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County Borough of Luddersfield.


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

R E P O R T

For the 4th Quarter of the year 1896.

ERNEST GEORGE ANNIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



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*To the Chairmen and Members of the Health and
Sanitary Committees.*

CHAIRMEN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting the report for this the fourth quarter of the year 1896, and although the death-rate for this period does not compare favourably with that of the corresponding quarter of 1895, yet the death-rate for the whole year being 16.78 per 1,000 does compare satisfactorily with the rate for the whole year 1895, which was 17.14 per 1,000.

The period under review comprises the 13 week ending January 2nd, 1897, and during this period there were 576 births registered (315 males and 261 females), equivalent to a birth-rate of 23.01 per 1,000 of the population, comparing with a birth-rate of 31.08 per 1,000 for the 33 large English towns, and a birth-rate of 22.03 per 1,000 population in this Borough during the corresponding period last year.

Our birth-rate still continues to be among the lowest of any of the other large English towns.

The deaths registered numbered 443 (230 males and 213 females), equivalent to an annual death-rate of 17.70 per 1,000, as compared with 14.73 per 1,000 for the corresponding period last year; on a further analysis of these figures one finds that the increased death-rate has been general in all divisions of the Borough excepting in the Marsh and Lindley districts, in each of which portions the death-rate is slightly lower this year than it was during the last quarter of the previous year, whilst the increase is most phenomenal in the Longwood district, having changed from 6.91 per 1,000 last year to 17.83 per 1,000 during this period, there having been 3 deaths from consumption, 10 deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy, 1 from cancer, and 10 from other diseases, compared with only 5 deaths from bronchitis, &c., 3 from cancer, and 2 from all other diseases during the fourth quarter of 1895.

Taking the whole Borough together the increased death-rate is due to an increased fatality from bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy

there having been 72 deaths from these diseases in the last quarter of 1895, and 134 deaths from these diseases during this past quarter.

The number of deaths in the Infirmary also is noticeable 22 as against 12 for the corresponding period last year.

Twenty deaths are due to some form of malignant disease or other, and 47 are ascribed to phthisis.

The death-rate in the 33 large English towns during the period under notice was 19·08 per 1,000.

The death-rates in the various districts ranged in round figures from 13 in Dalton and Lindley to 19·5 per 1,000 in Fartown.

Amongst the 443 deaths registered there were 98 children under one year of age, equal to a mortality rate of 170 per 1,000 births, whilst the rate was 156 per 1,000 births in the previous corresponding period.

Our position relative to the 33 large English towns is shewn as follows :—

1896.

DEATHS PER MILLION IN THE FOURTH QUARTER.

	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	All Seven.
Thirty-three large towns, 1896....	..	340	252	408	287	229	219	1735
Huddersfield, 1896	..	40	80	160	1038	160	80	1558

The seven infectious diseases are credited with 39 deaths as follows :—Measles 1, scarle fever 2, diphtheria 4, whooping cough 26, typhoid fever 4, diarrhoea 2, representing a mortality of 1·56 per 1,000, against 1·49 last year. The zymotic death-rate of the 33 large English towns being 1·73 per 1,000.

The mortality amongst cases of whooping cough is increasing by rapid strides. During the second and third quarters of this year. there were 13 deaths, in each ascribed to whooping cough, but this quarter the number has exactly doubled, and is just twice as many as all the other deaths from the infectious diseases put together.

Respecting this disease it would appear to be the one over which the Health Authority have the least control, chiefly on account of its insidious latent period, and to the length of time the disease takes to run its course, rendering satisfactory isolation at home practically impossible. The school authorities also by urging school attendance as far as possible assist in disseminating this disease.

One hundred and forty-one cases of infectious disease have been heard of during the quarter, including 112 cases of scarlet fever, 8 diphtheria, and 17 enteric fever. Four of the cases of diphtheria heard of proved fatal, representing the very high case fatality of 50 per cent, whereas with adequate means, skilled nursing, isolation, &c., the case fatality should not come anywhere near to this figure.

Of the 112 cases of scarlet fever notified, 106 were admitted into the Hospital, or 94.6 per cent of the whole.

As several cases of scarlet fever were heard of, apparently connected in some way with a certain school, the school was visited and each of the scholars present were personally examined, revealing the fact that there were scholars in attendance suffering from scarlet fever in its disquamating, and therefore most infectious stage, these children were removed to the Hospital, all the absentees were also visited and examined, the school premises were arranged to be closed for half a day in order to have the same thoroughly disinfected, and since then, I am pleased to say, there has been no recurrence of cases in the neighbourhood.

