEAT.—Properly qualified men should be appointed as meat inspectors—

(a) By every county borough and borough ;

(b) By all Urban District Councils ;

(c) By County Councils for rural districts, and by arrangement for small urban districts.

(3) Parliamentary powers should be obtained as follows—

A.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

(1) Facilities for providing public slaughter-houses ;

(2) To prohibit slaughter for gain except in a public slaughter-house after provision of such public slaughter-houses ;

(3) Elsewhere all licenses to be renewable annually, and revocable easily ;

(4) Compulsory examination of every cargo of imported meat. The charge to be borne by importer ;

B.—MILK.

(1) Minimum airspace in cow sheds to be fixed at 800 cubic feet per cow ;

(2) Systematic inspection by Local Authorities of all dairies and cowsheds from which milk is sent in to their districts, and the exclusion of milk if the application of the tuberculine test to any cow suspected of

being tuberculous be refused. Such inspection to be carried out by the Medical Officer of Health with the assistance of a veterinary officer ;

- (3) Power to take samples of milk from any particular cow or cows ;
- (4) Power to prohibit the entrance of milk into any district if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting it to be tuberculous ;
- (5) All tumours or affections of the udders to be notifiable ;
- (6) Imported milk and dairy products to be examined at the port of entry. The expense to be borne by the importer.

(4) PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS AND DISINFECTION.

- (a) All Local Authorities should make arrangements for the bacterial diagnosis of tuberculosis at the expense of such authorities ;
- (b) The Local Authority should undertake, free of charge, the disinfection of houses in which a tuberculous patient has resided, together with the bedding, clothing, and other articles capable of retaining the infection.

(5) TREATMENT.

Poor Law Guardians and Local Sanitary Authorities should be encouraged to provide suitable accommodation for the open-air treatment and special regime of consumptive patients.

(6) GENERAL MEASURES.

- (a) The distribution of leaflets by Medical Officers of Health describing the necessary precautions to be taken for preventing and spreading the disease ;
- (b) Local Sanitary Authorities to take steps to diminish overcrowding in tenement houses and cottages, the minimum cubic space at present allowed being inconsistent with healthy conditions of life ;
- (c) The encouragement of local organisations for supplying sterilised milk in sterilised feeding bottles.

(7) The carrying out of the measures recommended to be generally under the direction of Medical Officers of Health, though a supervision is desirable of the Medical Officers of Health by the County Medical Officers for the effective application of means for the prevention of tuberculosis, especially those connected with the control of the milk supply.

Five deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, five in the Hednesford ward, three in the Chadsmoor ward, and four in the Workhouse—total, 17—indicating a ratio of .77 per 1000, against 9 recorded for the preceding year with a ratio of .4 per 1000.

Cancer.

An interesting paper on "The influence of locality on the prevalence of malignant disease" was read last year before the Birmingham and Midland Counties Branch of the British Medical Association by Dr. Nason, of Nuneaton, wherein from observations of the comparative occurrence of the disease in the registration districts of Nuneaton, Atherstone, Market Bosworth, and Ibstock during the 10 years 1886-1896 he gives the following relative percentages of mortality for the same period, viz.:

(1) Nuneaton.	} Five parishes lying on low ground near the river ... .. .	.6 per cent.
		Four parishes lying on higher ground, and further from the river ... .. .	.3 per cent.
(2) Atherstone District,	surrounding the sluggish river Anker	.72 per cent.
(3) Hartshill, part of Atherstone district, but higher, and also further from river	... .. .	.33 per cent.
(4) Market Bosworth Division.	} Ibstock, near a small stream	.61 per cent.
		Market Bosworth, higher, with better fall, and no stream near	.28 per cent.

These statistics, if I may use his own words, "seemed to point to one thing very clearly, viz., that the cases of malignant disease tend to group themselves chiefly about the low-lying land in the neighbourhood of the sluggish streams, or where there is little fall, and where the subsoil must, in consequence, be but indifferently drained, and that the closer to the stream the more frequent the occurrence of malignant disease."

Assuming that "one of the factors in the causation of malignant disease is a micro-parasite having its habitat in stagnant water or ill-drained soil," he concludes that as in the case of malarial organisms, "exhalations from water or sodden soil thus impregnated might be the means of conveying the infection."

