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Contributors

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FEBRUARY 21st, 1896.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CASTLEFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sir.—I beg to submit to you my Fourteenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, which with the accompanying Tables A. B. & C will give the Sanitary condition of your District, during the year ending Dec. 31st, '95.

The number of Deaths registered during the year, has been 282, viz., 147 Males, and 135 Females. The Death Rate being 16.59 per 1,000 living; the Death Rate for the previous year being 14.31.

The number of Births registered during the same period, was 635, viz., 329 Males, and 306 Females. The Birth Rate being 37.35 per 1,000 living; the Birth Rate for the previous year being 37.06.

The number of Deaths which took place in Children under 5 years of age, was 178, being 63% of the total number of deaths and at the rate of 10.47 per 1,000 living.

Of these 178 Deaths, 121 took place in Infants, under 1 year, being nearly 43% of the whole and at the rate of 7.12 per 1,000 living.

The number of Deaths which took place in persons between 5 and 25 years of age, was 22; between 25 and 60, years of age, 39; and over 60 years of age, 43, while of these 16 were over 70, and 3 of these were over 80,

The number of Deaths which have taken place from Zymotic Diseases is 58, viz., 14 from Measles, 2 from Scarlet Fever, 2 from Diptheria, 38 from Diarrhoea, 1 from Fever, and 1 from Whooping Cough; 53 of these taking place in Children under 5 years of age, and 5 in persons over 5. These deaths form rather over 20% of the total number of deaths, and give a death rate of 3.4 per 1,000 living. The Zymotic Death Rate for the previous year, being 1.68 per 1,000.

There has been no case of Smallpox reported in your district during the past year.

Measles has been somewhat prevalent during the year, except the middle months, 14 Deaths having taken place of which occurred during the first quarter. As this disease is one which your Board does not require to be notified, I am only able in an indirect manner, to ascertain the extent to which it becomes prevalent, whereas did it require notification, I might by temporarily closing one or more Schools be able to check an outbreak at its commencement.

Scarlet Fever has also been somewhat prevalent during the latter half of the year, but has not been of a severe form, and has not been confined to any one portion of your district. I have had 37 cases notified to me of which only two have terminated fatally, both in children under 5 years of age.

Whooping Cough has only given rise to 1 Death during the year.

There have been 2 cases of Diptheria notified to me during the year, both of which terminated fatally.

There has been 1 Death from Fever registered during the year. There have been 9 cases notified to me these being Sporadic cases, occurring in different parts of the district.

There have been 38 Deaths due to Diarrhoea registered during the year, 37 of these taking place in Infants under 2 years old, and 1 in an old person, aged 75. These deaths form a very large proportion of the total number, nearly 14% and give a rate of 2.23 per 1,000 living. This is the highest I have known for some years. As to the Cause, as they all with one exception occurred in very young children, I can only attribute it to injudicious feeding.

In addition to the cases of Infectious Disease requiring notification mentioned above, I have also had notified to me 2 cases of Erysipelas, 2 of Puerperal Fever, and 2 of Membranous Croup, making in all 54 cases notified to me during the year.

Diseases of the respiratory organs have given rise to 60 Deaths including 16 from Phthisis.

As regards the Sanitary work done, most of the information will be found in Table C; but I may here mention that in cases of infectious disease the premises have been immediately examined and enquiries made with the object of tracing its origin; disinfectants have been supplied, the Privies and Ashpits attended to and Drains flushed.

The Main Sewers have also periodically been flushed, and during August and September when Summer Diarrhoea was so prevalent Disinfectants were freely used over the whole district.

The Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected and kept in fairly satisfactory condition.

The Slaughter Houses have also been regularly inspected and are well attended to.

There are 950 Ashpits in the district which have been emptied on an average just over 4 times each. I have had frequent complaints about the ashpits being allowed to go too long without being emptied, and have made a special report on this matter since the present year commenced.

Alteration of Privies	...	...	...	70
Alteration of Ashpits	...	...	...	20
Blocked Drains, taken up and relaid	...	...	...	22
Manure Heaps removed	...	...	...	15
Defective Gulleys replaced with Trap Gulleys	...	...	...	40

Two cases of Typhoid Fever were removed to the Fever Hospital.

Signed, E. WALKER KEMP,

Medical Officer of Health.

