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Rural District Council of Lanchester.

— THE —

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

Durham :

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MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

ROCHESTER

PRINTED BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL, ROCHESTER.

1893

LANCHESTER DISTRICT.

Lanchester,

January 30th, 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The several villages and places comprising the Lanchester Division of the Lanchester Rural District Council have been, from time to time, systematically inspected by me throughout the year 1895.

Greencroft Cottages are clean. Many of the houses here have been pointed, spouted, and repaired during the year, and some of the privies and ashpits overhauled. The inhabitants of the old pit row, near this place, have been supplied with water from the Consett Water Company's mains.

South Pontop and Clavering Place are fairly clean. The houses at those villages have been repaired and spouted during the summer, and the day water prevented reaching the foundations.

Wagtail Cottages, and Railway and Wylam Streets, near Craghead, are in a good sanitary condition.

Burnhope.—This colliery village is in a fair sanitary condition. The owner, Mr. U. A. Ritson, still continues the necessary improvements. During the year, all the old rows of houses have been repaired and spouted. Along the back of some of those rows, the earth, which has been lying for years, is now being removed and will be replaced by cement, which will make the houses much dryer and also preserve the property.

Langley Park.—The village is in a good sanitary condition. Two yards have been paved in Quebec Street and Durham Road, and a new ashpit and privy have been built at White's Houses. Atkinson's Houses were spouted after an order obtained from the Magistrates. Orders have been made, and a fine inflicted, by the Magistrates to enforce the paving of the yard and the building of a new privy and ashpit, in lieu of the old ones, at Forster's Houses, Quebec Street, and Durham Road, but nothing has yet been done.

Hill Top, near Esh, is in good sanitary condition.

Ushaw Moor.—Since Messrs. Pease and Partners became the owners of Ushaw Moor Colliery, the village has been much improved. The dilapidated ashpits and privies have been renewed and are regularly emptied every two weeks. The holes in the streets, which were dangerous in the dark to the inhabitants, are now filled up, and cemented footpaths have been made along the front of the houses. This has given the village a clean and tidy appearance. On the 20th of September, I made a house to house

visit of the village. Generally speaking, I found the houses clean, but many of them are damp, and some of them very damp in the floors and some distance up the inside walls, and a few of them required pointing on the roofs. There is no situation in this district better adapted for healthy dwellings than Ushaw Moor; but, unfortunately, no regard was paid to subsoil drainage before the houses were built, which accounts for the dampness of the floors and walls.

The important questions for the District Council to consider are : how to get rid, as far as possible, of the predisposing and exciting causes of infectious diseases in the villages of this district. This could, to a large extent, be achieved if the persons concerned apply themselves to the work. First, if the owner of the houses would make and keep them as dry as they can be made; and secondly, if the occupiers would endeavour to keep them clean, and when a catching disease makes its appearance to have the patient removed at once to the hospital. The owners also to provide for the regular emptying of the ashpits and privies every week, or every two weeks at the longest, and during dry weather to have the drains flushed daily.

My recommendations as to Ushaw Moor are :—All pigeon cotes and hen-crees should be removed from the yards. I mean this also to apply to the other villages of this district. The kitchen floors should be cemented, and the defective roofs repaired. Between the upper end of the village and the wood a deep channel should be made to prevent the rain-water flowing down the streets.

Esh Winning is clean.

Newhouse Cottages.—A great improvement has been effected here by the providing of new kerbing and channelling, and the laying of a cement footpath in front of these cottages. At the back of the houses, and also those in Durham Road, 16 privies have been remodelled, and the same number of ashpits have been covered and cemented out.

Railway Terrace, near Hamsteels Colliery.—The roofs of the houses have been repaired, and a portion of the yard relayed.

Hamsteels Colliery.—“The Huts,” near this place, is a row of 16 one-storey houses, each consisting of a room and kitchen. The walls are half-a-brick in thickness. The rain rushes through the roofs, and the floors and some distance up the inside walls are very damp.