A committee has been formed to inquire into the facts for some of the Midland Counties. I have supplied Dr. Thomas Wilson, Birmingham (formerly of Cannock), who is a member of this committee, with the following table showing the percentages of death from malignant disease in the Urban District of Cannock for the 10 years 1888-1897, and the approximate relative percentage in each ward during the same period, viz.:

District.	Number of deaths.	Percentage in 10 years based upon 1891 census.
Cannock Urban (including Workhouse)	68	.. '32 per cent.
Cannock Ward	18	... '25 "
Hednesford Ward	16	... '22 "
Chadsmoor Ward	23	... '32 "

This information was obtained by the assistance of Mr. Roach, the Superintendent Registrar, who kindly gave me permission to examine the Register of Deaths.

Now the average mortality appears to be about .58 in 10 years, but the above-named figures for the Cannock Urban District show a considerably less percentage than this.

Dr. Wilson has kindly supplied me with the rates for Lichfield, Rugeley, Tettenhall, Darlaston, Bloxwich, Walsall, Wednesbury, Stafford, and Colwich, but the committee's work of investigation is not yet finished, and, therefore, the necessary conclusion not as yet drawn. I may state, however, that the rate for this district is less than in any of the above-named districts, and in some instances notably so.

There is no marked difference in the relative small percentages of the three wards of the Cannock Urban District, and it may be stated, as regards this district, that all the streams have a more or less greater fall with the houses for the most part away from their banks, and that the subsoil generally is dry and gravelly (*vide* Annual Report on Cannock Urban District for year 1896). It will be noted, however, that the most elevated ward has the smallest percentage.

With regard to the disputed question of "heredity" as a factor in the causation of this disease I will quote a striking example from Dr. Nason's paper, viz.:

"In one family of two generations, numbering 16 individuals reaching adult years, 10 have died. Of these 10, 3 have died of carcinoma of uterus, 2 of carcinoma of the stomach, and 1 of carcinoma of the liver; while of the 6 yet living, 1 has a large tumour of the neck, and 1 a tumour of the arm, which has recurred after removal."

Twenty-one deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, 30 in the Hednesford ward, 30 in the Chadsmoor ward, and 8 in the Workhouse—total, 89—with a ratio of 4·04 per 1000, and of which 43 were under 5 years; against 66 for the whole district in the preceding year, with a death rate of 3.

Bronchitis,
Pneumonia, and
Pleurisy.

The proportionate death rate per 1000 from these diseases in each ward, calculated upon their approximately estimated populations, is respectively as follows :

Cannock Ward	...	...	...	2·9
Hednesford Ward	...	...	...	3·9
Chadsmoor Ward	...	...	...	4·1

The following table shows the mortality from these diseases for the past 10 years :

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Under 5	47	37	83	39	33	55	45	62	22	43
Over 5	33	37	63	48	46	38	39	27	44	46
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	80	74	146	87	79	93	84	89	66	89

Four deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, four in the Hednesford ward, two in the Chadsmoor ward, and four in the Workhouse—total, 14—with a ratio of ·63 per 1000, and all over 5 years; against 17 recorded for the preceding year, with a death rate of ·77.

Heart Disease.

One death occurred in the Cannock ward, four in the Hednesford ward, and two in the Chadsmoor ward—total, 7—with a ratio of ·31 per 1000, of which 4 occurred over 5 years; against 15 recorded for the preceding year, with a ratio of ·68.

Injuries.

Of the above-named seven injuries, four were from colliery accidents.

Besides the inquests held on these injuries, inquests were held on the following :

- (1) Jan. 27th, James Jones, aged 66 years, The Workhouse—died from syncope ;
- (2) Feb. 2nd, infant child of James Ingram, Bridgtown—died from hæmorrhage into the bowels ;
- (3) April 10th, Wm. A. Boothby, aged 23 years, Broomhill—died from syncope ;
- (4) Sept. 21st, infant child of Bertha Ann Danks, Heath Hayes—remains found in a tin box ;

(5) Nov. 4th, Ann Hales, aged 45 years, Stafford Road—died from exhaustion after jaundice, consequent upon chronic alcoholism.

(6) Dec. 25th, Gladys M. Tennant, aged 1 month, Heath Hayes—accidentally overlain.

Deaths from all other Diseases. Sixty-two deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, 40 in the Hednesford ward, 46 in the Chadsmoor ward, and 23 in the Workhouse--total, 171—with a ratio of 7·7 per 1000, and of which 80 were over 5 years.

