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CLAY CROSS

Urban Sanitary District.

ANNUAL
REPORT

FOR 1896, BY

Angus Mackintosh, M.D.,

L.F.P.S.G., & L.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

CHESTERFIELD:

DERBYSHIRE COURIER CO., LTD., PRINTERS, BURLINGTON STREET.



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P R E F A C E .

1. The prevalence and persistency of infectious diseases in your district from year to year, together with the large amount of sickness and fatality caused thereby, notwithstanding the means that have been adopted to check their continuation, point unmistakably to the urgent necessity of securing the combined measures of notification and hospital accommodation.

2. The notification Act you will observe was the first step in the development of a system, calculated, if worked in conjunction with the second—the provision of hospital isolation—to obtain the object for which it received the approval and sanction of the Legislature.

3. It would therefore appear to be irregular and unsystematic to adopt the latter and ignore the former ; this would be in common phraseology, “ putting the cart before the horse.” A more complete system of organisation is likewise required.

4. In order that you may make your self-defence as effective as possible against the attacks and encroaches of infectious diseases, these weapons must be worked together, without any friction or hindrance, information and isolation must go hand in hand, dovetailed so to speak into each other, if they are to prove successful in lessening suffering and in prolonging the lives of the thousands that are annually attacked by preventable diseases.

CHESTERFIELD,

SANITARY OFFICES,

4TH JANUARY, 1897.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

METEOROLOGY.

The weather of 1896 was from the commencement of a somewhat abnormal and irregular character. From the beginning of January till the end of June it was unusually mild and unusually dry; the temperature was so high all through mid-winter and spring months that the freezing point was hardly ever reached even in the coldest nights. No injury was done to crops either by early or late spring frosts, and comparatively speaking the same mild and genial conditions continued throughout the year.

In proof of the mildness of the weather in the earlier months, it is stated on high authority that the temperature in the Isle of Man during the spring months eclipsed even its own record, which is well known to be much milder than the adjacent mainland. In the month of January the remarkable fact occurred of the barometer standing so high that it was impossible to read it as the mercury had gone beyond the registration point, while in February apricots and nectarines were in full bloom in the open air, ripe strawberries were gathered in different places, and apples were seen growing in the North of the Island.

These statements seem most incredible considering the time of the year, but they are given as facts, the reason, no doubt, must be in the valuable advantages derived by the Island from the Gulf Stream.

These unseasonable extremes are not generally conducive to the enjoyment of the best health, as the past year has so conclusively proved, by its many local outbreaks of several infectious diseases.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The mortality in your district for the year under review was 137 and the annual death-rate 17 per 1000 on the estimated population (8000), against 170 and a rate of 21 in 1895,—that is a decrease of 33 deaths and 4 per 1000 in the rate.

The explanation of the large decrease on that of the previous year lies in the fact that the winter and spring of 1895 were exceptionally severe, and a very large number of the aged, weak and infirm of both extremes of life succumbed to chest and kindred complaints, while that of 1896 was on the other hand extremely mild and favourable to the same class of people.

85 deaths were under 5 years of age and 52 above, the infant mortality was therefore equal to 10 per 1000. The figures for the last 5 years are as follows :—

YEAR	DEATHS	RATE
1892	95	11 per 1000
1893	77	9·6 „
1894	48	6 „
1895	103	12 „
1896	85	10 „
Averages ...	80	9·7

15 were 60 and upwards, against 35 in 1895.

Of the 137 deaths, 34 were from infectious diseases, the following are the particulars for the last five years :—

YEAR	DEATHS	RATE
1892	37	4·6 per 1000
1893	32	4 „
1894	7	0·8 „
1895	32	4 „
1896	34	4·2 „
Averages ...	28	3·51

27 of these were under five years of age, and seven above.