There are three rows of houses at Hamsteels Colliery, namely—Low Row, Cross Row, and High Row. The roofs of most of the ashpits at High Row are bad, and the yards are damp, which tends to keep the houses unhealthy. About the middle of this row there is an open space. At this point, the channel which conveys the

slop water from the west end of the row runs along to a covered drain, but does not empty itself for want of sufficient fall. At the East end of the row, the channel empties itself into a dirty gutter. The channel in connection with the one-storey houses of the Low Row is in bad condition, and the yards of the two-storey houses of this row are damp. The channel which conveys the slop water from the top of Cross Row empties into a deep drain at the Colliery Office.

My recommendations are the following:—"The Huts," should be closed as being unfit for habitation, because of the wet subsoil and the dampness of the floors and inside walls. A system of covered drains should be adopted for Hamsteels Colliery houses. The roofs of the ashpits ought to be made water tight, and the floors and those of the privies should be cemented. The houses should be properly spouted. The walls dividing the yards should be pulled down, so as to allow the sun to fall upon the yards and a sufficiency of air to play up and down. They also should be cemented.

Quebec.—A system of sewerage will be commenced immediately at this village.

Esh.—All the houses in this village are now provided with a good supply of water from the Consett Water Company's mains.

Marley's Houses have been re-spouted and re-pointed, and consequently are much improved.

Cornsay Colliery.—The main drain in connection with the row of houses called Commercial Street, which stand on the border of Esh Township, at this village, is unsatisfactory from the fact that it runs under some of the dwelling houses, and which shows that it was made before the houses were built.

Coates, the butcher, who resides in this row, throws the offal from his shop on the manure heap immediately behind his stable and cow-byre. The gases given off from decomposition are most disagreeable and dangerous to health. On the day of my visit, the 7th of November, I found the byre dirty and without ventilation, and the urine from the cows conveyed from the byre by a channel into a neighbour's garden. During my investigations, I could trace no connection between the milk from this dairy and the cases of typhoid fever in Cornsay Colliery village. Nevertheless, there must have been some fortuitous circumstance—not a clean and wholesome byre—that prevented the contamination of the milk while the cows were being milked. The pig-cree was in a filthy state. In cases of typhoid fever, the proper dealings with the excretions from the bowels and the urine is of the greatest importance, for it is in this particular, along with general cleanliness, that the prevention of the spreading of the disease rests.

When there is a garden or a field near the house, the excretions should be buried, but when there are neither, as is the case with many houses at Cornsay Colliery, they should be put into a covered ashpit and covered over with ashes.

My recommendations at the time were the following :—A new drain should be made behind Commercial Street, and at some distance from the houses, with branches for the slop water ; and the rain water from the houses should be conveyed into the drain so as to allow of periodic flushing. Coates should be prevented selling milk or butter until his byre is put into a sanitary condition. The manure heap should be removed from behind the byre, and the offal should be dealt with in some other way than it has been done. The pig-creche should be removed from its present position.

At Cornsay Colliery village, the excretions from the bowels of Typhoid Fever patients were thrown into the privy, to the great annoyance and danger of the neighbours. Therefore, the covering of the ashpits at this place should be insisted upon, as being the proper receptacles for the excretions under the circumstances.

East Hedley Hope is clean. The roofs of some of the houses, here, and the defective state of the spouting have been repaired.

Hedley Fell.—The whole of the ashpits at this village have been covered and made water-tight, and many of the privies have been repaired. Pipes are now being laid to supply the inhabitants with water from the Weardale and Shildon Water Company's reservoir, a subsidy of £1500 having been made by the District Council for this purpose. The row of houses at Cowsley have also been supplied with water from the same source.

Cornsay.—Two new privies and ashpits have been erected, and several houses have been repaired at this village during the year. A Magistrate's order has been issued for the repairing of the roofs, the pointing of the houses, and providing drainage for Forster's Houses. Pipes for a water supply from the Weardale and Shildon Water Company are now being laid here. The same Company also supply water to the hamlet of Lark Place, and to Lesson Grove and Stowe House farm houses. At the beginning of September, Scarlet Fever broke out in the family of the school master at Cornsay Alms Houses. In consequence, I thought it prudent to advise the closing of the school.

Upper Houses.—The house and farm buildings here have been put into a sanitary condition, and a new ashpit and drains provided for the premises.

The Hamlet of Biggen and Malton Colliery.—Pipes have been extended to these places for a water supply from the Consett Water Company's mains. The drainage of Biggen Farm-house has been relaid, and the buildings respouted and repaired. The privies attached to the Huts at Malton Colliery have been repaired.

