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Contributors

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DEPWADE

Rural Sanitary Authority,

NORFOLK.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(JOHN CANDLER)

FOR THE YEAR

1898.



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NOTES ON TABLES A AND B.

NOTE 1. *Medical Officers of Health of "Combined Districts" must make a separate Return for the District of each District Council.*

2. *Medical Officers of Health acting for a portion only of the District of a District Council should write, in the heading of the Table, the designation of the Division for which they act.*

3. *The words "Urban," "Rural," or "Metropolitan" must be inserted in the appropriate space in the heading, according as the District is Urban or Rural, or is within the Metropolitan Area.*

4. *The "Localities" adopted for the purpose of these statistics should be areas of known population; such as parishes, groups of parishes, townships or wards.*

As stated at the head of the first column in each Table, *Public Institutions* should be regarded as separate localities, and the deaths in them should be separately recorded. Workhouses, Hospitals, Infirmaries, Asylums, and other establishments into which numbers of people, and especially of sick people, are received are Public Institutions for the purpose of these statistics.

5. *The deaths which have to be classified in this Table (A), and summed up in the horizontal line of "Totals," are the whole of those registered as having actually occurred in the several localities comprised within the Division or District. But the registered number of deaths frequently requires correction before it can give an exact view of the mortality of a Division or District; and the two lowest horizontal lines are provided for the purpose of enabling Medical Officers of Health to indicate, to the best of their ability, what the extent of such corrections should be. Details concerning the corrective figures, e.g., the institutions that have been considered, or the particular localities to which corrections apply, may appear in the text of the report or in supplementary tables.*

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.			
Area in Acres		68094	
Population (1891)		19532	
Death Rates.	{	General	15.1
		Infant (under one year of age)	125
		}	per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1895 1898
		}	per 1,000 Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

W. J. Anderson Medical Officer of Health.

(Date) *February 17*, 189*9*

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.



HARLESTON,

February 17th, 1899.

To the Depwade Rural Sanitary Authority.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have now the honour of forwarding to you my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the condition of the Depwade Rural Sanitary District and on the work done in the year 1898.

Mr. Wm. Smith, Sanitary Inspector, has continued to be an able and active help. He informs me that he has during the year made 222 journeys, inspected and reinspected 2891 premises, given 148 warnings, made 18 reports to the Medical Officer of Health, and 37 to the Sanitary Committee who instructed him to take action in 26. In all these cases the nuisances have been abated with the exception of one, and in this case workmen have instructions from the owner to complete the work. The remaining eleven cases out of the 37 related to infectious diseases about which he had to make enquiry and in form me personally, or by letter, of any case requiring my personal inspection. In all cases he supplied disinfectants and as soon as the Medical Officer in attendance informed him that the house was ready he thoroughly disinfected it. The Sanitary Inspector informs me that he has in numerous cases pointed out insanitary conditions to the owners or occupiers of premises and having found on his next

Work done by
the Sanitary
Inspector.

visit that they were abated he made no report of them and they are not included in the abated nuisances described, consisting of 7 drainage nuisances, 15 privy and cesspool, 3 dilapidated houses, 4 defective or unhealthy water supply, 2 overcrowding; making a total of only 31 in 1898 as against 70 in 1897, 100 in 1896, and 115 in 1895: this shews a better sanitary condition now existing. The Inspector's remark to me only the other day was, "On going over the District the "general sanitary condition is so improved that I can hardly "believe it is the same place."

Work done by
the Medical
Officer of
Health.

Special Reports
15 comprising
29 Nuisances.
Drainage - - 9
Privy and
Cesspool - 6
Water Supply 3
Refuse Dis-
posal - - 3
Ashpit - - 1
Dilapidated
House - - 1
Dilapidated
Outdoor Shed
used as a Bed-
room - - - 1
Filthy House 1
Cholera - - 1
New House - 1
Typhoid - - 2

