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REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF

THE BOROUGH OF DEVIZES,

BY

E. N. CARLESS,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

DEVIZES :

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1897.

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OX REPORT. KO

To the TOWN COUNCIL of the BOROUGH of DEVIZES, acting as the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to place before you the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

E. NICOLLS CARLESS,

Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION.

At the census taken in 1891, the population of the Borough was 6,426. Although there is an increase of population immediately outside the Borough, there is a tendency to a decrease within. In estimating the birth and death rate, I have calculated them upon the census of 1891, as also upon the estimated population to the middle of 1896, viz., 6312.

AREA IN ACRES.

The area is 917 acres; the number of persons per acre, 7; and the number of persons per inhabited house, 4.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water has been good in quality and quantity. At the Corporation Water Works at Beckhampton, the water stood in the well on the 10th December, in the morning before pumping, at 85 feet below the engine house floor.

The Manager of the Works, Mr. Holloway, informs me that the water in the well in 1894, stood exceptionally high at that time, owing to the heavy fall of rain in the fall of the year.

SEWERAGE.

Two new sewers have been completed. In one case extending from the County Police Station on the Bath Road under the Canal, through the boundary grounds outside the Prison, under the Railway to the Sewage Works. The other in St. Joseph's Road, which receives the drainage from all the houses in that road, under the Railway, and is connected with the main outfall sewer leading to the Sewage Works.

WATER CLOSETS.

The W.C's. of ten houses have been connected with the sewers. In twenty-three cases where they were without a supply of water, this had been remedied, and in eleven instances defective fittings have been made good.

COLLECTION & DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

This is done regularly and systematically four days per week, and the refuse removed to the farm at Spitalcroft, where it is screened, and the ashes sold for agricultural purposes, and the remainder burnt in a destructor.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Six have been inspected regularly, and found in a clean condition. As these are registered and in regular use, they are always open to inspection.

BAKEHOUSES.

Fourteen have been inspected by me twice, and some of them three times during the year. Generally speaking, the necessary lime-washing is regularly carried out. At the Autumn inspection, they were, with three exceptions, in a dirtier condition than I have ever seen them. All have been satisfactorily attended to since.

WORKSHOPS.

Those visited, were found clean, and not overcrowded. In one instance, the sanitary arrangements were not such as are required under the Workshops Act. Notice was given to the occupier that separate closet accommodation for the two sexes was necessary.

DAIRIES.

These have been inspected as usual, and as a rule found to be fairly clean.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The Town has been systematically inspected twice during the year, and various parts of it, amongst the courts and more thickly populated parts, at frequent intervals.

NUISANCES.

138 Nuisances have been abated. A summary of which follows the report of the Inspector.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

These have been included under the head of Sewerage.

ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Where any patients are willing, or when proper accommodation cannot be provided for patients in their own homes, they are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

The usual printed directions are sent to the occupiers of the houses in which the infectious disease occurs, giving instruction how to disinfect, or a man in the employ of the Town Council is sent to disinfect the rooms free of cost.

Notice is sent to the master or mistress of the Public School, if the patient is attending school, notifying the disease the child is suffering from.

Parents are instructed not to send other members of the household to school, unless certified as fit, or advised by the medical adviser of the family, that they can do so without risk.

DISINFECTING CHAMBER.

Any clothing or bedding belonging to residents of the town is disinfected, sent for and returned free of cost.

BACTERILOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In two instances, specimens taken from the throats of persons suspected of having Diphtheria, were sent to the Clinical Research Association, London, to be examined, with the result that they were reported as not showing the true Diphtheria bacillus.

SICKNESS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number and nature of the Infectious Diseases reported during the year, and the Parishes in which they occurred, are shown in the following table A.

Α.	St. John.	St. Mary.	St. James	Rowde.	Work- house.	Prison.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	 1	_	_	_	_	-	1
Diphtheria	 1	3		_	_	_	4
Measles	 14	6	21	-	-	-	41
Enteric Fever	 -	1	_	-	_	_	1
Erysipelas	 -	_	-	-	_	-	-
Puerperal Fever	 -	_	-	-	-	_	-
Diarrhœa			1				
(Choleraic)	 -	_	-	_	_	-	-
Total	 16	10	21	=	-	-	47

Table B shows the periods of the year at which the various diseases appeared.