Lanchester.—The drainage of the Police Station is being relaid, and water-closets are taking the place of two insanitary earth-closets.

Dormand's Cottages near Lanchester, have been supplied with water from the Consett Water Company's mains.

New privies and ashpits have been erected at Maiden Law.

The privies and ashpits at Hill Top, near Tow Law, Low West House, Whiteside Farm house, and Holmside Cottage have been renovated.

The new houses that have been erected in this district during the year are : 1 at Langley Park, 6 at Ushaw Moor, 4 at Holmside, 6 at Esh Winning, 1 at Craghead, and 1 at Quebec.

The Dairies and Cowsheds, with the exception of the one I have mentioned, are kept clean. Many of them are small for the number of cattle they contain, and the light insufficient, but they are well ventilated.

A large number of Statutory notices have been issued by the District Council, and where not complied with within a reasonable time of the period within which the work is ordered to be executed, the District Council have taken proceedings before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of the notices.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease was in different parts of this district throughout the year. 7 cases were notified in the month of January, the number gradually increasing until November, when a considerable decrease took place. The disease rose to an epidemic in the township of Esh, in which there were 283 cases. 475 cases were notified, and 16 deaths returned.

Typhoid Fever.—The first two cases of this disease appeared simultaneously in January—one at Hollinside Cottages and the other at Middlewood, a little more than a gun shot apart. The patients had not been from home for some considerable time prior to their sickening, and on my inspection of the places I found nothing to account for the disease. The next case occurred at Low Greencroft. I visited the place and found the house and its surroundings clean. The patient—a man—had caught a feverish cold through frequent wettings, which developed into typhoid fever. The greatest number of cases were notified in the month of October. Several cases appeared in succession in the same house in different parts of the district, and being unable to trace the cause of the first cases, I found the want of special cleanliness in nursing infected the others of the household. 35 cases were notified, and 3 deaths returned.

Continued Fever.—6 cases were notified, but no deaths returned.

Notwithstanding the large amount of sanitary work done in this district within the past two or three years. Typhoid Fever and Scarlet Fever have not been stamped out; and although there have been a great number of cases from these diseases in the year, there can, I think, be little doubt that the disease was of a much milder type than formerly, and which, I believe, can only be attributed to the improved sanitary condition of the district.

The Joint Hospital Board expect that the new Infectious Hospital for this District will be ready for the reception of patients by the beginning of March next, and I trust it will prove a useful institution to the neighbourhood.

Puerperal Fever.—There have been two deaths returned from this disease, but only one case was notified.

Diphtheria.—5 cases were notified, and 1 death returned.

Membraneous Croup.—8 cases were notified, and 6 deaths returned.

Erysipelas.—45 cases were notified, and 1 death returned.

Diarrhœa.—This disease was epidemic on the South side of the district from August until November. 902 cases were reported, and 11 deaths returned.

Whooping Cough.—16 cases were reported, and 1 death returned.

Measles.—29 cases were reported, and 1 death returned.

It will be seen from the mortality table that the number of deaths are 358, being 12 more than the previous year, and giving a death rate of 21·8 per thousand. The diseases of the respiratory organs, including Phthisis, caused 115 deaths, being 16 more than the former year, and giving a death rate of 7 per thousand. The deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia are 19 more, and the deaths from Phthisis are 3 less than in 1894.

The births were 694, being 25 more than the previous year, and giving a birth-rate of 42·2 per thousand.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

JOHN WILSON.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
LANCHESTER.

(A). TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the Rural District of Lanchester (Lanchester District) classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.										MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.											TOTAL			
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards	Under 5	5 upw'ds	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
								Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Cont'd	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria & Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease		Injuries	All Other Diseases	
Cornsey ..	51	14	7	6	5	6	18	Under 5 5 upw'ds	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	21
Esh ..	127	42	24	8	6	27	20	Under 5 5 upw'ds	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	22	..	2	14	..	..	..	25	66
Greencroft ..	33	6	4	4	1	7	11	Under 5 5 upw'ds	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	2	3	..	..	..	8	10
Hedley Hope ..	11	5	2	..	1	2	1	Under 5 5 upw'ds	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	6	7
Lanchester ..	96	36	10	2	6	22	20	Under 5 5 upw'ds	1	..	..	1	..	..	4	1	14	..	6	13	..	..	..	26	46
Langley ..	3	1	1	..	..	..	1	Under 5 5 upw'ds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
Satley ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	Under 5 5 upw'ds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
Workhouse ..	33	3	..	..	1	14	15	Under 5 5 upw'ds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	11	..	..	..	15	3
TOTALS ..	358	107	48	20	20	78	85	Under 5 5 upw'ds	9	1	..	2	..	1	1	9	2	2	13	45	1	..	..	81	155
									7	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	18	55	22	..	..	..	97	203