Deaths under 5 Years. Sixty-eight deaths occurred in the Cannock ward, excluding the Workhouse, in which four deaths occurred, indicating a death rate of 9·5 per 1000 on its approximately estimated population, as against 6·28 for the preceding year.

Sixty deaths occurred in the Hednesford ward, indicating a death rate on its approximately estimated population of 7·9 per 1000 as against 4 for the preceding year.

Seventy-seven deaths occurred in the Chadsmoor ward, indicating a death rate on its approximately estimated population of 10·5 per 1000, as against 7·1 for the preceding year.

The total deaths for the whole district amount to 209, which gives a rate of 9·5 per 1000, as against 130 deaths, with a ratio of 5·9 for the preceding year.

Zymotic Disease.

The deaths from Zymotic Disease, as applied to the seven principal diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, enteric fever, and diarrhoea, number 70, which gives a death rate per 1000 of 3·1; as against 47 deaths, with a ratio of 2·1 for the preceding year.

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

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Measles	10	2	21	0	35	0	1	25	0	31
Scarlatina	11	7	5	3	8	4	3	5	12	4
Diphtheria	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	2	13	4	0	3	7	13	8	4
Typhoid	2	2	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	2
Diarrhoea	6	19	17	10	27	8	15	9	26	29
Totals	29	32	58	19	71	18	29	53	47	70
Total Death Rate	1·11	1·56	3·3	·9	3·38	·85	1·38	2·4	2·1	3·1

Forty-one deaths occurred in the Workhouse, 4 under and 37 over 5 years of age. Nineteen deaths occurred among persons belonging to the district, and 22 among persons from other districts.

Deaths in the
Workhouse.

Mr. Roach, the Master, informs me that the average number of inmates during the past year was 247, and that no death occurred amongst vagrants admitted to the wards. The death rate per cent. last year would approximately be 16.6, estimated on the average number of inmates, as against 17.7 for the preceding year.

The number of deaths recorded as not certified is 12, of which 7 were under 5 years, against 14 recorded for the preceding year. They occurred as follows:

Uncertified
Deaths.

(1) Cannock Ward.—Five deaths occurred in this ward, one being from premature birth, one from natural causes, one from convulsions, one from diarrhoea, and one from bronchitis.

(2) Hednesford Ward.—One death from cardiac syncope, and one from apoplexy, occurred in this ward.

(3) Chadsmoor Ward.—Five deaths occurred in this ward, two being from convulsions, one from premature birth, one from cardiac syncope, and one from natural causes.

The number of cases notified last year under this Act was 282, against 547 for the preceding year. Of these cases 216 were scarlatina, as against 487 for the preceding year, and constitute a rate of about 76 per cent. upon the sum total of disease notified.

Notification of
Diseases Act.

Subjoined are the particulars of the notifiable diseases in their order.

None.

Smallpox.

(1) Cannock Ward.—Twenty-six cases occurred in the Cannock portion of this ward in 17 houses, 51 in 23 houses in the Bridgtown portion, and 15 in 10 houses in the outlying portions, the total for this ward being 92 cases in 50 houses.

Scarlatina.

(2) Eighteen cases occurred in 17 houses in that portion of the ward which includes Green Heath, Pye Green, Mount Street, Railway Road, and Bradbury Lane. Twenty-four cases occurred in 16 houses in that portion which includes Hednesford Town, Church Hill, and Littleworth; the total for this ward being 42 cases in 33 houses.

(3) Chadsmoor Ward.—In Hightown and Chadsmoor 42 cases occurred in 28 houses; in Wimblebury, 19 cases in 13 houses; in Heath Hayes, 20 cases in 11 houses; and in the outlying portions of the ward one case occurred; the total for this ward being 82 cases in 53 houses.

The sum total of scarlatinal notifications for the whole district is 216, these cases occurring in 136 houses.

It will be noted that there is a great reduction in scarlatina cases compared with the previous year. The great majority of the notifications occurred in the January and February months, so that by the end of the March quarter the epidemic had practically subsided, and only 10 cases of the disease had been notified during the last six months of the year.

In January the epidemic affected chiefly Bridgtown, Cannock, and Chadsmoor, and my only alternative measure in lessening it was the closure of the Bridgtown Church Schools and the Walsall Road Board Schools for one month. The re-opening of the Cannock National and Catholic Schools and the Chadsmoor National and Board Schools was also postponed for another month for the same cause.

