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Contributors

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183 Euston Road
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T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
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Cheadle Rural Sanitary District

Copy of Annual Report (1894)

During the year 1894, 412 deaths have been registered in this Rural Sanitary District - 193 males and 219 females - giving a death-rate of 18.4 per 1000 of the population. This death-rate is above the average of the five preceding years by 1.4 per 1000. Of the total number of deaths 98 or 23.7 per cent are of children under 1 year and 126 or 30.5 per cent of old people 65 and upwards.

The number of births recorded during the year was 441 (including 380 males and 61 females) giving a birth-rate of 34.5 per 1000 of the population. This is an increase of 3 per 1000 over the birth-rate of last year.

Infant mortality - The mortality of Infants under 1 year (as before stated) is 98 or 23.7 per cent of the total of deaths, Cheadle and Caverswall, again standing out prominently at the head of the list with 29 and 22 deaths respectively, which together, are more than half the total of deaths at this age.

Mortality from certain diseases - The number of deaths from respiratory diseases, including Bronchitis and Pneumonia is 53. Although this exceeds by two the number of last year it is below the average of the preceding 5 years, (63.2). These deaths give a rate of 12.8 per cent.

Phthisis - From this disease 33 deaths have been registered, which exceeds by 3 the number recorded for last year.

The average mortality for the 5 preceding years

gives a death-rate of 24.14 per cent.
 From Heart Disease 39 deaths have been registered giving a death-rate of 9.14 per cent of the total of deaths. Most of these occurred in aged people 60 and upwards.

Influenza. To this disease 19 deaths have been attributed. At no time of the year did it assume an epidemic character. Most of the cases terminating fatally were of persons of feeble constitution.

Zymotic disease. From the principal zymotic diseases, I have to report 24 deaths including 2 from Scarlet Fever, 6 Diphtheria, 10 Measles, 2 Diarrhoea and Dysentery, 5 Membranous Croup and 2 Typhoid Fever. A noticeable feature in this mortality is the absence of a single death from Enteric Fever. These deaths are at the low rate of 6.5 per cent of the total of deaths from all causes and at 1.2 per 1000 of the population.

The following table gives the number of deaths from 6 of the principal zymotic diseases in the preceding five years.

	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Scarlet Fever	3	14	5	3	2
Diphtheria	0	1	2	3	6
Measles	3	0	5	0	10
Whooping cough	3	4	2	2	0
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	14	0
Diarrhoea	4	8	5	8	2
Totals	14	21	20	20	20
Death-rate per 1000	.8	1.	.9	.9	.9

Uncertified deaths - The number of uncertified deaths was 30 against 14 of the preceding year. This total gives a death-

rate of 4.2 per cent. An inquiry as to the cause of death was held in nearly every instance, a verdict of "natural causes" being returned.

Notification Certificates - During the year only 83 Certificates have been received, this number is by far the smallest received since the adoption of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889. Included in this number are 35 cases of Scarlet Fever, 20 Diphtheria, 14 Enteric Fever, 12 Erysipelas and 2 Puerperal Fever.

Scarlet Fever. The number of reported cases was 35. At Hollington and Searn the disease assumed almost an epidemic character. In the former place 11 cases broke out, and I recommended the closing of the schools, for a period of three weeks from October 23rd to the middle of the month of November. This step was attended with good results, the further spread of the disease in consequence being arrested.

In the village of Searn 10 cases were notified in the 2nd quarter of the year. Strict attention to isolation and disinfection had the desired effect and it was not deemed necessary to close the schools. The remaining cases appeared in a sporadic form, chiefly in thinly populated districts, and did not give rise to much trouble. A remarkable feature was the complete absence of Scarlet Fever in the town of Cheshire during the year, not one single case being notified.

Enteric Fever. 14 cases of Enteric Fever were notified, and occurred in about an equal numerical ratio in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. The disease was practically confined to three localities, namely, Cheshire

Kingsley and Adderley Green.

Three cases broke out in the town of Cheadle and two in isolated houses on the outskirts of the town. As the cases were notified, I made a thorough investigation as to the cause of the outbreak and was able in each instance to satisfy myself of the unsanitary condition by which the disease was propagated.

As an example of such I may mention in one instance the close proximity of a privy cesspool to the wall of a dairy in which the milk was kept for private consumption. This cesspool was, as I suspected, in a leaky condition, the wall plaster of the dairy in consequence being quite damp. I had little doubt from further enquiry that the disease originated from this source viz. the contamination of the milk with sewer gas.

In another instance I found a heap of filthy refuse matter which had been allowed to remain for some time without removal. This was within a few yards of the living premises, the air of which was being constantly contaminated and hence the appearance of the disease.

These remarks apply to the outbreak in the Cheadle District. I may state that the drinking water here was of good quality and in no way responsible for the appearance of the fever.

Of the four cases that came under notice at Kingsley, I was able to trace the outbreak in three instances to the bad quality of the drinking water. This was partly due to the dry state of the weather. At this time the supply was quite unequal to the demand and had to be procured from any available source, which in one or two instances I found to be distinctly bad

and quite unfit for use. Of the fourth case, that came under my notice in this village, I found an untrapped drain in the cellar of the dwellinghouse. This drain emptied into a cesspool some 20 yards distant. That the fever originated from this source I have little doubt as the presence of sewer gas in the house was quite evident by the sense of smell. As a further proof of the correctness of this opinion I may state that I had under my care a severe case of phlegmonous erysipelas at the same time and under the same roof evidently infected from the same source.