MEDOMSLEY DISTRICT.

Ebchester Hill,

February 3rd, 1896.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting you with my Annual Report of Health for the Medomsley District, for the year ending December 31st, 1895.

The Registrar's returns show that 255 births were registered against 247 of last year, giving on a population of 7648 estimated to the middle of 1895, a birth-rate of 33·3 as against 33·3 per thousand of previous year.

The deaths registered at all ages were 152, as against 105, giving a death-rate of 19·8 as against 14·1 per 1000 of previous year.

The following tables show the number of deaths and the ages at which death occurred in Medomsley, Ebchester, Healey Field, and Muggleswick :—

In Medomsley	38 deaths were under 1 year.
„	14 deaths were 1 and under 5 years.
„	5 deaths were 5 and under 15 years.
„	11 deaths were 15 and under 25 years.
„	20 deaths were 25 and under 65 years.
„	20 deaths were 65 years and upwards.

Total at all ages 108 deaths.

In Ebchester	1 death was under 1 year.
„	1 death was 5 and under 15 years.
„	4 deaths were 15 and under 25 years.
„	3 deaths were 65 and upwards.

Total at all ages 9 deaths.

In Healey Field and

Muggleswick	8 deaths were under 1 year.
„	2 deaths were 1 and under 5 years.
„	3 deaths were 5 and under 15 years.
„	1 death was 15 and under 25 years.
„	3 deaths were 25 and under 65 years.
„	9 deaths were 65 and upwards.

Total at all ages 26 deaths.

The following table shows the different causes of death :—

Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	1 death.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	1 death.
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	2 deaths.
Enteric or Typhoid	...	...	...	...	12 deaths.
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2 deaths.
Cholera (English)	...	...	...	...	1 death.
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1 death.
Diarrhœa and Dysentry	...	...	...	...	6 deaths.
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1 death.
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	15 deaths.
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy...	...	...	...	...	31 deaths.
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	10 deaths.
Influenza	...	...	...	...	3 deaths.
Injuries	...	...	...	...	3 deaths.
All other diseases	...	...	...	...	63 deaths.
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	152 deaths.

No deaths occurred from Small-Pox, Typhus, Continued or Relapsing Fever, Measles, or Whooping Cough.

Diphtheria caused one death under 5 years in Medomsley, and one above 5 years.

Membranous Croup caused one death under 5 years and one above 5 years in Medomsley. Enteric or Typhoid caused one death under 5 years and eleven above 5 years in Medomsley. Puerperal Fever caused two deaths in Medomsley. English Cholera caused one death under 5 years in Medomsley. Erysipelas caused one death above 5 years in Medomsley. Diarrhœa and Dysentry caused three deaths under 5 years and two above 5 years in Medomsley, and one above 5 years in Healey Field and Muggleswick. Rheumatic Fever caused one death in Healey Field and Muggleswick. Phthisis caused one death in Medomsley under 5 years and eleven above 5 years, two in Ebchester above 5 years, and one death in Healey Field and Muggleswick above 5 years. Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy caused fourteen deaths in Medomsley under 5 years, and eight above 5 years; and four in Healey Field and Muggleswick under 5 years, and five above 5 years. Heart disease caused six deaths above 5 years in Medomsley, 1 under and 1 above 5 years in Ebchester, and 2 above 5 years in Healey Field and Muggleswick. Influenza caused 1 death under 5 years and 2 above 5 years in Medomsley. Injuries caused 1 death above 5 years in Medomsley, and 2 above 5 years in Ebchester. All other diseases caused 29 deaths under 5 years, and 1 above 5 years in Medomsley; 3 above 5 years in Ebchester, 5 under 5 years in Healey Field and Muggleswick, and 7 above 5 years. Total from all diseases 152.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—118 cases are notified. In Medomsley, 6 are under 5 years and 21 upwards from Scarlatina. Diphtheria, 4 under 5 years, and 7 upwards, in Medomsley. Membranous Croup, 2 under 5 years, 1 upwards, in Medomsley. Enteric and Typhoid, 5 under 5 years, and 41 upwards, in Medomsley. Continued Fever, 2 upwards, in Medomsley. Puerperal Fever, 3 in Medomsley, upwards, and 1 in Healey Field and Muggleswick, upwards. Erysipelas, 2 above 5 years, in Medomsley, and 16 upwards. 4 in Ebchester, upwards, and 2 in Healey Field and Muggleswick, upwards. Influenza, 1 case in Ebchester, upwards. Total 118.