29

My own work has been as hitherto the personal inspection of, and enquiry into, the existing sanitary condition of the District and the changes taking place likely to affect the public health. In 1897 I made 23 special reports to the Sanitary Authority on matters which I thought necessary to bring under their notice, advising what steps I thought should be taken to procure the abatement of certain nuisances. In 1898 I had occasion only to make 15 special reports shewing an improved condition, the result of work done in previous years. These special reports included nuisances of various kinds as shewn in the margin. Several of the nuisances caused by bad drainage and disposal of refuse were such as would endanger the purity of a water supply. In the Typhoid cases no insanitary conditions were found. The case notified to me as Cholera turned out to be a severe case of Choleraic Diarrhœa with all the symptoms of Cholera, the patient soon recovered and no other case occurred. As in the list of Diseases to be notified the word Cholera only is used without the word Asiatic the medical attendant thought it should be notified as Cholera and, as I wrote to him to say I would come over the next day to make enquiry, he kindly called on me on receipt of my letter and explained what he meant. All the 29 nuisances have been abated but two, and these are now being abated.

As regards Water Supply, a most important matter, ten new wells have been sunk, six old wells have been cleared out and the water in them is now good. Besides these I have noticed a good many new wells sunk on premises to which our attention has not been called.

Water Supply	
10 New Wells.	
Moulton - -	4
Forngett St.	
Mary - -	2
Tibenham -	1
Pulham Mkt.	1
Tivetshall -	1
Carlton Rode	1
	<hr/>
	10
	<hr/>

In my report for the year 1897 I referred to the order of the Local Government Board of December 17th, 1897, regarding the responsibility of the Council for securing to the inhabitants of their District a wholesome and sufficient supply of water not only in cases in which they themselves supply it but also to make careful enquiry as to the sources, nature and quality of the various supplies in all parts of their District, and to take such steps as may be within their powers with the view of supplementing or improving their supplies and preventing the possibility of contamination.

Order of Local Government Board Dec. 17th 1897, regarding Water Supply.

Necessary precaution to be taken to prevent contamination.

The Water Supply in the Depwade Rural Sanitary District is from deep wells, shallow wells, soft water tanks and ponds, and our constant care is to prevent the possibility of contamination from faulty cesspools, drains, disposal of refuse, manuring of land, &c., and to guard against the possibility of a heavy rainfall washing these into a water supply. To carry out these precautions satisfactorily, requires constant watchfulness on our part as frequently nuisances are temporarily abated and allowed to recur. Complaints made to us regarding water supply have been less numerous in 1898 than usual, although from the long continued drought I expected more, as families who have only pond water to drink have in numerous cases found it so bad they could not possibly use it for drinking purposes. Probably many have waited patiently for rain and I believe the sympathy of those who are well supplied for those who have none, has led them to allow the badly supplied to come to their wells and I know that many families have gone a long way to fetch water where they had leave to get it. I hope the order of the Local Government Board referred to

will lead the District Council to use all their power to secure a good supply of wholesome water. Where there is a pond of water not contaminated but yet too unpleasant and dirty to be used as drinking water I have in several of my reports mentioned the plan of conveying the supply into a shallow well through a long drain composed of charcoal, gravel and stones and where this has been carefully done the water has been safe and agreeable to drink.

New Cases of
General Sick-
ness.
Fresh Cases of
Sickness in the
different Sub-
districts.
Harleston - 123
Forngett - 139
Diss - - - 67
Workhouse 75

404

Infectious
Diseases noti-
fied in

1890 - - - 122
1891 - - - 87
1892 - - - 108
1893 - - - 98
1894 - - - 86
1895 - - - 54
1896 - - - 136
1897 - - - 94
1898 - - - 67

1898.

Harleston
Sub-district 52
Forngett - 9
Diss - - - 5
Workhouse 1

67

31 Cases of
Scarlet Fever
Harleston - 29
Diss - - - 2

31

As regards general sickness I know only of the cases reported by the District Medical Officers to the District Council at their fortnightly meetings, these are all pauper cases, again as usual the number of fresh cases of sickness is much greater in proportion to the population in the Forngett than in any other sub-district except the Workhouse. There were more cases of Influenza reported in the Forngett than in all the other districts put together, 20 in the Forngett and 19 in all the others. Of the 14 cases of Whooping Cough eleven occurred in the Forngett and 3 in the Diss sub-districts. The 9 cases of Measles were all in the Harleston sub-district.

The variation in the number of the Infectious Diseases notified during the nine years the Act has been in force is shewn in the margin. The average of each year is just 94 cases, thus in 1898 the number was 27 below the average. The difference in the different sub-districts is shewn in the margin.