At Adderley Green the house drains were evidently responsible for the occurrence of the outbreak, for in each instance where an outbreak of the fever was reported, I found the existence of an untrapped drain in the cellar of the dwelling.

As far as practicable these nuisances have been thoroughly dealt with and abated.

Diphtheria. 20 cases came under notice during the year. Some of these were of a particularly mild type, especially two of children who were attacked at the Meiv in the month of August. At the time of my visit here I found them playing about in their rooms, apparently not much amiss. With isolation and the disinfecting of the premises, the disease was at once arrested.

At Alton the disease assumed more of an epidemic character and the Sanitary Authority will remember that I sent in a special report on the subject. Eleven cases in all were notified to me, 6 in the month of September, 3 in October and 2 in November. On the occasion of my first visit, I ascertained that a number

of children had a few weeks before, been suffering from mild throat symptoms and made a quick recovery. These children were not considered to be sufficiently unwell to be detained at home. Had the School Authorities in the first instance called my attention to the epidemic of sore throat, the nature of the complaint could have been determined by a bacteriological examination of the throat exudation, and the disease might have been arrested at this stage by the adoption of proper precautionary measures. The step however was not taken until the occurrence of cases of a more pronounced character. I considered it necessary to order the closing of the schools, for a period of a month and as far as practicable to isolate all the infectious cases. Disinfectants were freely distributed and advice given as to their use. As to the probable cause of the outbreak in the first instance, I may say that we found some of the house drains in a filthy condition owing to the want of a sufficiency of water for flushing purposes from the dry state of the weather. There was also a scarcity of drinking water at this time from the same cause.

Measles in an epidemic form appeared in various parts of the Union, notably at Freehay and Hollington. It was considered necessary to order the closing of the schools in consequence. An outbreak also occurred in the town of Cheadle about the same time.

Anthrax - Three outbreaks in cattle were reported during the year. The affected animals were immediately slaughtered and buried at a safe depth, together with the free use of lime. Fortunately no human being was infected.

Water Supplies. Selhorn Common has been provided with a good supply of drinking water which has been a great boon to the district.

The supply of water to Kingley village as before stated is still far from being satisfactory. When the rain-fall is up to the average the requirements of the people are met, but in dry seasons the supply is so insufficient that the inhabitants are greatly inconvenienced, and have much difficulty in providing for their daily wants. Other districts in the Union requiring better water supplies are Melley Rocks, Cellar Head and Werrington. The Sanitary Authority have now under consideration different schemes for the provision of a good supply for each district and I hope before long to be able to report that their efforts have been attended with success.

At Cauldon Lowe it was found necessary to take up, cleanse and relay about 1000 yards of water pipes.

New Sewers. At the Meir about one mile of new sewers has been laid, thereby enabling a large number of houses to connect and to have an efficient drainage system. This requirement has been much needed, for hitherto the drains emptied into cesspools which, in most instances, were, from necessity too closely situated ~~from~~^{to} the dwellings. Half a mile of new streets has been constructed in the same locality.

Of other new sewers I may mention the construction of one 400 yards in length at Forsbrook, whereby a number of new villas are able to connect and have an efficient drainage. I am pleased also to report on the making of a sewer at Acton. In previous reports I had had to call the attention of the Authority to the existence of a foul open sewer in this village, which at times was a

source of great annoyance and danger. The Sanitary Authority gave orders for this work to be carried out and I may say that it will be found to be a great improvement and a benefit to the village.

Overcrowding. A few cases have come under notice. One at Cheadle and the other at Hollington were the worst. The nuisance was abated in each case.

Houses unfit for habitation. In two cases it has been found necessary to close houses which were considered to be dangerous and unfit for habitation. One of these was at the New, and the second at Oak Street, Cheadle.

I have also inspected dwellings which were structurally defective and which in such condition were considered unfit for human habitation.

Four or five notices were served upon owners at Alton to repair such houses; two at Cheadle, and one at Shreapwood. In each instance the suggested alterations were carried out to our complete satisfaction.

Erection of New Cottages - I may call the attention of the Sanitary Authority to the erection of some 40 well constructed new cottages at the New.

Building operations have also been in force in Cheadle, 16 new cottages of a superior type being erected in Queen Street. I am pleased to say that each of these is provided with a good water closet.

Alterations and repairs have been made to a number of privies, cesspools, ashpits, drains, dilapidated and leaky roofs, and defective windows at Kingsley, Oakmoor, Alton, Cheadle and other places.

Isolation Hospital. I wish to draw the attention of the Sanitary Authority to the necessity of providing isolation accommodation in the district for infectious cases.

The necessity of such a provision is of frequent occurrence, as outbreaks of infectious diseases commonly occur in small dwellings in which thorough isolation is impossible.

As a suggestion I would recommend the acquiring of cottage accommodation in the more populous districts, sufficient for the requirements of such local areas.

For similar sanitary reasons I would recommend the building of a parish mortuary, whereby the removal of the body of a person having died from an infectious disease could be effected without endangering the health of the inmates of overcrowded dwellings by the retention of such cases.

Water Analysis - A number of samples of water have been analysed during the year and reported upon.

With Mr. H. Langley Webb's
Compl^{ts}





