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CHEADLE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF
HEALTH.

YEAR 1904.



J. MACHIN, PRINTER, CHEADLE.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SIR,

The total number of deaths registered in this Rural Sanitary District for the year ending 31st December, 1904, was 467, as compared with 414 in the preceding year.

The deaths under one year of age amount to 76, equal to 16·2 per cent. of the total deaths; and those over 65 years of age to 128 (or 27·4 per cent.), compared to 88 in 1903. It is a satisfactory feature to note that the infant mortality continues to shew such a low rate.

The following table shews the total number of deaths for each of the last ten years, together with the corresponding rate per 1000.

Year		<i>Deaths</i> <u>Births</u>		Rate per 1000
1894	...	443	...	19·8
1895	...	470	..	21
1896	...	341	...	15·2
1897	...	376	...	16·3
1898	...	414	...	18
1899	...	394	...	17·1
1900	...	432	...	17·2
1901	...	423	...	17·1
1902	...	438	...	17·7
1903	...	414	...	16·7
1904	...	467	...	18·9

From the above table it will be seen that the death-rate per 1000 of the population is 18·9, which is the highest rate recorded during the last eight years.

Births.

The total number of births registered was 789, an increase of 56 over the previous year. This gives an annual birth-rate of 31.9 per 1000 of the population.

The percentage of deaths occurring under one year of age, as compared to the recorded births, is 9.6.

The following table shews the number of births recorded during the last ten years, and the rate per 1000.

Year		Births		Rate per 1000
1894	...	833	...	32.8
1895	...	797	...	35.7
1896	...	752	...	33.6
1897	...	708	..	30.7
1898	...	743	...	32.3
1899	...	737		31.6
1900	...	750	...	30
1901	...	735	...	29.8
1902	...	797	...	32.3
1903	...	733	...	29.7
1904	...	789	...	31.9

MORTALITY FROM DIFFERENT DISEASES.

Respiratory System.

The total number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system was 99, as compared with 82 in 1903.

Included in this number are 33 deaths from Tuberculous Phthisis, giving a percentage mortality of 7; 23 from Pneumonia; 32 from Bronchitis; 5 from Influenza; and 6 from other diseases of the Respiratory System.

The following table shews the comparative number of deaths from each disease of the Respiratory System for a few of the previous years.

	1901	1902	1903	1904
Phthisis	36	42	25	33
Pneumonia	21	29	33	23
Bronchitis	31	10	17	32
Influenza	4	5	7	5
Pleurisy	2	2	0	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	—	—	—	5
Total	94	88	82	99
Percentage ...	22	19.9	19.8	21.1

Influenza has been epidemic more or less over the whole District during the later months of the year.

Heart Disease.

The number of deaths from this disease was 70, as compared with 63 in 1903, and 73 in 1902.

The percentage mortality is 14.9.

Infectious Diseases.

There were 18 deaths from this cause, as compared with 19 in the previous year.

The following table gives the number of deaths from Infectious Diseases for the last six years. The death-rate compares very favourably with previous years, keeping in mind that there has been large numbers of cases of Infectious Disease during the past year.

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904
Scarlet Fever	1	7	6	4	1	2	5
Diphtheria	18	6	5	8	4	6	3
Measles	15	0	18	0	4	1	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	11	1	7	3	9	7
Enteric Fever	1	1	2	3	4	1	1
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	35	25	32	22	16	19	18
Percentage	8·4	6·3	7·4	5·2	3·6	4·5	3·8

Uncertified Deaths.

The Uncertified Deaths amount to 37, compared with 3 in 1903; 4 in 1902; and 32 in 1901.

Notifiable Diseases.

During the year, 230 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, as compared with 68 in 1903, thus shewing an increase of 162 over the preceding year, and giving a rate of 9·3 per 1000 of the population.

The following table gives the number of notifications of each disease for the last four years.

	1901	1902	1903	1904
Scarlet Fever	116	66	25	*170
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... }	102	48	17	32
Erysipelas	7	7	8	11
Enteric Fever	10	23	10	9
Puerperal Fever	5	3	2	2
Small Pox	0	4	6	6
Total	240	151	68	230

*Includes one case notified as having both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

From the above table it will be seen that the number of Infectious Cases notified during 1904 is greater than during either of the two preceding years.

Scarlet Fever accounts for the greater part of the increase, the number of cases being considerably above the average.

The following table shews the number of cases and the disease notified in each of the four districts—Cheadle, Alton, Ipstones, and Dilhorne.