As regards the prevalence of Scarlet Fever I have no important remarks to make as I had for the year 1896 when numbers of cases were so mild they were overlooked and attended school in an infectious state, shewing how important it is that when children have been absent from school through illness they should not be readmitted until the master or mistress has a certificate from the Medical attendant that the illness was not of an infectious nature. As Scarlet Fever is always notified by the Medical Attendant to the Medical Officer of Health the school master or mistress can get

information of cases of illness from Scarlet Fever by application to the Medical Officer of Health. Only 16 cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1898 and of these 16 cases the only one which proved fatal was in the Forncett sub-district.

16 Cases of Diphtheria.	
Diss Sub-District	- 2
Forncett	- 3
Harleston	- 11
	<hr/>
	16
	<hr/>

In all cases of illness it is necessary to examine the sanitary condition of the premises and more especially so in Diphtheria, in which disease I believe from experience insanitary conditions have an especially bad effect. I had also in 1897 as I mentioned in my report for that year marked evidence that Diphtheria may be conveyed from one person to another by a third person who had not Diphtheria at all.

Of the seven cases of Typhoid Fever notified only one proved fatal and this was in the Harleston sub-district. No insanitary conditions were found in any of these cases neither was any one case traced to infection from another.

Typhoid Fever 7 cases.	
Harleston	- 5
Forncett	- 1
Diss	- 1
	<hr/>
	7
	<hr/>

Of the nine cases of Erysipelas notified not one was fatal. The distribution in the different sub-districts is shewn in the margin.

Erysipelas 9 cases.	
Harleston	- 4
Forncett	- 4
Diss	- 1
	<hr/>
	9
	<hr/>

Of Puerperal Fever three cases were notified none of which proved fatal. The usual instruction was given to each nurse that she must not undertake to nurse in another confinement case for at least six months.

Puerperal Fever 3 cases.	
Harleston	- 2
Forncett	- 1
	<hr/>
	3
	<hr/>

As regards sickness from infectious diseases not notified I am in the same position as in cases of new general sickness, hearing only of the fatal cases from the Registrars, and of the cases reported to the Guardians by the District Medical Officers. From these two sources I gather that Diarrhoea was slightly more prevalent. Measles and Whooping Cough decidedly so and Influenza very much more so.

New Cases of Sickness from Infectious Diseases not notified.

The total mortality from all causes at all ages was 295 or 15.1 per 1000 of the population. The average mortality for the thirteen years named in the margin was a little over 321 in each year. Thus the mortality in 1898 was just 26 below

Total Mortality.	
1874	.. 344
1875	.. 403
1876	.. 312
1877	.. 347
1878	.. 372
1879	.. 360
1880	.. 366
1881	.. 303
1882	.. 298
1895	.. 305
1896	.. 236
1897	.. 240
1898	.. 295

In the above 13 years the average for each year was a little over 321.

the average of the thirteen years named. I cannot find any record of the mortality for any year between 1882 and 1885.

Mortality from Infectious Diseases notified.
Diphtheria - 1
Typhoid - 1

The mortality from the eleven classes of infectious diseases notified was 2. From those not notified it was 9, making a total of 11 or 0.5 per 1000 of the population.

0.1 per 1,000

As regards the estimated population to the middle of 1898 the only means I have of estimating this is by adding the excess in the number of births over deaths. This would bring it up to 19664 and reduce the mortality per 1000 of the population. But as the rural population has decreased during the five decennial periods in which the census was taken in 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891, notwithstanding the great excess of births over deaths it would be misleading to estimate the population in this way. I have therefore made all my calculations on the population of the last census 1891 when it was 19532.

Infectious Diseases not notified.
Measles - 1
Whooping Cough - 3
Diarrhoea - 5

Total Mortality from Infectious Diseases - 11
0.5 per 1000.

Total Mortality 295 or 15.1 per 1000 of the population.

The total mortality from all causes at all ages was 295 in 1898 or 55 more than in 1897.

Births 408 or 20.8 per 1000 of the population.

The mortality at the different ages was 51 under one year of age, 11 between 1 year and 5, 7 between 5 and 15, 7 between 15 and 25, 53 between 25 and 65, and 166 aged 65 years and upwards. Of these 166, 79 lived to be between 70 and 80 years, 53 between 80 and 90 and 11 between 90 and 100.