The quarter commenced with 56 cases in the Hospital, and since then 112 cases have been admitted, 106 being scarlet fever, and 6 enteric fever. Three deaths have occurred, one being from scarlet fever, and two from typhoid fever. One hundred and five patients have been discharged, leaving 60 still under treatment, 57 being cases of scarlet fever, and 3 typhoid fever.

House to house inspections in various districts have been made, and 113 enquiries have been made in reference to cases of death from phthisis, and in children under one year of age.

On referring to the Meteorological table one finds that the average mean height of the thermometer was several degrees lower, the average mean moisture of saturation in the air was about 6 per cent greater, whilst the total amount of rainfall was 3in. less than the corresponding period of the previous year.

The Sanitary work of the Department includes 1,327 inspections of premises, amongst which are included 955 inspections of premises for nuisances, 10 where offensive trades are conducted, 73 cellar dwellings, 28 workshops, 26 slaughter houses, 56 canal boats, 115 cowsheds, and 14 bakehouses.

In order to ascertain whether or no, work ordered to be carried out was being performed satisfactorily, 286 visits have been made.

The number of nuisances reported at the Sanitary office was 34.

Fourteen visits and 9 purchases were made in accordance with the requirements of the Food and Drugs' Acts.

One sample of water was taken and analysed and found to be polluted.

61 Tub Closets have been registered, 18 smoke observation have been taken.

526 letters have been written, and 36 Legal notices have been issued for abatement of nuisances, 144 preliminary notices to owners were sent, and 266 owners were personally interviewed.

83 premises where cases of infectious diseases have occurred have been flushed.

32 other flushings have been paid for by owners, 550 other premises, yards or courts have also been flushed.

2,463 articles have been disinfected by the Lyons' Disinfecter.

118,167 receptacles have been emptied, and 296 applications for ashpits emptying and 28 for tubs were received at this office.

ERNEST G. ANNIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Health Office, Huddersfield.

The following Table shows the Meteorological Conditions for each week of the Quarter.

1896.	Oct 10	Oct 17	Oct 24	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26	Jan 2	Average	Totals
Barometer, mean height, inches..	29.55	30.10	29.45	29.58	30.14	30.02	29.92	30.46	29.71	29.48	29.59	30.08	30.08	29.86	
Thermometer, mean for week ..	47.4	44.2	39.9	38.4	38.4	41.5	41.1	41.8	36.4	41.7	35.2	36.5	41.9	40.3	
Do. Mean highest day in air	52.1	47.7	44.7	43.4	43.8	45.5	45.1	43.2	39.7	44.8	37.5	40.3	46.1	44.1	
Do. Mean lowest night in air	42.7	40.6	35.2	33.5	33.0	37.4	37.1	40.4	33.1	38.5	32.9	32.7	37.6	36.5	
Do. Mean diurnal range	9.4	7.1	9.5	9.9	10.8	8.1	8.0	2.8	6.6	6.3	4.6	7.6	8.5	7.6	
Do. Mean 4ft. 6in. in ground	53°	52°	50°	49°	46°	46°	45°	45°	45°	44°	44°	43°	43°	47°	
Do. Mean 2ft. 6in. in ground	51°	49°	47°	45°	42°	41°	42°	42°	41°	41°	40°	39°	40°	43°	
Do. Absolute hig'st day in sun	90°	88°	77°	79°	65°	68°	68°	50°	60°	57°	52°	57°	60°	67°	
Do. Absolute hig'st day in air	58°	55°	48°	46°	46°	50°	48°	47°	47°	49°	40°	54°	52°	49°	
Do. Absolute low'st nig't in air	39°	33°	32°	31°	25°	32°	31°	35°	22°	34°	30°	27°	30°	31°	
Do. do. low'st nig't on grass	34°	32°	28°	27°	23°	27°	28°	33°	20°	29°	26°	24°	24°	27°	
Do. Greatest range.....	56	55	49	51	42	41	40	17	40	28	26	33	27	39	
Prevailing wind.....	SW	NW&NE	SW	SW E	W SW	W SW	W SW	E NE	SE	W SW	W NW	E SE	SW		
Velocity of wind, miles per hour	50	40	23	17	20	25	22	24	28	28	20	40	40	29	
Total rainfall, inches	2.37	0.28	0.41	0.75	0.76	0.29	0.08	0.06	1.28	0.63	0.18	0.50	0.73		8.32
Mean moisture of saturation %...	82.5	81.9	82.0	85.4	81.4	78.4	85.9	86.5	88.8	91.2	85.4	84.3	85.9	84.6	

The following Table shows the Deaths registered, and the Causes of Sickness reported for each week of the Quarter.