	Cheadle	Alton	Ipstones	Dilhorne
Small Pox	0	0	6	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ... }	4	0	9	19
Erysipelas	1	1	6	3
Scarlet Fever... ..	112	10	8	40
Enteric Fever	1	1	3	4
Puerperal Fever	0	0	2	0
Total	118	12	34	66

Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year was 170, being a considerable increase over the numbers notified during the three preceding years. The chief increase is accounted for by Cheadle, Alton, and Blyth Bridge. The town of Cheadle has not been free from the disease at any time during the past twelve months, cases having been notified during every month of the year. In March, an out-break occurred among the scholars of the Wesleyan Schools, which were closed in consequence for fourteen days, and the schoolrooms were disinfected. In May, two cases of Scarlatina occurred at Cotton College. The first case was removed to Stone Isolation Hospital, by arrangement with the Stone Authorities, as the Cheadle Isolation Hospital was not ready to receive patients at the time. The other case, occurring later, was admitted into the Cheadle Hospital.

Towards the end of October, a fresh out-break of Scarlatina occurred in Cheadle, originating no doubt among the scholars of the Roman Catholic Schools, as the disease was at first entirely confined to the children attending these schools, and only later spreading to others. In all probability an unnotified case was attending school in an infective condition. The Schools were closed for fourteen days, and disinfected. Before closing, an inspection was made of all the children, with a view to discovering if any of the children were peeling, but the result was negative.

During December, four cases of Scarlatina were reported in the Alton District. It was ascertained that one of these cases had been attending the Alton Protestant Schools while desquamating freely, so it was considered advisable to close the schools for fourteen days, and have them disinfected.

Enteric Fever.

Only nine cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year, the lowest number for the last four years. Four of the cases occurred at the Meir. One case occurred at Alton—this case being an imported one from another District. A case at Foxt was also imported into the District. One case occurred at Kingsley, and from an examination of the premises where it occurred, it seems probable that defective drainage played a part in the causation. The drainage in question has since been put right. The Kingsley case accounted for a case which occurred at Foxt shortly afterwards. This was a young girl who had been living in the infected house at Kingsley, and who on returning home to Foxt developed the disease.

One case of Enteric Fever occurred in Cheadle, but no clue could be obtained as to the origin of the disease. The sanitary condition of the house was found satisfactory.

Diphtheria.

There have been three deaths from this disease, giving a percentage mortality of .6, as compared with 3.5 during 1903, and 8.3 during 1902.

Thirty-two cases of the disease were notified during 1904. With the exception of two small epidemics, most of the cases were isolated, and scattered throughout the District. One of these epidemics occurred among the children attending the Cheddleton Schools, and consisted of five cases. The Schools were inspected, and the sanitary conditions were found satisfactory, with the exception of the ventilation, which leaves room for improvement. It would appear that the disease spread from a scholar attending school while suffering from Diphtheria. All the infected houses were visited and inspected, and some defects in regard to the drainage of several were noticed, and steps have been taken to have them put right. The schools were closed for a time, and were thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

The other small epidemic occurred at Cauldon and Waterhouses, and consisted of four cases. The houses implicated were inspected, and in nearly every instance the sanitary conditions found were very bad. In two cases, privies were found in a very bad condition—dilapidated and otherwise defective, and allowing the sewage to run on to the adjacent ground, close to the houses. In another case, pigs were improperly kept close to the house, a drain was untrapped, and the farm-yard was in a filthy condition. Formal Notices were served in all the cases.

The Medical men in the District continue to make free use of the opportunity of having the aid of bacteriological examination of doubtful cases of Diphtheria, &c., which is carried on at Mason's College, Birmingham, by arrangement with the Staffordshire County Council.

Small-Pox.

Six cases of Small-Pox were notified during the year—the same number as in the preceding year. One case ended fatally. Two of the cases were reported in June, at Waterhouses, and both were removed to the North Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital, at Bagnall, with whom your Council has in former years made arrangements to receive its Small-Pox patients. Of these two cases, the first was a navvy, who was employed on the new Railway Works, at Cauldon. He had been lodging in Leek before coming to Waterhouses, and the disease was epidemic there at the time. Considering that this man was going about Cauldon for several days with the disease on him before seeking advice, it is to be wondered that he only gave the disease to one other person—the tenant of an Inn, at Waterhouses, where he was in the habit of going. The Inn was closed at once, and several navvies who were lodging there were put in quarantine. The Public Vaccinator vaccinated those of the “contacts” who would submit—the others were kept in seclusion for fifteen days. Both houses where the disease had occurred were thoroughly disinfected, and the infected bedding

and clothing were destroyed by fire. A word of praise is due to the Proprietors of the Inn in question—The Burton Brewery Co., Limited—for the manner in which they co-operated with the Sanitary Authority. They not only kept the premises closed for nearly three weeks, but also had the house thoroughly cleansed, re-papered, and renovated throughout before re-opening, and thoroughly carried out all the suggestions of the Medical Officer of Health.