The annexed table gives the numerical order in which the sickness and deaths occurred for 1896 :—

DISEASES	DEATHS	PROBABLE NUMBER OF ATTACKS
Whooping-cough	15	150
Measles	8	140
Enteric Fever	4	20
Diarrhœa	4	20
Scarlatina	1	40
Influenza	1	6
Erysipelas	1	10
Totals ..	34	386

The sickness and deaths from these diseases covered 8 months of the year, but as the cases are not notifiable or otherwise ascertainable, the figures representing the same must be taken as only approximating in so far as the sickness is concerned.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease was prevalent in your district almost throughout the year ; 15 deaths were caused thereby, equal to a rate of 1.8 per 1000. It is highly infectious, probably more so in its earlier stages. At present, however, you have little or no control over it, but no doubt it is amenable to proper sanitary measures like all others of its class.

MEASLES.

Eight deaths were recorded from this disease during the year, against 21 in 1895. All were under 5 years of age.

As you all probably know, this disease spreads very rapidly in its early stage, and children very often contract the infection from one another while playing on the streets and at school, and parents are at times very careless, many apparently in ignorance of the seriousness of the affection, and of the dangerous chest complications which may arise during the the progress of an attack. Children were kept at home from school in all affected houses, and instructions were given as to isolation, domestic visitation, and cleanliness.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Five attacks of this disease were reported during the year, and the patients in four instances died. The first was in old Danesmoor, in March, and was associated with insanitary conditions, which were shortly improved and rendered wholesome. The second was in Clay Cross, in September, and was evidently the result of importation in the first instance; a daughter came home from Manchester during the stage of incubation, and the mother and second daughter contracted the fever, and ultimately all died. If the circumstances came to the knowledge of your officers at an earlier date, the sad result might be different. The last occurred at Danesmoor towards the end of the year, and recovered after a lingering illness; the surroundings of the dwelling in this case were also improved.

I need hardly add that disinfectants were regularly supplied in every case by your Inspector, and the disinfection of the stools and the burial of them afterwards in the earth was a special recommendation to every householder.

DIARRHŒA.

This disease occasioned 4 deaths during the year, against 9 in 1895; 3 of these were under 5 years of age, and one above; the temperature, the feeding of children, the pollution of domestic

water supplies, together with uncleanness both personal and domestic, have a good deal to do with outbreaks of this disease.

It is satisfactory, knowing the low state of the Water Company's reservoir that supplies your district during the hot and dry season, that this complaint was not more general.

SCARLATINA.

Forty attacks of this fever came to my knowledge from all parts of your district during the year, resulting in one death, against 8 attacks in 1895 with no death. The very small fatality therefrom shows the mild character of the disease. As you have not adopted the Notification Act, I am unable to state the exact number that suffered, and the above figures must be considered as only approaching correctness.

The disease covered almost the whole of the year and also the whole of your district with very few exceptions. The usual precautions of excluding all children of infected houses from school, and the disinfection of the houses both during and after the sickness were strictly carried out.

My opinion is, that the type of this fever appears to be getting more favourable year by year, and I believe this phase of it is being more generally observed throughout the country. Formerly the average mortality used to be 1 in 10, this year in

your district it was 1 in 40 of the attacks. No doubt local circumstances and medical treatment have something to do with individual cases, but the majority of children in my district that have suffered from it in recent years have not been confined to bed at all, not even to the house I am sorry to say, and when remonstrating with the mothers for their carelessness in exposing their children too early the usual reply is, "It was only a touch of it."

INFLUENZA AND ERYSIPELAS.

These diseases were responsible for one death each during the year, but I do not know anything as to the number attacked by either, or the duration of the sickness or locality, simply because I had no means of knowing.

There have not been many cases of either that is certain, otherwise they would come to the knowledge of myself or your Inspector in the course of our regular visits and general inspections.

BIRTHS AND RATE.

The total number of births recorded in your district during the year was 298, equal to a rate of 37 per 1000 of the population. This rate is as usual above the average, though not so high as that of 1895, of these 157 were Males and 141 Females, that is a decrease of 41 on the previous year, 9 only were illegitimate against 22 in 1895, and 16 in 1894.

