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Contributors

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The Rural District Council of Drayton.

Salop

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
DECEMBER, 1913.

To the Rural District Council of Drayton.

Gentlemen,—

I have the honour of presenting to you my
Annual Report upon the health of your district
for the year 1913.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Drayton comprises an area of upwards of 51,000 acres, situated in the great central plain of England. The general elevation of the district is about 300 feet. The district extends from the parishes of Adderley and Norton-in-Hales on the North, to the parish of Woore on the North-East, where the three counties, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire, join; to the South, as far as and including the parishes of Hinstock and Child's Ercall, and the villages of Eaton and Little Bolas in Stoke parish. On the East it is bounded by the River Tern and the parish of Cheswardine. On the West it extends to and includes the village of Stoke-upon-Tern, the parish and village of Hodnet, and the hamlet of Marchamley. Near the centre of the district is the town of Market Drayton, with the township of Little Drayton adjoining, and the parish of Moreton Say. The formation throughout is the new red sandstone, which attains its greatest elevation in England in the Hawkstone Hills, near the Western limit of the district. The River Tern in its winding course to the Severn drains the greater portion of the district. The land in general contour is level, well watered, highly cultivated, and there are some finely timbered estates. The population is chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—The population of the Rural Sanitary District of Drayton has varied considerably in the last thirty years, as shown by the last four census returns:—1881, 12,514; 1891, 11,969; 1901, 11,708; 1911, 12,340. The estimated population at the middle of 1913 was 12,480. The natural increase of population (that is, the excess of the births over the deaths) in the year was 81. The area of the district (exclusive of area covered by water) is 51,384 acres. The number of inhabited houses at the last census (1911) was 2,845, being an increase of 190 houses since the census of 1901. The average number of persons in each house was 4.3 against 4.4 in 1901.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages registered during the year in the whole district was 86, compared with an average for the previous ten years of 83.

BIRTHS.—The number of births registered in 1913 was 241, of which 12 were illegitimate. The birth-rate was only 19 per 1,000, and exactly the same as that for 1912. The average birth-rate for the preceding ten years was 23.8 per 1,000.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered was 158. This includes one "non-resident" whose death has to be deducted; but four "residents" died outside the district, and these deaths have to be added, making the net total

of 151, equal to a death-rate of 12.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum. The average death-rate for the previous ten years was 14.2 per 1,000.

INFANT MORTALITY.—Eighteen infants under one year of age died during the twelve months—the same number as in 1912—giving an infant mortality rate of 75 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the preceding ten years was 93 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 161 deaths, 85 were of persons of the age of 65 years and upwards, and 25 under five years. Seventeen deaths were certified as due to old age or senile decay—twelve females and five males—the average aged attained by the females being 84, by the males 83½. Heart disease accounted for 25 deaths, cancer or malignant disease 22, consumption and other tuberculous diseases 7, bronchitis 10, pneumonia 4, cerebral hæmorrhage 12, an dwhooping cough 7. There were 6 deaths caused by accidents, and five suicides. Sixteen deaths were certified by the Coroner. Further details as to causes of and ages at death will be found in the official tables of the Local Government Board attixed to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Thirty-five cases of infectious disease were notified to me from the whole district during the year, viz.: Ten of scarlet fever, 1 of diphtheria, 5 of erysipelas, 1 of enteric fever, and 18 of consumption, and other forms of tuberculosis. Three cases of scarlet fever were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, and four cases of consumption were admitted to the Sanatorium at Shirlett. Ophthalmia neonatorum was added to the list of notifiable diseases, but no cases were notified. Measles and whooping cough are not yet notifiable. Pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis or consumption), has been voluntarily notifiable since 1900. All tuberculous diseases are now compulsorily notifiable. In all cases of infectious disease notified to me printed instructions are at once sent to the occupiers of the infected houses stating the precautions to be taken in order to prevent the spread of infection and as to keeping children from school. Notices are also sent to the school teachers stating the periods children from infected houses are to be excluded from school. Where unsanitary conditions have been found they have been reported to the Council, either by the Sanitary Inspector or myself. At the termination of all cases, and immediately after the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. At the Isolation Hospital a steam disinfectant is used for clothing, etc., before the patient is allowed to leave.