В.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Measles.	Erysipelas.	Chol. Diarrhea,	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Total.
January	-	1	1	-	_	-	-	2
February	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
May	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	14
June	_	-	21	-	-	1		22
July	1	_	3	_	-	-	_	4
August	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-
September	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	2	1	-	_	-	-	3
November	-	-	-	_		-	-	-
December	_	-	_	-	-	-	_	-
	1	4	41	_	_	1	-	47

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Four persons were received into the Hospital suffering from Diphtheria, all of whom recovered.

BIRTHS.

The number of Births registered during the year ending 31st December, 1896, was as under:

Parishes.		Legit	imate.	Illegi	Total.	
TAMORES.	Males.	Males. Femles. Males. Femles.		Femles.	Total.	
St. John's		35	26	1	1	63
St. Mary's		34	22	-	-	56
St. James'		19	20	_	-	39
Rowde (within Borough)	the)	5	3	_	-	8
Workhouse		3	2-	2	1	6
H.M. Prison		-	_	_	1	1
Totals		96	71	3	3	173

Of these 167 were legitimate, and 6 illegitimate. The Birth-rate was 25.9 per 1,000 of the population, or 26.4 per 1000 estimated to the middle of 1896. The illegitimate Births were 3.4 per cent, of the total Births. The percentage of deaths of children under one year of age (17) compared with the births was 9.8.

The following table shows the Birth-rates for the past ten years, together with the percentage of Deaths under one year of age, compared with the Birth-rates for the same period:—

		irth-rate per 1000 of the Population.	r	Deaths of children under 1 year per cent. of those born.
For the	Year 1887	 29.3		14.3
,,	1888	 22.4		7.5
- ,,	1889	 31.0		7.8

		Birth-rate 1000 of the Population	he	Deaths of children under 1 year per cent. of those born.
For the year	1890	 24.9		11.4
,,	1891	 25.0		9.8
,,	1892	 25.9		5.9
,,	1893	 29.4		8.9
,,	1894	 23.6		6.5
,,	1895	 28.4		8.1
,,	1896	 25.9		9.8

THE CLASSIFICATION OF DEATH CAUSES.

The causes of deaths, classified according to the requirements of the Local Government Board, as to diseases, ages, and localities, are shown in table A, at the end of the report.

During the year, 109 deaths were registered, 27 of these being of persons not belonging to the district. Deducting these, which chiefly were amongst persons dying in public institutions, and suffering from their fatal illnesses when brought into the town, the number remaining, viz., 82, shows a death-rate of 12.7 per 1000 of the population, calculated upon the census of 1896, but upon the estimated population up to the middle of 1896, 12.9 per 1000.

The death-rates for the ten preceding years were :-

1895, 16·4 per 1000	1890, 15.3 per 1000
1894, 14.7 ,,	1859, 12.4 ,.
1893, 16·1 ,,	1888, 12.4 ,,
1892, 17.1 ,,	1887, 15.9 ,,
1891, 18.2 "	1886, 15.1 ,,

MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES.

The deaths occurred at or between the following ages:—

Deaths	unde	r 1	year					17
,,	abov	e 1 ;	year	and un	der 5	years		11
,,	,,	5 3	years	,,	15	,,		1
,,	,,	15	,,	,,	25	,,		2
,, 8	,,	25	,,	,,	65	,,	-	33
**	,,	65	,,	,,	80	,,		26
,,			,,	,,	90	,,		18
,,	,,	90						1

The number of deaths under 1 year was 17, being 15.5 per cent of the total deaths. Those between 1 and 5 years were 10 per cent of the whole.

THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

Zymotic Diseases caused 2 deaths, from Whooping Cough, or a death-rate equal to 0.3 per 1000.

Constitutional Diseases:			
Phthisis		10	
Diseases of the Organs of I	Respirati	on :—	
Bronchitis			
Pneumonia		21	
Pleurisy			
Diseases of the Organs of C	Circulatio	on :—	
Heart Diseases		10	
All other Diseases			63
Injuries	/		3

The deaths from the chief Zymotic Diseases during the past ten years, together with the death rates for the same period, after deducting the deaths occurring amongst persons not belonging to the Borough, were:—

		1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Small-po	x										
Measles				4		29				7	
Scarlet F	ever					9	3				
Diphther	ia	2			3		2	3	2		
Croup		4			1	3					
Whoopin	g Cough		2		1			2			2
	Enteric		1	2		1					
Fevers	Typhus										
	Other or Doubtful			1					2	1	
Diarrhœa Dysen	A.			1		1		3			
Deaths Zymot	from chief } tic Diseases }	6	3	8	5	43	5	8	4	8	2
Deaths causes	,	139	102	100	125	96	135	119	116	125	80
Totals for	r each year	145	105	108	130	139	140	127	120	133	82
from	te per 1000 chief Zy- Diseases	0.9	0.4	1.2	0.7	7.0	0.7	1.4	0.7	1.2	0.3
Death-ra other	tes from causes }	15.0	12.0	11.2	14.6	11.2	16.4	14.7	14.0	15.2	12.4
General d	leath-rate	15.9	12.4	12:5	15.3	18-2	17-1	16.1	14:7	16 4	12.7

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN.

