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**Contributors**

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# BOROUGH OF GLASTONBURY.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1897.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Glastonbury.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave to submit to you my report for the year ending 31st December, 1897. Annual Report.

AREA.—5000 Acres.

Area.

POPULATION.—4119 (Census 1891), (4337 estimated to 1897).

Population.

GEOLOGY.—The higher and more populated parts of the Borough—Lower Lias, Clay, and Limestone; the Lower and outlying districts—Alluvium Peat.

Geology.

OCCUPATION.—Partly Manufacturing, Partly Agricultural.

Occupation.

BIRTH RATE. 21.3 per 1000 living. 1896, 25.24.

Birth Rate.

DEATH RATE.—15.53 „ „ „ „ 9.95.

Death Rate.

ZYMOTIC RATE.—3.64 „ „ „ „ 0.23.

Zymotic Rate.

INFANT MORTALITY.—202.5 per 1000 births „ 76.09.

Infant Mortality.

DEATH RATE for last 10 years:—

Death Rate for the last ten years.

1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
13.9	13.06.	17.74.	14.3.	12.1.	17.72.	14.56.	11.65.	9.95.	15.53.

Average for 10 years, 14.05.

WATER SUPPLY.—The quantity has been so far sufficient, that at no time during the year was it found necessary to shut off the supply. Towards the end of the year the quality of the water was not satisfactory, and samples were sent to three separate experts for chemical analysis, all of whom reported that it was not fit for dietetic use, and I accordingly advised the Sanitary Committee to recommend the Council to have the Reservoir emptied and the unsatisfactory bottom covered with a six inch layer of concrete, and a cemented surface so that in the course of two or three years a process of cleaning may be carried out. The quality of this supply might, I think, be further improved by one of two courses:—  
(a) By sinking the present catchment pipes to at least twice their present depth, or (b) by tunnelling into the hill as is done at the Well-house source. Fortunately the supply from Well-house, which has also been analysed and pronounced very pure, has been, with the kindly help of part of the Tor House water, sufficient to keep the town with a constant supply, whilst the repairs to the reservoir were going on. During the coming year I hope the Council will see their way to augment the present supply by possibly going further afield, where a more constant yield could be obtained, as in case of a drought we cannot possibly get sufficient from our present sources. I have analysed three samples of water from private sources, of which I found all unfit for drinking purposes. Water Supply.



Sewerage and  
Drainage.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The Sewage Farm still continues to work well. In course of time the lower end of the main sewer ought to be provided with pipes of equal calibre to those in the town. The main sewer in Northload Street which in some parts has been found to be only stone built, should be removed and a proper stone-ware piping substituted. The condition of the outfall of the sewer at the lower end of the Old Wells Road requires attention and instead of the present open ditch an efficient pipe drain should be laid, and taken across the Wick Road. The obnoxious open ditch in Paradise has during the year been filled in and satisfactorily drained.

Scavenging.

SCAVENGING.—There has been some improvement in the time at which the refuse is removed from the streets in the morning, but even now receptacles full of refuse may be seen on the pavement as late as 11 or 12 o'clock in the day. The process of destruction of the town refuse by burning has not been carried out to the same extent as in former years.

Prevalence of  
disease

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.—The year on a whole has not been an unhealthy one although the death rate is considerably higher than it has been for the last four years. This may be accounted for by the epidemic of measles which attacked the town during the months of March and April, and which caused the death of twelve children all under the age of one year. At the time of the epidemic I made two reports to you on the necessity of closing both the schools on account of the virulent form the disease had taken. Four cases of Typhoid Fever and one of Membranous Croup have been reported, one of the former and the latter case ended fatally, and these with a fatal case of Whooping Cough give a Zymotic Death Rate far above the average. These five cases are the only ones I have had reported under the Notification Act. Influenza has shown itself during the early and later months of the year, but no deaths have been recorded from it, either directly or indirectly. The Infant Mortality is very high, but this again is due to the attack of Measles, as the whole of the deaths during the epidemic were of children under one year of age.

Isolation Hospital.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—In conjunction with the Street Urban District Council, one has been built on the southern slope of Weary-all-Hill to accommodate six patients, with a caretaker's house. It will be ready for use in the course of a fortnight, and will be under the management of a conjoint Board composed of two members from each Council.

Disinfection Means.

DISINFECTION MEANS.—A Fumigation Chamber has been provided at the Hospital, and is so built that at any time a Steam Disinfector might be added.

Dairies, Cowsheds,  
and Milkshops.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—I have made eleven inspections. In no case is any quantity of Milk stored, it is, as a rule, taken direct from the cows, after being strained, to the customers. The Cowsheds have been very little used during the year, owing to the mild winter, but several of them want white washing, and verbal notice was given to the occupiers to have the work done.