	1896.												Average	Totals	
	Oct 10	Oct 17	Oct 24	Oct 31	Nov 7	Nov 14	Nov 21	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12	Dec 19	Dec 26			Jan 2
New Cases of Sickness, &c.	40	39	18	41	47	41	25	41	30	38	26	13	8	31	407
Cases notified as Infectious, &c. .	7	13	18	5	9	12	8	15	15	17	7	6	9	11	141
Do. Scarlet Fever only	5	8	15	5	6	10	5	13	12	13	5	6	9	9	112
Do. Enteric Fever only	1	3	3	..	2	2	1	..	2	2	1	..	..	1	17
Admissions to Hospital	5	7	15	5	7	9	5	11	13	14	7	6	8	9	112
Deaths, all causes	26	23	27	29	35	51	30	37	38	39	32	35	41	34	443
Do. Seven Zymotic Diseases .	1	1	3	1	6	4	1	3	5	7	3	3	3	3	39
Do. Small-pox only .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Do. Measles only .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Do. Scarlet Fever only .....	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
Do. Diphtheria only .....	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	4
Do. Whooping Cough only ..	1	..	2	1	3	3	..	1	3	5	2	2	3	2	26
Do. Enteric Fever only .....	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Do. Diarrhoea only .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Death Rate—Huddersfield	13.50	11.94	14.02	15.06	18.18	26.49	15.58	19.22	19.74	20.25	16.62	18.18	21.29	17.70	
Do. 33 Large Towns ..	16.70	16.24	17.56	19.72	20.61	20.78	21.31	19.32	19.41	18.87	18.20	17.03	22.26	19.08	

New Cases of Sickness occurring during the 13 weeks ended 2nd January, 1897,
amongst Paupers and Home Patients of the Infirmary.

DISTRICTS OF BOROUGH.	I	II	Continued Fevers													Consumption	Other diseases of Breathing Organs	Diseases of the Heart, Liver, Kidney, Stomach, & Bowels	Convulsions and diseases of the Nervous System	Violence, &c	Immaturity and Old Age	Other Diseases	Lead Poisoning	TOTALS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							
			Small-pox	Measles and Rotheln	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Croup	Whooping Cough	Typhus	Typhoid	Other, doubtful (Febricula, &c.)	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Cholera	Rheumatism and Rheumatic Fever	Erysipelas										Pyæmia	Puerperal Fever	Influenza																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
Home Patients	Central	Under 5	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000
Out-door Patients	Central	Under 5	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																							

BIRKBY FEVER HOSPITAL,

Report of patients in the Hospital for 13 weeks ended Saturday, 2nd of January, 1897.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric, or Typhoid Fever.	Other, or doubtful cases.	Total.
No. in hospital on Saturday, 3rd Oct., 1896	..	51	..	5	..	56
No. since admitted	..	106	..	6	..	112
No. discharged	..	99	..	6	..	105
No. died	..	1	..	2	..	3
No. remaining in hospital	..	57	..	3	..	60

REMOVAL OF NUISANCES.

Drains requiring Re-construction (stone drains)	28	Nuisances from Poultry and Pigeons	1
" " connecting with main sewer (pipe drains)	35	Animals	..
" " not Efficiently Trapped	18	Offensive Accumulations	..
Requiring Ventilation Shafts	54	Asphits and Privies	..
Defective Sink Drains	33	" Swill Tubs	..
" Yard Drains	75	Urine Guards Required for Tubs	..
" Cellar Drains	43	Closets Requiring Lime-washing	..
" Eaves and Fall Pipes	34	Workshops Requiring Lime-washing and Repairing	..
" Street Gullies	31	Asphits and Closets Requiring Re-construction	14
" Roofing	4	" " Requiring Proper Doors & Covering	6
" Urinals	2	Old Privies altered to Tub or Water Closet system	11
" Baths	3	Insufficient Closet Accommodation	4
" Water Closets	6	Houses Overcrowded	3
Sink Pipes, &c. Requiring Disconnecting	64	" Unfit for Habitation	2
To Provide Sinkstones to Houses	..	" Requiring Cleansing	29
Fall Pipes Requiring Disconnecting	..	" Requiring Ventilation	12
To Provide Eave and Fall Pipes	26	Damp	2
Nuisances from Want of Drains	19	" Requiring Water Supply	..
" Water in Cellar	11	Cowsheds Requiring Lime-washing	16
" Cellar Wells	2	" " Light and Ventilation	38
" Cess Pools	3	" " Draining	4
" Stagnant Water	11	" " Paving	2
" Defective Paving of Yard	..	Bakehouses Requiring Lime-washing or Cleansing	1
" Smoke	5	Total	678

EDITOR
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BRITISH
MUSEUM