SCHOOLS CLOSED.—Market Drayton and Little Drayton Schools were closed for two months on account of whooping cough in February and March; Norton-in-Hales School for a fortnight in March also for whooping cough; Child's Ercall and Hinstock Schools were closed for six weeks and four weeks respectively for mumps.

DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN (OUTSIDE LONDON) ORDER, 1910.—The cost of administration of antitoxin in all cases of diphtheria has been provided for by the Council since January, 1899.

VACCINATION IN 1913.—The following statistics of vaccination in your district have been supplied by the Vaccination Officer:—Of the 241 children born and registered, 119 were success-

fully vaccinated, 47 were not of age at the end of the year, 11 died unvaccinated, the vaccination of 4 was postponed by medical certificate, 3 were removed from the district, and 57 remain unvaccinated because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination, and made statutory declarations to that effect.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—Building by-laws are in operation in Market Drayton and Little Drayton, and should be extended to include the whole district. Over two hundred houses have been erected in the district during the past ten years. Under the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, 103 houses have been inspected during the year; in 62 the defects were remedied without closing orders.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION. — Lodging houses, bakehouses, and slaughter houses are regularly inspected. The whole of the dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops in the district were systematically inspected in 1910-11, and special reports sent to the Local Government Board and the County Council. A note of the defective conditions found was sent to each occupier and a good many improvements have resulted. Much more remains to be done in the way of structural alterations, and for the increase of lighting and ventilation. There are 116 cow-keepers and milk-sellers on the register, and the Sanitary Inspector is making a detailed inspection.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—This is regulated by by-laws and the responsibility falls on the occupier. A public system should be adopted. The regular weekly removal of house refuse would decrease infectious diseases. Refuse heaps are breeding places for flies, and it has now been proved that flies carry the germs of infectious diseases from house to house.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL. — In the Market Drayton and Little Drayton drainage area, at the end of 1912, there were 857 water-closets, 22 pail-closets, and 408 privies. The latter are gradually being converted into water-closets. The water carriage system of disposal should be made compulsory wherever its use is practicable.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The sewage of Market Drayton is still untreated, and continues to pollute the river at the old outfall. A scheme for sewerage and sewage treatment will now have to be undertaken by the new Urban District Council. The scheme for draining and treatment of the sewage of a portion of the village of Hinstock will be completed as soon as the land for the tanks and filters has been acquired. In October I inspected the sewers and the means of disposal of the sewage in Cheswardine village, and a special report was sent to the Local Government Board, and to the County Council. The Sanitary Inspector is preparing plans for new sewers and for the scientific treatment of the sewage at the outfall.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Market Drayton Water Company furnish an abundant supply of excellent water to Market Drayton, Little Drayton, Betton, and Ridgwardine. The spring for the supply of Norton-in-Hales has been tested for a considerable time and found to be constant and sufficient in quantity.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—The official tables of the Home Office, showing the administration of the Act in the district, are affixed to this report.

NUISANCES; DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS; HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Three tables are attached giving summaries of the work of the Sanitary Inspector during the year. The table relating to nuisances, etc., is printed below.

I am,

Yours faithfully,
A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

Market Drayton,
27th April, 1914.

*Please note that this number should include all houses inspected, including those under the Housing and Town Planning Act, but not houses that are visited for another purpose without an inspection of the premises.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1913, in the Drayton Rural Sanitary District.

*Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey 630

Number of legal notices sent... .. 93

Number of informal notices sent 139

Number of such notices complied with... .. 221

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices:—

- (a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease 24
- (b) Deficient or objectionable water supply 28
- (c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended 79
- (d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction 75
- (e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition 34
- (f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds 27
- (g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance 2
- (h) Houses overcrowded 3

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

(a) Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register 116

(b) Number of inspections 65

(c) Number of notices, verbal or written 19

(d) Number of notices complied with 19

Remarks:— The above numbers do not include inspections of Lodging Houses, Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses, inspections under the Factory Acts, Canal Boats Acts, Petroleum Acts, and other work done as Surveyor in connection with sewers and sewage disposal.

W. COTTERILL,

Inspector of Nuisances.