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GREASBROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1896,

—BY—

JOHN FRANCIS CHEESEWRIGHT,

M.R.C.S., ENGLAND,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



ROTHERHAM:

C. M. RATCLIFFE, PRINTER, CHURCH STREET.

1897.

GRAND JURY

FREEMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE FREEMAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
GREASBROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now to read you my Annual Report for the Year 1896.

The year has been one which will be long remembered, for, in the first place, at an early date, we shall see the district supplied plentifully with a thoroughly good and reliable water; and also soon, we hope in the possession of a share of a really good and large Hospital, where patients who are not in a position to be properly nursed or isolated when smitten with Infectious disease can be removed, with a certain knowledge that all that skill and kindness can do will be done for them; and, lastly, for the regret that each one feels that for the first eleven months of the year the District was not free from Infectious disease in one or another form; I shall have occasion to refer to these two heads later on.

I intend to divide my Report into the following parts, and make a few remarks on each on passing:—

1. Births.
2. Deaths.
3. Deaths from Natural Causes.
4. Deaths from Infectious Disease.
5. Infant Mortality.
6. Sickness.
7. Sanitary Work.
8. Sanitary Inspector's Work.

TABLE I.—BIRTHS.

MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
51	56	107

The number of Births shews an increase over 1895, and, as I have calculated the population at 3,273, this gives a Birth Rate of 32·3 per 1,000.

TABLE II.—DEATHS.

MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
32	25	57

There is a large increase in the number of Deaths occurring in 1896 over those in 1895, but the figures are not so alarming as they look, when the large number of deaths of aged people are taken into account. The Infant Death Rate, too, is higher. There is also the inevitable number of deaths from accidents, and, lastly, the unfortunate cases of suicide in the canal which runs through a part of the District. The Death Rate for the year is 14·3 per 1,000, as compared with 10·4 per 1,000 for 1895.

TABLE III.—DEATHS AT ALL AGES.

Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards	TOTAL.
12	8	4	6	14	13	57

DEATHS FROM ORDINARY DISEASE.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.—As usual, by far the largest number of deaths was from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Phthisis; the number registered being 16.

HEART DISEASE.—Six cases were certified as due to this.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.—Three occurred during the year.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

I regret to have to record so many deaths from the above class of disease. I find one death certified as due to Diphtheria, five to Enteric or Typhoid Fever, one to Measles, one to Whooping Cough, and three to Diarrhœa.

DIPHTHERIA.—This case occurred in Church Street, but as the child died before I received the Notification Certificate, I was precluded from having the diagnosis verified by Bacteriological Examination.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Of these five cases the following localities were affected :—

Old Engine	...	...	...	2 cases in 1 house
Greenside	...	...	...	1 case in 1 „
Scrooby Street	...	...	...	1 „ 1 „
Church Street	...	...	...	1 „ 1 „

5 cases in 4 houses.

MEASLES.—One death only from this disease.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—One death.

DIARRHŒA.—These cases were all those of children.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Under this heading there is a Death Rate of 3·6 per 1,000, which is an exceptionally high one; but as the majority of these Infants were only a few weeks old, it is, perhaps, mainly due to causes over which there is little control.

TABLE IV.—SICKNESS.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.
January ...	...	...	2	
February..	...	...	2	
March	3	1	6	
April .....	...	...	3	
May.....	1	1		
June .. ...	...	...	1	2
July.....	1			
August .....	...	...	2	
September.	2			
October ..	2	1		
November..	1			
December..				
	10	3	16	2

By the above tables it will be seen that more or less during the whole year Zymotic Disease has been about the District.

ENTERIC FEVER.—No less than 16 cases were notified to me during the year; the disease was spread over widely different areas, and was not confined strictly to one locality; and more, 13 out of the 16 cases occurred in the first four months of the year. In some cases there were grave insanitary conditions, which have been since remedied, but in the majority

of the cases there was no apparent cause for the appearance of the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.—Next, in point of numbers, comes Scarlet Fever; 10 cases notified in different localities. The disease has been of a most mild type, and the most that could be done to prevent its spreading was enjoining isolation and cleanliness on the inhabitants, as well as keeping the children from school, and informing the head teacher of the presence of infectious disease in the household, in order to prevent a too early return to school.

DIPHTHERIA.—Three cases were reported to me, but in one, death had occurred before I received the notification. The other cases were presumably of a mild type, as there was rapid recovery.

ERYSIPELAS.—Two cases were reported. I would suggest to the Council the advisability of removing this disease from amongst those now notifiable.

SANITARY WORK.—Alone, and on many occasions in company with the Sanitary Inspector, I have made visits to every part of the District; and your Committee Meetings have been regularly attended. I have nothing to report on the condition of the one Slaughter House, which is in the same condition as previous years.

All the Dairies and Cow Sheds are kept in a most satisfactory condition; this applies to the cubic air space and general sanitary conditions.

With respect to Canal Boats, I believe the Surveyor to the Council inspects them, but they are few, and principally for local traffic.

SUGGESTIONS (IN BRIEF) :—

1. Flushing Sewers.
2. Scavenging.
3. Court-yards.
4. Ventilation.
5. Keeping Animals so as to cause a Nuisance.

FLUSHING SEWERS AND DRAINS.—Prior to the completion of the laying of the Pipes for your Water Supply (if it has not been considered), I would most earnestly suggest that several good-sized flushing tanks be made, so that the whole sewerage system could be frequently and efficiently flushed out; this would, I am sure, remove a large amount of complaint, which, very justly, I must say, is directed against the present sewers.

SCAVENGING.—This is a very essential part of Sanitary work; and there can be no too opinions of the advisability of all refuse (especially after the emptying of middens) being at once removed, and buried, if possible. I cannot too urgently impress on people the advantages and desirability of cleanliness in the many phases of daily life; as it is an admitted fact that the scourges now devastating the East are mainly due to filth in its many unpleasant forms.

COURT-YARDS.—As in my last Annual Report, so in this, I would suggest that it be compulsory on all owners either to asphalt or lay flag stones in the courts and back-yards of all houses.

VENTILATION.—I still think it would be for the benefit of the health of the Inhabitants if more general House-drain Ventilation were in vogue than at present.

KEEPING ANIMALS SO AS TO CAUSE A NUISANCE.—Unless the whole subsoil of the Parish is to become saturated with liquid manure, the efforts of the Sanitary Officials, with the help of the Council, will have to be directed to the indiscriminate keeping of Animals and Swine under conditions which are prejudicial to the Public Health.

The Sanitary Inspector reports he has paid 222 visits to different parts of the district; that he has reported 80 nuisances, of which 69 have been abated; and that he has regularly inspected the district, as shown by his books.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. CHEESEWRIGHT.