I have already dealt in my previous annual reports with the question of the provision of an Isolation Hospital necessary for effectively checking the spread of this disease when it breaks out in a crowded mining district like the Cannock Urban.

The case mortality has been at the low rate of 1·8 per cent.—the rate for the preceding year being 2·4 per cent.

Diphtheria.

Only one case has been notified throughout the year, and this occurred in Heath Hayes, where was found evidence of defective drainage. This district, fortunately, is remarkably free from diphtheria, only 11 cases having been notified for the past five years. The dry, gravelly subsoil of the district generally will probably account for this immunity. Still it is a matter of satisfaction that for the diagnosis of this disease the County Council have arranged with the Council of Mason College, Birmingham, for the bacteriological examination, at the cost of the County, of secretions or membrane taken from the throats of patients suspected of diphtheria. The medical practitioners obtain the necessary apparatus for the collection and despatch of the suspected material from the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which the patient resides.

One case of this disease has been notified, against 3 for the preceding year. It was fatal, and occurred in the Walsall Road, Cannock. Membranous
Croup.

Six cases of this disease have been notified, against 2 for the preceding year. Two cases occurred in Cannock, one being in the Company Buildings, Walsall Road, the other in Old Penkridge Road, where there was evidence of defective drainage. Two cases occurred in Chadsmoor, one being at the Smallpox Hospital, the other in Hawks Green, where evidence was found of insanitary surroundings and an impure water supply, which was condemned. One case occurred in Bridgtown and one fatal case in the Workhouse. Typhoid Fever.

One case occurred in the Hednesford ward and two in the Chadsmoor ward—total, 3—for the whole district, as against 7 for the preceding year. Puerperal Fever

Thirty-eight cases occurred in the Cannock ward, 2 in the Hednesford ward, 11 in the Chadsmoor ward, and 4 in the Workhouse—total, 55—for the whole district, as against 44 notified in the preceding year. Erysipelas.

There is a marked prevalence of this disease in the Cannock ward, compared with the other wards.

Of the 38 cases that occurred in the Cannock ward, 15 occurred in Cannock, 16 in Bridgtown, and 7 in the outlying portions of the ward. They were all in separate families, and likewise also the cases notified in the Hednesford and Chadsmoor wards. Exposure to cold and damp appears to be the main cause for its production, and there has been no evidence of contagion or special insanitary surroundings to account for its greater prevalence in the Cannock ward. I can only attribute it to a greater dampness of soil due to a freer admixture of clay and a lower level.

The question of pure water supply has also engaged my special attention, and I have had occasion to condemn water supplying several houses in the district. In one important instance the investigation of water supply occurred in connection with a typhoid fever case in Hawks Green, this same water supplying as well eight other neighbouring houses; and its quantitative examination convinced me of its impurity, and it was condemned, with the result that arrangements have been made for the substitution of the pure water of the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Water Supply.

In another instance in Pye Green, where 13 houses are affected by impure well waters, it appears that the extension of the South Staffordshire water main from the top of Bradbury Lane to this district is not possible on account of the elevation.

Impure well waters have also been condemned in Bridgtown and Green Heath, and pure water substituted.

With regard to additional water supply Mr. Blackshaw, the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, informs me that for the past year 105 yards of main have been laid in Penkridge Road and 61 yards in New Hall Street, Cannock; 85 yards in Bank Street and 510 yards in Cannock Road, Heath Hayes; and 360 yards in the Old Fallow Road.

The number of houses supplied by pure water amounts to 135, as against 120 for the preceding year.

Meat Supply.

The meat markets and slaughter-houses, particularly those in the Hednesford district, have been regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and although some of the meat supplied to the Hednesford district is of decidedly inferior quality, still sufficient evidence for condemnation has been wanting.

On one occasion in Leacroft I had occasion to condemn the carcase of a cow as unfit for human food. The lungs were tubercular and there were tubercular deposits in the pleural cavity. In this instance the buyer was a farmer, and, to his credit, communicated his suspicions to the Sanitary Inspector regarding the unhealthy condition of the animal, which was slaughtered.

The erection of a public slaughter-house in the Hednesford district would render the inspection of meat more thorough, and would be a hygienic advantage to the public.

Overcrowding and In-sanitary Dwellings.

Twelve cases of overcrowding have been reported to the Council, and in two instances the houses were condemned as unfit for habitation.