Slaughter Houses.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—26 Inspections. The Slaughter-Houses are kept in a state just sufficient to avoid any action being taken under the bye-laws, but none of them are built with any regard to Sanitary Law, and are not as clean and wholesome as they should be. Many of them are surrounded by dwelling-houses, from the windows of which the process of slaughtering may be seen, and in several



instances animals have to be driven almost through the occupier's living rooms to get to the Slaughter-House. I strongly urge upon the Council the necessity of building a public Slaughter-House at a proper distance from the town, and so in time do away with these unsanitary nuisances which are a menace to public health. At the beginning of the year three of the occupiers were prosecuted for non compliance with the bye-laws, fines were imposed in each case. A conviction was also obtained against a person for slaughtering on unlicensed premises. An application for a licence to slaughter was refused.

BAKE-HOUSES.—Nine Inspections made. One unoccupied. Three of the premises are not kept as clean and wholesome as they should be, the refuse of the bakings being allowed to accumulate on the floors under the troughs. In all cases white-washing is not carried out as frequently as it should be

Bakehouses,

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—With the Inspector of Nuisances I have made a careful examination of the houses and their Sanitary arrangements in the following districts:—The Wall, Dyehouse Lane, Northload Bridge, Landmead, part of Northload Street, Hunt's Buildings, Marchant's Buildings, Hill Head, and Bere Lane. We carefully examined 151 houses and their Sanitary surroundings. Fifteen we found empty. Four were structurally out of repair but not to any great extent. In twenty cases the w.c's or drains were defective. Notices were served on the owners of these premises to have the defects made good and in all cases the work has been carried out satisfactorily. Three of the houses had filthy privies attached to them, written notices were served on the owner of these premises to abate these nuisances and provide either efficient w.c.'s with drainage, or earth closets; up to the present time these notices have not been complied with. No less than sixteen houses I found overcrowded, and only one case has complied with the notice served. This is a most difficult subject to deal with, and will require your most careful attention. In only two cases were Animals kept within the prescribed limits, and in both these promises were made to abate the nuisance.

Housing of the  
Working Classes.

BYE-LAWS, ETC.—(a) A complete code in force. (b) The fortnightly Market continues an abominable nuisance to the inhabitants of the Market Place and Magdalene Street. I strongly recommend the Council to again approach the Ladies of the Manor to see if steps cannot be taken to effect its removal.

Bye Laws, &c.

I again have to tender my best thanks to the Inspector of Nuisances for the kindly help he has at all times afforded me.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. A. BLAKISTON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Glastonbury, 21st January, 1898.*



# Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work completed in the year 1897.

PARISH.	1	2	3	4	Results of Inspection.			House Drains.		Privies and W. C's.			Dust Bins.		Water Supply.			MISCELLANEOUS.						Legal proceedings e.g. Summonses.	25
					5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
		No. of complaints received during the year.	No. of inspections of houses, premises, etc.	No. of re-inspections of houses premises, etc.	Orders issued for sanitary amendments of houses and premises.	Houses, premises, etc., cleansed, repaired, whitewashed, etc.	Houses disinfected after illness of an infectious character.	Repaired, cleansed, trapped, etc.	Ventilated.	Repaired, etc.	Supplied with water.	New provided.	New provided.	Repaired, covered, etc.	Cisterns (new) erected.	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, and covered.	Waste pipes connected with drains, etc., abolished.	No. of Lodging houses registered.	Dust removal. No. of communications received and attended to.	Removal of accumulations of dung, stagnant water, animal and other refuse.	Animals removed being improperly kept.	Regularly Inspected.			
Glastonbury	29	196	124	37	89	4	56	6	53	8	8	—	—	One removed Silver Street.	—	—	—	1	13	72	14	9	11	26	5
				Overcrowded 16																					Pen for infringement of Slaughter-house bye-laws. One for keeping pigs within prescribed limits.

To A. A. BLAKISTON, Esq., M. O. H. Glastonbury.

January 24th, 1898.

SIR, Herewith I beg to hand you my returns on the form shown and recommended by Dr. Davis in his Summary of Reports for 1896. These take in but a very few of the visits paid in house-to-house inspections made with yourself, being only such cases as where notices had to be served. There have been several cases of overcrowding which have been dealt with, but I find no provision for this special nuisance made in the return form. There have been very many cases of petty nuisances dealt with, almost daily, of which no entry has been made. The usual disinfectants and white lime have been regularly served out on two days in the week, and the periodical flushing and disinfecting of the gully grates, etc., in the public streets, has been carried out.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE ALVES, Inspector.