Three cases of Small-Pox were reported at Cheddleton Village, in June, involving two adjoining houses. They were all removed to the Bagnall Hospital. The other inmates of the houses were quarantined for fifteen days, and re-vaccinated. The houses were disinfected, and infected bedding and clothing destroyed by fire. The first of the three cases was a man who was employed painting at a country house near Leek: he came from Sheffield along with a number of other painters who were employed by a Sheffield firm. It appears likely that he contracted the disease in Leek, where the disease was epidemic at the time. Both the other cases contracted the disease from this man. The Schools at Cheddleton were closed for three weeks, as the children from the infected houses had been going to school up to the time the cases were notified. The sale of milk from the infected houses was stopped, as well as the sale of meat by a relative of the infected persons, who lived next door, and who had been in close contact with the cases.

A case also occurred at Ipstones—the infection in this case was clearly traceable to the Cheddleton cases, for the man in question lodged at one of the infected houses in Cheddleton during the week, and went home to Ipstones over the week-ends. He was also removed to Bagnall Hospital. The house was disinfected, and infected bedding and clothing was destroyed. The other occupants of the house were re-vaccinated, and kept in quarantine for fifteen days. No further spread of the disease occurred either at Cheddleton or Ipstones.

It has been decided to enlarge and improve the Small-Pox Hospital at Bagnall, and provide better accommodation for patients and staff. Although, as stated in last year's report, there is wide divergence of opinion throughout the Country as to the necessity of erecting large permanent buildings—provided vaccination and re-vaccination is efficiently carried out—it cannot be denied that the present building at Bagnall is very defective, more especially as regards the administrative portion, which is totally inadequate for what is required of it, and the staff are greatly hampered for want of proper accommodation.

Other Infectious Diseases

(NOT NOTIFIABLE).

Measles.

Measles has been epidemic in Cheadle, Blyth Bridge, and Kingsley, and necessitated the schools being closed for a time.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough has been epidemic in Cheadle and Kingsley, and necessitated the closing of the schools for fourteen days.

Chicken-Pox.

This disease was widely distributed in the Ipstones and Foxt Districts. The schools at Foxt had to be closed on account of the large number of children involved.

Isolation Hospital.

The new Isolation Hospital at Moss Lane (about a mile from Cheadle) was opened by your Chairman on the 6th of May, in presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen, including the Members and Officials of the District and Parish Councils. The Hospital provides accommodation for sixteen patients, suffering from Scarlatina, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, besides an administrative block, wash-house and laundry, disinfecting room and mortuary, &c.

The resident staff comprises the Matron, two Nurses, Ward-Maids, &c.

The entire cost of the building (over £2000) has been borne by the District Council.

The Hospital is in telephonic communication with the town of Cheadle, and the water supply comes from Cheadle.

The Hospital is at present but a very young Institution, and before it can be considered complete and thoroughly efficient for its work, Observation and Discharge Blocks will be required, as well as a Steam Disinfector for disinfecting the clothing.

The first patient was admitted on the 9th of May, and from that date to 31st December, 54 cases have been admitted, including 49 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 5 of Diphtheria. On the 31st December, 16 cases remained in the Hospital—all Scarlatina.

The following table shews the number of patients admitted into the Hospital each month, together with the disease.

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever
May	7	—	—
June	3	—	—
July	4	3	—
August	5	—	—
September	3	—	—
October	10	—	—
November	5	2	—
December	12	—	—
Total	49	5	0

Sanitary Work.

As noted in another part of the Report, the new Isolation Hospital has been completed and opened for the reception of cases of Scarlatina, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever.

Four cases of over-crowding came under the notice of the Sanitary Authority. In each case, formal notices were served, and the nuisance was abated.

Four houses were found in such an insanitary condition, that they were deemed unfit for habitation. After formal notices being served, the houses were closed in three instances, and in the fourth case the house was rendered fit for occupation.

Two huts on the New Light Railway, at Bottom House, were reported to be overcrowded and otherwise in an insanitary condition. Formal notices were served, and both the huts were removed.

Forty-six inspections of Canal Boats were made by the Inspector, as a result of which, nine notices were served, and the nuisances were abated in seven cases.