There is urgent need for more house accommodation in this district. The evil of overcrowding is growing, and if suppressed in one quarter it rises up in another. It especially aggravates the spread of infectious disease, as witness the scarlatinal epidemics that visited us during the past two years. It also undoubtedly predisposes to chest disease, and helps materially to swell the infantile mortality list.

During the past year I have reported to you on several cases of defective drainage and the nuisances resulting from insanitary ashpits and middens.

Defective
Drainage, &c.

In two cases of typhoid fever, and one of diphtheria, I found defective drainage conditions, which were remedied.

I have regularly visited the Sewage Farm during the past year, taking on each occasion samples of the effluents, which, on examination, have shown on an average a satisfactory improvement.

Sewage Farm,
&c.

It is pleasing to record also that the sewerage of Heath Hayes has been completed, and that the sewerage of the other undrained portions of the district will be in course of completion this year.

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 413, dead unvaccinated 93, unsuccessfully vaccinated 1, and postponed vaccinations *nil*.

Primary
Vaccinations.

He also states that the number of children whose parents have obtained exemption certificates amounts to 18, and that the number of children whose parents have left the district amounts to 4.

The number of children unvaccinated amounts to 321, but the Vaccination Officer states his belief that nearly the whole of this number will be successfully vaccinated during the next 6 months, as the number of children vaccinated has increased very rapidly since the new Vaccination Act has come fully into operation.

Mr. W. Blackshaw, the Surveyor, kindly informs me that the number of new buildings erected during the past year amounts to 116, thus making the total number of houses in the district for the year 1898 to amount to 4,258.

Additional
Buildings.

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

Your obedient servant,
J. NORTHEY PHILLIPS.

The Poplars,
Hednesford,
February 23rd, 1899.

CANNOCK URBAN S

(A)

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, 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.							MORTALITY FROM				
	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	i	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	1	2	3	4
Cannock Ward	116	50	17	3	4	25	17	Under 5 5 upwds.		1		1
Hednesford Ward	108	41	20	6	5	23	13	Under 5 5 upwds.				
Chadsmoor Ward	122	56	21	4	7	19	15	Under 5 5 upwds.		3		
Hednesford Accident home	2		1	1				Under 5 5 upwds.				
Workhouse	41	1	3		1	11	25	Under 5 5 upwds.				
Totals ... {	389	148	62	14	17	78	70	Under 5 5 upwds.		4		1

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES during the year 1898, 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, commencing during the year.						
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1898.	d		e	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric
a	b	c	d	e	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Cannock Ward	20613	22000	836	Under 5		38					
Hednesford ..				5 upwds.		54					
Chadsmoor .. H				5 upwds		17					
				Under 5		25					
				5 upwds.		36		1			
				Under 5		46	1				
				5 upwds.							
Workhouse				Under 5							
				5 upwds.							
TOTALS {				Under 5		91		1			
				5 upwds.		125	1				

SANITARY AUTHORITY.

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

COMBINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																					
FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Cancer.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTALS.				
Enteric or Typhoid.	Continu'd	Relapsing	Puerperal	6														7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
								4	3	7		2	14							37	69
1								15	1	6		6	7	4	5	1				25	49
								1				4	14	4	5	1				17	60
								11		16			16			1				29	76
			1								1	5	14	2	3	1				17	44
															1	1				1	1
													1							2	3
1											1		7	4	4					21	38
								30	4	29		2	45			3				91	209
2			1				1	1			16	44	14	17	4	80				180	

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

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
				3		
				35		
		1		2		
		2		1		
				10		
				4		
		3		4		
				51		

No Isolation Hospital except for Smallpox.

H. The Locality in which the Smallpox Hospital is situate.



Annual Report

. . . OF THE . . .

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

. . . TO THE . . .

CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1899.



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

GENERAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1908

BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHICAGO, ILL., 1909

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.
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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
	{ Diarrhœa ...	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
		Diarrhœa ...	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	
Diarrhœa	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, Diarrhœa 1.
Stretton	1—Whooping Cough 1.
Wyrley	1—Erysipelas 1.
Saredon	1—Membranous Croup 1.

The General Causes of Death.

General
Mortality.

	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
	Diarrhœa ...	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.

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

Uncertified
Deaths.

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	Essington
Shareshill	...	1	Hilton	...	1
			Total	...	80
			Brewood	...	3
			Bednall	...	3

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.

(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.

Additional
Powers con-
ferred upon
the Council.

(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.

BREWWOOD.

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.