The following table gives the births and rate for the last five years :—

YEARS	BIRTHS	RATE
1892	342	42 per 1,000
1893	336	42 „
1894	301	37 „
1895	339	42 „
1896	298	37 „
Averages ...	323	40

SCAVENGING.

This work is one of the most important connected with general sanitation, and it is very satisfactory to me that you have taken it into your own hands, and contracted for the emptying, removing, cleansing, and disposing of the filth accumulations in the courts and yards of your district, and also of the contents of the privies and ashpits when necessary, and although the work is not always done so promptly by the contract system as it would be by your own officials, still, it is unquestionably a step in the right direction, and a great improvement on the old system of leaving it to the tenants, who could only do it when they could get farmers willing to take it for their own special use and when convenient to them.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

These systems were maintained in fairly good condition during the year, and in many instances the house safety and comfort of the inmates were improved by disconnecting the drains

with the interior of the same in the usual and proper way, and by replacing defective traps and otherwise.

I have not heard of any complaints during the year of the unsatisfactory state of the effluents from your sewage farms as heretofore; I take it then that the circumstances have been altered and improved, and that there is not now much reason for fault-finding.

I need hardly recapitulate what I said last year on this head, namely, that the letting of a sewage farm to a second party is wrong in principle. It very often happens on a small sewage farm, more particularly so in the wet and rainy seasons, that the crops do not require the liquid sewage, and it is common sense to infer that the tenant will not properly distribute it over the land on these occasions. I am of opinion, therefore, that the working and management of it like that of the night-soil would be done more regularly and satisfactorily if the whole thing was done by your officials under your instructions.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

I have inspected the most of these houses in your district during the year, and found them fairly well situated, drained, paved, and adequately supplied with water; some of them are too near human habitations and insufficiently ventilated. In all new ones distance should be specially considered, as it is in my opinion the most important

item in the whole arrangement. I was glad to find that some improvements were made in respect to a few of these in the course of the year.

COW-SHEDS, DAIRIES, AND MILKSHOPS.

I inspected the Cow-sheds in your district at intervals during the year, but there are no public dairies or milk-shops in it. Some of the former are defective in cubic space and ventilation, but repairs and improvements have been made in these likewise.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

I examined a few of the workshops in your district during the year, but there are no factories therein so far as I know, and found them in respect to cleanliness, ventilation, and cubic space in a fairly good condition. No new ones have been reported to me by the Inspector of such places, since my last annual report was presented to you.

MARKETS AND UNWHOLESOME FOOD.

I visited your Markets and butchers' shops on many occasions during the year, and found the articles of food exposed therein generally of a fairly wholesome quality. In the month of December, however, a carcass of mutton that was offered for sale in the market was not considered of that quality. It was therefore seized, condemned, and destroyed by order of a Justice.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

At intervals during the year I inspected all the houses of this class in your district, and

found them moderately clean, and apparently kept in an orderly manner.

These houses, regarded from a sanitary point of view, play an important part in the health condition of a locality, as they are largely resorted to by tramps, vagrants, and others, who go about the country visiting public-houses, infected houses, and all sorts of questionable places, and are often the means of spreading infection broadcast. No case of a spreading character occurred in any of your common lodging-houses during the year so far as I know.

You know that none of these houses in your district have been built expressly for the purpose for which they are now used, and they do not therefore provide the necessary requirements that a properly built common lodging-house should possess. Many of the apartments are consequently too small, and others are deficient in light and ventilation.

I consider that two respectable common lodging-houses are sufficient for the necessary accommodation of your district. So many are inducements for wanderers to stay and loiter about that would not otherwise do so. There are parishes in my district with nearly double the population of yours, without any common lodging-house.

I am certain that the fewer common lodging-houses you have in your district the better it will be for the public health therein.

THE GENERAL WATER SUPPLY.

In consequence of the lengthened periods of hot and dry weather, the water supply was not always so abundant, and the quality not so pure as could be desired, still, you have reason to be thankful in that respect, for your district was better supplied as to regularity than the most of other similar places in the Chesterfield Union.

WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR.

I have pleasure in congratulating you on the general sanitary improvements carried out by you and your inspector during the year, the particulars of which are as follows :—

SUMMARY.

1. 50 infected houses thoroughly disinfected under the superintendence of your Inspector after the deaths or convalescence of the sufferers.
2. Large number of old and dilapidated privies and ashpits repaired, rebuilt, and new ones provided for old property.
3. Foul conditions and structural defects in connection with dwellings abated and repaired.
4. Overcrowding abated.
5. Common lodging-houses and lodging-houses examined and unwholesome conditions altered and improved.
6. Cowsheds visited and nuisances abated.
7. Bakehouses inspected and circumstances altered and improved.

8. Slaughter-houses inspected and nuisances abated.
9. Overflowing privies and ashpits cleaned and emptied after notices.
10. Deposits of rubbish, refuse, and manure removed from courts and yards.
11. Water-closets repaired.
12. Defective drain traps replaced by new ones.
13. Drains disconnected with the interior of the houses.
14. Pigstyes abolished, altered, improved, and repaired.
15. Offensive trades visited, and nuisances abated.
16. Prosecutions taken and convictions got.
17. Sewers extended and drains re-laid.
18. Smoke nuisances abated.
19. Water supply regularly examined.

INSPECTIONS MADE.

In company with your Inspector and otherwise I inspected all the inhabited portions of your district during the year, and reported to you quarterly the result of these inspections, together with a record of the general health therein, as shown by the usual statistics of the mortality and sickness.

In conclusion, I beg to remind you of my former recommendation for providing a trained and qualified nurse, who would go to the houses of the sick, especially to those of infectious diseases, and assist, help, and advise the parents, guardians,

and householders in their troubles and difficulties, as to cleanliness, both personal and domestic, disinfection, and general arrangement and management of a household.

Many parishes and districts are already provided with such an acquisition, and the necessity for such a provision in a populous district like yours is daily becoming greater.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ANGUS MACKINTOSH, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Clay Cross
Urban District Council,
13th January, 1897.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the CLAY CROSS Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											No. of such Cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital																					
	(a)	(b)			(c)	(d)	(e)	Fever.					Fever.						Fever.					Fever.													
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25					
CLAY CROSS	7715	8000	298	Under 5 5 upwards Under 5 5 upwards Under 5 5 upwards Under 5 5 upwards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
TOTALS	7715	8000	298	Under 5 5 upwards	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District. No. _____ Since when? _____

Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated _____

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year ending December 31st, 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District.

Description of Nuisance.		Inspections made and observations taken	Informal Notices served by Inspector	Legal Notices served by Authority	Nuisances abated after notice
Dwelling houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...	13	11	2	11
	Structural defects ...	20	8	1	9
	Overcrowding ...	5	1	1	1
	Unfit for Habitation ...	7	—	—	—
	Lodging Houses ...	23	2	—	2
	Dairies and Milkshops...	—	—	—	—
	Cow Sheds ...	31	4	—	4
	Bakehouses ...	14	1	1	1
	Slaughter-houses ...	27	3	—	3
	Ashpits and Privies ...	184	81	22	87
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	7	4	—	4	
Water Closets ...	19	15	1	12	
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	51	36	8	35
	No Disconnection ...	24	10	—	10
	Other Faults ...	48	24	16	27
	Water Supply ...	32	17	—	17
	Pig-sties ...	29	11	3	11
	Animals Improperly Kept	31	14	13	14
	Offensive Trades ...	18	2	—	2
Smoke Nuisance ...	1	1	—	1	
Other Nuisances ...	13	13	—	13	
Totals...		597	258	68	264

63 Old Privies rebuilt or repaired, and 18 new ones added to old property.

50 Houses disinfected after Infectious disease (by householder under superintendence.)

1 Prosecution and conviction for Slaughtering on unlicensed premises.

1 Carcase of Mutton seized and destroyed as unfit for food.

Many of the Notices under the heading Informal have been of a verbal character.