Infant Mortality 51 or 125 per 1000 births.

Causes of Infant Mortality.

The mortality amongst infants under 1 year of age was very great, viz.—51 deaths out of only 408 births, a low birth rate; this is just 125 deaths per 1000 births, that is to say out of every 8 children born, 1 died under 1 year of age. On referring to the certificates of the causes of deaths which I received from the Registrars, I find that the cause of death of the 51 infants under 1 year of age was from Pneumonia and Bronchitis 13, Convulsions 12, Congenital Debility 4, Whooping Cough 1, Marasmus 3, Errors of Diet 1, Malformation 1, Premature Birth 9, Jaundice from Birth 1,

Total Mortality per 1000 of the Population in the different Sub-districts.
Harleston - 14.7
Fornsett - 16.3
Diss - 10.5
Workhouse 140

General Tuberculosis 1, Diarrhœa 2, Natural Causes
Coroner's Report 1, Muco Interitis 1, Influenza 1.

The high mortality in the Workhouse is of course because it is the home of the aged, of the infirm, and of those who by the unsatisfactory lives they have led have brought themselves to the workhouse.

Deaths from Injuries—

Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.	Five Inquests
From Accidental Firing of a Gun.	Two Inquests
From Accidental Drowning.	One Inquest
From Suffocation, the house being on fire.	One Inquest
From Accidental Fall.	One Inquest
From Accidental Fall—Certified by Medical Attendant.	One <i>no</i> Inquest

Deaths from Natural Causes.

In those cases in which no inquest was held the Medical Attendant's report satisfied the coroner that no inquest was required.

Deaths from Cancer.	30
Deaths from Heart Disease.	28
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis or Phthisis.	11

From Phthisis there were 23 deaths in 1895; 11 in 1896; 18 in 1897 and 11 in 1898, no increase during the last four years. As Phthisis is however an infectious disease we must class it among the preventable diseases and this is why there is very wisely a general and anxious desire to take every possible measure to stamp it out. To prevent the spread of infection we have for a long time taken special care more particularly in seeing that the expectoration is burnt in the fire and the patient on no account allowed to expectorate on the floor, but the most important of all is the establishment of Sanatoria in healthy and suitable localities where the

Seven Inquests
Six Coroner's
Reports.

Phthisis
Pulmonalis a
preventable
Disease.

patient can not only be isolated but have open air treatment properly carried out and this is now so well known that I hope it will be so generally carried out and that Sanatoria will be provided for the poor including those who reside in workhouses.

I have not had occasion to report to the Local Government Board any dangerous outbreak of infectious disease.

No action has been taken under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of any nuisance.

Water Analysis
2

I made an analysis of the water supply on two different premises. As I gave a complete analysis of these in my special reports to the Sanitary Authority I will now only give a summary of the result.

Analysis of
Water on Fredk.
Dove's premises
n Wortwell.

Of the water in the pump on the premises of Mr. Fredk. Dove, of Wortwell, where there had again been several cases of Diphtheria my remark was "From the examination of the source of the water herein referred to and the results obtained by analysis I am of opinion that it is not safe to be used for drinking or domestic purposes but that it may be made so after a time by correcting the sanitary conditions around." This was done and the water is good.

The other analysis was of the water from the well on the school premises in the parish of Ashwellthorpe. My remarks were "From the examination of the source of the water herein referred to and the results obtained by analysis I am of opinion that the water in its present condition is of good quality and suitable for domestic purposes but that it is dangerously near the school closets (about 10 yards) and that until they are removed to a safe distance the water should be boiled before it is used for domestic purposes."

The following nine schools were closed :—	Schools Closed in 1898.
For Measles from January 10th to February 1st.	Brockdish
For General Sickness from January 24th to February 7th.	Wacton
For Mumps from March 22nd to April 11th.	Carleton Rode
Whooping Cough from May 5th to June 17th.	Fornsett St. Mary.
Measles from May 11th to June 6th.	Harleston Infant School.
Measles from June 9th to June 27th.	Needham Parish School.
Measles from June 24th to July 18th.	Wortwell Parish School.
Measles from October 11th to December 31st.	Hempnall Board School.
One school Measles and Whooping Cough from November 21st to December 12th.	Fritton and Morningthorpe

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN CANDLER.