With this return are included the Births, Deaths, and Mortality from special diseases for each month in 1896:—

MO	Thermometer		Baro- meter	meter		ths.	atory ses.	isis.	ping gh.
Months.	Mean Max. Temp.	Mean Min. Temp.	Mean.	Rainfall.	Births.	Deaths.	Respiratory Diseases.	Phthisis.	Whooping Cough.
January	44.8	34.2	30.20	•53	18	8	3		
February	46.1	32.4	30.18	•36	16	12	4	3	
March	53.1	37.8	29.69	2.88	13	9		1	
April	58.6	39.4	30.04	•98	10	6			
May	69.0	42.6	30.18	-27	17	10		1	
June	77.4	51.1	29.90	1.41	13	7	3		
July	78.1	51.7	30.02	1'76	12	6			
August	71.0	49.0	29.99	3.04	17	8	1	1	
September	6.50	49.1	29.68	5.65	14	8			
October	53.6	37.7	30.26	2.39	14	5		2	
November	45.4	32.0	30.00	.88	11	15	6	1	1
December	44.7	33.3	29.72	3.64	18	15	4	1	1
Total				23.79	153	109	21	10	2

Maximum Temp., July 20th	91°
Minimum in shade, Feb. 24th	21°
" on ground, Feb. 24th	20°
Maximum Barometer Reading, Jan. 30	30.730
Minimum ,, Dec. 6th	28.340
Largest Rainfall one day, Sept. 4th	1.20

For the Meteorological Return I have again to thank Dr. Bowes, of the Wilts County Asylum.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Mr. Billingham, Inspector and Surveyor, states:—
"That the whole of the Town has been systematically inspected, and all nuisances abated as they occur.

"All sewers, drains, gullies, &c., have been flushed, cleansed, and kept in good order, the Town scavenging performed four days per week, and the collection of all scavenging matter taken to the works at Spitalcroft, screened, the ashes sold to farmers, and the remainder burnt.

"That all Dairies, Milk-shops, Slaughter-houses, and common Lodging-houses have been regularly inspected every six weeks, and kept clean and white-washed, also all factories and work-shops visited and inspected.

"That all houses in St. Joseph's Road have now been connected with the sewerage system of the borough, by means of a new 9-in. glazed stone-ware pipe drain, with man-holes, &c., with connections to every house and property on this estate. The new sewer runs at the top of the railway embankment, to the lower end, thence under the line, and is connected to the main out-fall sewer leading to the Sewage Works.

"That the Sewage Works is working very satisfactorily, and that a new press has been erected, and the plant as now fixed is able effectually to deal with the whole of the sewage, without the slightest delay. Appended is a summary of inspections made and results within the Borough, during the year ending 31st Dec."

		Total Number for Year.	Results of Inspection, &c.
1	Complaints received	4	
2	Cottages inspected	17	
3	Lodging-houses inspected	2	Eight times during year.
4	Slaughter-houses inspected	7	Eight times during year.
5	Bake-houses inspected	14	Twice each during year.
6	Dairies and Milkshops inspected	6	Eight times each during
7	Cowsheds inspected .	2	year.
8	Workshops inspected	5	
9	Filthy houses cleansed sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	17	
10	Houses disinfected	1	
11	Overcrowding abated		The second second
12	Houses placed in habitable repair		
13	Houses closed		
14	Houses erected or re-built, for which "Certificates" were applied for	2	
15	"Certificates" granted	2	
16	"Certificates" deferred		
17	Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded ,.		