Two nuisances arising from pig-sties were reported. Both were abated — one after notice.

Fifteen inspections of Lodging-houses were made, and all were found satisfactory.

Twenty-two inspections of Slaughter-houses were made during the year, and one hundred and thirty-three inspections of Dairies and Cow-sheds. In two instances, notices were served in connection with nuisances in Slaughter-houses, and in each case the nuisance was abated.

The night-soil is removed by contract in Cheadle, and 7052 ash-pits and privies were cleansed by the Authority's scavenger during the year, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Fifty-six notices were served in connection with ash-pits and privies, and the nuisances arising therefrom were all abated.

Sewers have been improved, extended, and cleansed, at Adderley Green, Dividy Lane, Tean, The Meir, Blyth Bridge, Kingsley Hulme, Hollington, and Cheadle.

Great improvements have been carried out at Oakamoor, where until the past year nearly the whole of the ashes and house refuse of the village was deposited in the Churnet river and brook. Some of the privies also emptied direct into the streams; this has now in ~~nearly~~ every instance been remedied. A number of ashpits have been built in accessible situations, both as regards the houses and scavenger. A large number of new privies have also been built in situations where they cannot pollute the river, and where they will be much more private and convenient for the tenants of the houses.

W.R.G.

Before, and since these improvements were effected, the County Council has been in communication with your Council with a view to having a more extensive Sewage scheme carried out at Oakamoor. In connection with this matter, a deputation from your Council visited Stafford, to confer with the County Council, at which it was decided to allow the matter to stand over for a time, your Surveyor meanwhile being requested to prepare a scheme, and give an estimate of the probable cost, for the consideration of the County Council.

According to the estimate prepared by Mr. Inskip, the cost would be about £1500. It is proposed to lay a nine-inch sewer over the whole village. On the West side of the river, the sewage would be collected and lifted by mechanical means to the out-fall sewer. The out-fall sewer to lead to a precipitating tank, then to pass through a septic tank, and on to a bacterial filter bed; the effluent to pass into the river. The sewer would have to cross and re-cross the North Staffordshire Railway several times.

Complaints were received concerning a large number of premises in Upper Tean, as to their insanitary condition. A systematic inspection was made by the Sanitary Inspector of

the premises, as a result of which a number of property owners have been requested to remove the defects found in the drainage.

A butcher, at Caverswall, was convicted and fined for having unsound meat on his premises, prepared for sale. The meat was seized by the Sanitary Authority, and a certificate was given certifying that it was unfit for food, after which it was destroyed.

Water Supplies.

Eight samples of water were analysed, four of which were found unfit for domestic use, and formal notices were served by the Sanitary Authority in each case.

The Cheadle town water has been analysed from time to time, and in each case the analysis has been very satisfactory.

Several public wells have been altered and put in order during the year.

The Proprietor of two new cottages, at Cheddleton Heath, was summoned for permitting the cottages to be occupied without first having obtained a certificate of a sufficient water supply from the Sanitary Authority, and a conviction was obtained. In this case, the water was obtained from a deep well, situated in a wood, in a very inaccessible situation; and further, there were no proper means of getting the water out of the well. The Sanitary Authority considered that the well, moreover, was not within a reasonable distance of the cottages within the meaning of the Public Health (Water) Act of 1872, and notice was served to provide a proper supply; after which, a new supply was found much nearer the houses, and which has been utilized. Storage tanks were also fitted at the houses.

Referring to the scheme for supplying Ipstones with water, the Local Government Board Inspector visited Ipstones and Foxt in March, and took evidence concerning the details of the scheme.

Workshops and Factories.

There are 115 Workshops, Factories, Bakehouses, &c., on the Register in this District, as compared with 104 in 1903. The Register is kept by the Sanitary Inspector.

Seven inspections of Factories were made, in connection with which, one written notice was served.

Ninety-two inspections of Workshops were made, six of Workplaces, and one of Home-workers' premises. The total number of inspections made was 106. There were no prosecutions during the year. As a result of these inspections, twelve nuisances were discovered, ten of which have been remedied at the time of writing, and the other two are in process of being rectified.

In one case, the sanitary accommodation was found defective, as well as insufficient, and this has since been put right.

One list of Out-workers was received, containing one name.

A systematic inspection of the Bakehouses has been made in Cheadle ; and a large number in the outlying Districts have also been inspected. There are no underground Bakehouses in the town of Cheadle. All the Bakehouses visited had been lime-washed within the period specified.

Tables of Statistics are appended.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. GIBSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Cheadle, 1905.

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J. MACHIN, Printer, 14, High Street.

1905.



