

**[Report 1894] / Medical Officer of Health, Colne U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
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Colne Urban District Council  
(Lancashire) Annual  
**Medical Officer's Report.**

GENTLEMEN,—During the year 1894 there were 310 deaths from all causes (147 males and 163 females), calculated on a population of 19,500, which is probably very nearly right, for the middle of the year gives an annual death rate of 15·9 per 1,000. The death rates for the three previous years, 1891, 1892, 1893, were 20·68, 17·4, and 15·32 respectively.

As will be seen from the appended tables there were 128 deaths among children under 5 years of age, and 182 deaths among those over that age.

Of the 128 children under 5 years old, there were 84 deaths in the first year of life, 30 in the second year, 6 in the third year, 4 in the fourth year, and 4 in the fifth year.

The deaths among the older people were distributed as follows, viz:—

13	deaths between	5	years and	15	years
15	"	"	15	"	" 25 "
99	"	"	25	"	" 65 "
21	"	"	65	"	" 75 "
33	"	"	75	"	" 85 "
1 death over 85 years.					

There were 6 deaths from apoplexy, 29 from bronchitis, 42 broncho-pneumonia, 16 meningitis, 20 debility, 1 influenza, 20 consumption, 7 convulsions, 32 heart disease, 4 typhoid fever, 24 inquest cases, 4 membranous croup, 3 epilepsy, 4 softening of the brain, 5 premature birth, 1 confinement, 4 rheumatic fever, 5 Bright's disease, 1 diphtheria, 8 senile decay, 11 cancer, 3 gastritis, 14 diarrhoea, 1 puerperal fever, 1 whooping cough, 1 smallpox, 1 asthma, 3 scarlet fever, the rest from various causes.

Of the 128 children under 5 years old, 10 died from meningitis, 17 debility, 7 convulsions, 15 bronchitis, 8 inquest cases, 3 membranous croup, 5 premature birth, 22 broncho-pneumonia, 1 Bright's disease, 1 diphtheria, 2 gastritis, 10 diarrhoea, 1 whooping cough, 3 scarlet fever, the rest from various causes.

The average age at death was 25·6 years.

During the year there were 571 births, 297 males and 274 females, 9 males and 12 females being illegitimate.

The birth rate was 29·2 per 1,000. Out of every 1,000 children born 147·1 died under one year.

There were 210 cases notified under the Infectious Diseases Act, which gives a zymotic rate of 10·7 per 1,000, viz:—January 15, February 17, March 10, April 14, May 8, June 5, July 21, August 21, September 17, October 27, November 18, December 37.

There were 14 deaths from the principal zymotic diseases, which gives a death-rate of 0·7 per 1,000, viz: 1 smallpox, 1 diphtheria, 4 typhoid fever, 3 scarlet fever, 4 membranous croup, 1 whooping cough.

SMALLPOX.—Eight cases with one death. During the year there were two outbreaks of this disease. The first outbreak commenced in April, in a common lodging-house which is now closed. The infection was brought to Colne by a tramp weaver.

*rcil*

There were four cases, with one death, the cause of death being a weakened constitution from alcohol.

The second outbreak occurred in September, in a private dwellinghouse. The infection was brought by one of the inmates visiting a brother suffering from the disease in another town. There were eight people living in the house. One had the disease previously. I re-vaccinated three of them, two girls and a boy; the remaining four, which were not re-vaccinated, took the disease.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were two cases, with one death; one in February, which died, and one in May.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP. There were seven cases with four deaths, viz.: January 1, February 2, May 1, October 1, November 1, December 1.

ERYSIPELAS.—There were 15 cases and no deaths, viz: January 1, February 3, March 2, April 1, May 1, August 3, September 1, October 3.

TYPHOID FEVER. 21 cases, with 4 deaths, viz., January 3, February 1, April 1, June 1, July 2, August 4, September 1, October 5, November 1, December 2. Most of these cases were of a mild type, the patient being able to go out in about three weeks. A few of the cases came home from watering places with the infection.

SCARLET FEVER.—155 cases, with 3 deaths. This is equivalent to nearly 8 per 1,000: January 10, February 10, March 8, April 7, May 4, June 4, July 19, August 14, September 12, October 17, November 16, December 34. The majority of the cases were of an exceedingly mild type. The houses were visited and the parents supplied with disinfectants for the body, the clothes, and the house; the people cautioned against sending any of their children to school or allowing them to mix with other children for a term of six weeks. In many of the cases the parents have infringed this rule, with the result that the disease has been spread so such an extent that notices cautioning parents were posted through the district, which only had a temporary effect. If parents persist in sending their children to school before the proper time, I shall advise the Council to proceed legally against such persons.

During the year 36 notices were served for abatement of nuisances, 75 for provision of proper drainage. 134 old privies were converted to the water carriage system. 2,400 yards of 9" pipe sewers were laid, also 425 yards of 12", and 1848 yards of 15" pipes. 4,321 yards of paving were laid in private streets, also 1,602 yards of flagging. Included in this work was the extension of the south main sewer to Cotton Tree and Lidgett, which, though not quite complete, is practically so. This sewer provides for the drainage of about 300 houses in a rapidly increasing portion of the district which formerly emptied their refuse water into the river, and whilst this work and the paving, &c., of the streets were being carried out, the old privies above alluded to were converted. They are now flushed automatically with the slop water of the houses.

The rainfall during the year was 41.6 inches, the maximum fall in March being 5.5 inches and the minimum in September being 0.3 inches. The average rainfall per month was 3.48 inches.

The water supply has during the year been improved by filtration at the storage reservoir, the county analyst reporting that it is excellent water for domestic use.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. LYONS LOVETT, M.O.H.

4th April, 1895,

23, Keighley Road, Colne.

Colne,  
Lancashire.

April 30<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Dear Sir,

I enclose you a  
copy of my Annual  
Report for the Colne  
Urban District. As  
requested

Yours sincerely

W. J. Lovell.

M.O. H.

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