		Total Number for Year.	Results of Inspection, &c.
18	Wells cleansed or repaired		
19	Wells closed		1 = 1
20	Defective pumps repaired or new pumps erected to existing wells		
21	Leaky taps repaired where drawing from public mains		
22	Houses connected with sewers	10	
23	Houses connected with water mains		
24	Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered		
25	Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	34	
26	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered .		
27	Animals improperly kept removed		
28	Samples of water taken for Analysis		
29	Samples of food and drink taken for Analysis		
30	Compensation paid for destruction of in- fected bedding		

		Total Number for Year.	Results of Inspection, &c
31	Seizures of unsound meat, &c	1	
32	Nuisances reported or detected	110	
33	Nuisances abated	110	
34	Notices served	28	By order of Authority.
35	Summonses taken out		
36	Convictions		

(Signed), F. G. BILLINGHAM.

In his preface to the summaries of the reports of the Medical Officers of Health throughout the county to the County Council, Professor Smith draws attention to the neglect of Vaccination in some districts, and strongly urges that a representation should be made to the Boards of Guardians, urging them to enforce the provision of "these valuable Acts."

There can be no doubt that in this town a large number of children at the present time are unvaccinated. This is much to be regretted, as in the event of Small Pox being introduced at any future time into the town, the neglect of this simple precaution may result in an epidemic such as we have been spared from during the past twenty-two years,

Up to within the last four or five years, Vaccination has been well carried out as regards the proportion of children Vaccinated to those born, and no authenticated illness as a result of Vaccination has come under my notice.

In concluding this report, I would take the opportunity of advising the Town Council to make at an early date such alterations at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases as to provide accommodation for the isolation of two kinds of Infectious Diseases at the same time. During the present year the town has been singularly free from diseases of this nature, and I look upon the present time as a favourable opportunity to carry out such alterations, not necessarily on a large scale.

Appended is an account showing the expenditure and receipts in connection with the Hospital.

Also the tabulated forms of sickness and deaths occuring during 1893.

Borough Isolation Hospital.

EXPENDITURE and RECEIPTS for 1896.

s. 25 6 78 0				03 7
3 : 32				£103
: :				
Received from Patients				
Pat U.S				
fron ,,				
eived				
Rece				
	4.1			
p o	0 1 0 2 5	8 IO1	609	00
s 9	4 9½ 6 0½ 6 0½	18 8 5 10½	600	7 8
s 9			1 5 9 6 6	103 7 8
d. £ s	41 4 18 9 6	4 4 4 4 9 18	1 5 9	£103 7 8
d. £ s	41 4 18 9 6	4 4 4 4 9 18		£103 7 8
6 s. d. 6 s 40 13 9½ 11 0	4 11 2 13 17 11 18 9	2 18 4 3 18		£103 7 8
d. £ s	4 11 2 13 17 11 18 9	4 4 4 4 9 18		£103 7 8
6 s. d. 6 s 40 13 9½ 11 0	4 11 2 13 17 11 18 9	2 18 4 3 18	10	£103 7 8
6 s. d. 6 s 40 13 9½ 11 0	4 11 2 13 17 11 18 9	2 18 4 3 18	: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	£103 7 8
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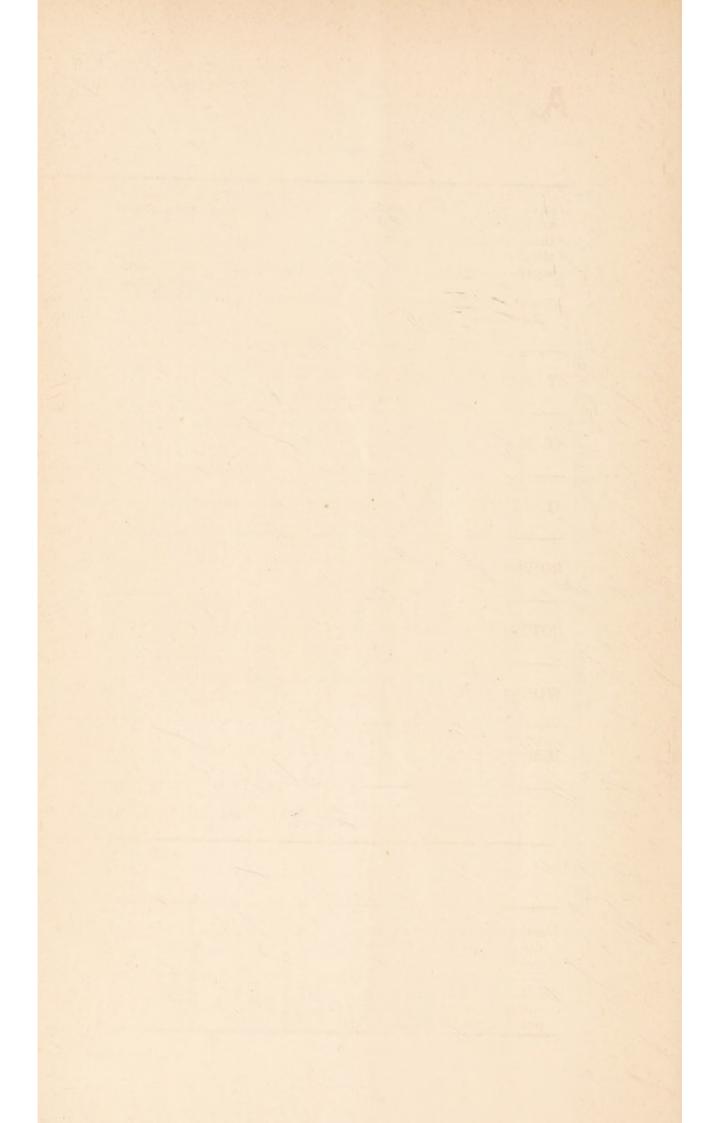


TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1896, IN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF DEVIZES,

classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

	OI .	- 1	form	TTEV.	PROM A	LL CAU	SES.							Mont	ALITY I	FROM ST	UBJOINE	D CAUSI	ES, DIST	INGUISH	1180 D	EATIES (OF CHIL	DEEN U	INDER P	IVE YE.	ARS OF	AGE.			
Names of Localities			A	T SUB	OENED	Aors.				1	2	3	1 4	1 6	6	1 7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	16	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separato localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)	1000	s. ye	ar.	5.	15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	(0)	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Exterio or Typhoid.	Continued. A.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Brysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Darrhea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fover.	Phthisis	Bronchitis. Parunonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	·	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.
(a)	(6)		e)	(a)	(4)	())	(9)	(4)	Under 5						-	-			-							4				2	6
BT. JOHN'S PARISH .	. 24		5	1			6	12	5 upwds.																i	1	2			14	18
ST. MARY'S ,, .	. 38		6	6	1	1	11	13	Under 5 5 upwds.																	9	2			17	26
ST. JAMES' ,, .	. 18		2	2			6	8	Under 5 5 upwds.													1				3 2	2		2	·····	14
ROWDE ,, .			2	1			2	4	Under 5 5 upwds.																	2				5	6
COTTAGE HOSPITAL .							3	1	Under 5 5 upwds																		····i			3	4
workhouse	. 1	-	2	1			3	8	Under 5 5 upwds													1					3			8	11
H.M. PRISON		2				1	1		Under 5 5 upwds																1						2
Totals	. 10		17	11	1	2	32	46	Under a	5												2			10	18	10		3	8 55	28

The subjoined numbers have been taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

							Under 5		T			T					1					
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.							5 upwds.			 		 	 	 	_	97						
Deaths occurring within the district among persons	27	3	2	1	10	11	Under 5	 		 		 	 	 								

^{*} The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of Influenza, or any other disease which it may be thought desirable to record.

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 DEVIZES URBAN DISTRICT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES		LATION LAGES.	bs.		2	NEW CASES OF SIGENESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH													Number of such Cases Remoted from their Hones in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public in-		Esti-	Birt	Aged	1	2	3	. 4	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	1 4	6	6	1 7	8	9	10	11	1 12	13	
stitutions being shown as	ma		Pa	under 5	-	-		2			Favers				1					-	5			FEVER	8.		-				
PARISHES.		to middle of 1896.	3. Register	or over 5.	Small-pos	Scarlation	Diphtheria	Membranot Croup.	Typhus.	Enterio or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas	Measles.	Measles.	Small-pox	Scarlatina,	Diphtheria	Membranot Croup.	Typhus.	Enterio or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera,	Erysipelas			
ST. JOHN'S	1866		63	Under 5 5 upwds.												14															
ST. MARY'S	2392		56	Under 5 5 upwds.			3									6															
(H) ST. JAMES' (within the Borough)	1850		39	Under 5 5 upwds												21															
ROWDE (within the Borough)	318		8	Under 5 5 upwds.																											
WORKHOUSE			6	Under 5 5 upwds.																											
H.M. PRISON			1	Under 5 5 upwds.																											
TOTALS	6426	6312	173	Under 5 5 upwds.			4									41															

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in this District? Yes. Since when? 1890. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District—Devizes Urban District Hospital. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated. Cases of Measles not received in Hospital.