9 cases were removed to the Leadgate Fever Hospital, viz. :—1 case of Scarlatina, and 8 cases of Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

During the quarter ending March 31st, Diarrhœa, Erysipelas, Scarlatina, and Bronchitis were very prevalent. In the quarter ending June 30th, Erysipelas and Scarlatina were also prevalent; and in the quarter ending September 30th, Erysipelas, Scarlatina, and Typhoid Fever were also prevalent. In the quarter ending December 31st, Erysipelas, Typhoid Fever, and Scarlatina also were prevalent.

The following observations were made :—The meat and milk supply were good. The Dairies were all in good order, and no disease of an infectious nature have come under notice. The Slaughter Houses are well kept.

Food and Drugs Act.—No action taken or required. Section iv. Act 3 of the General Order of 11th November, 1872, has been attended to.

The Water Supply has been very good and ample from the Consett Water Company.

Scavenging.—Removal of ashes and contents of privies are all well attended to, and removed to a distance from dwelling-houses.

Housing of the Working Classes is fairly good.

The Yards at Bradley Cottages have been cemented out and are greatly improved, and are now quite dry. At Derwent Cottages drains have been laid down, which has greatly improved these houses.

Monthly inspection of the district is regularly carried out, and anything unsanitary is reported to the Sanitary Inspector.

Hamsterley Colliery is much improved of late, but there are a few houses require attention. The tenants complain of the rain and wind in rough weather.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The yards have been cemented out, and the privies and ashpits and the houses spouted, put into a sanitary condition at Bradley Cottages.

The houses have been spouted, and new footpath and channels have been provided at Derwent Cottages. The areas between the pantries, where such exist as leans to structure, have been paved with a cement paving, as also has the footpath of the long row. New drains have been laid to take day water away from the premises.

The whole of the ashpits in Dene Bank, Hamsterley Colliery, have been covered over and the floor made watertight. Sixteen houses have been spouted at Castleside, and several new privies and ashpits of improved type have been erected at this place. New covered ashpits have been erected at Medomsley Edge, Temple Town, Ebchester, and Southfield.

A pump has been erected at Ebchester to prevent the contamination of the supply of Water at the Well on Ebchester Hill.

The drainage at Westwood House has been improved. Horsley Hope Mill has been put into a sanitary condition, and the premises at Southfield repaired.

The works for the disposal of sewage from High and Low Westwood, Croniwell, and part of Allendale Cottages are nearly complete. At Black Hall Mill a sewerage scheme is in contemplation, and improvements to defective premises are now in course of execution at this place.

The dairies and cow-sheds are in a fairly good condition, and, as a rule, the scavenging of the villages is satisfactory.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. T. BOLTON,

Medical Officer.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
LANCHESTER.

ANNFIELD PLAIN DISTRICT.

Stanley R.S.O.,

Durham,

January 25th, 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to present you with my report for the year 1895.

The number of notifiable infectious diseases reported to me was 172, and the non-notifiable 55 ; the latter consisted of Measles only, and the former of Scarlatina, Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Puerperal Fever, and Erysipelas.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlatina.—This disease has been present in one or more parts of the district throughout the whole year, but principally in the Townships of Collierley and Kyo. There were few cases up to the beginning of October, when it became epidemic in the village of Kyo, the outbreak lasting until the end of November. The schools being situated almost in the centre of infection, all children residing outside the village were prohibited attending from the outset. Subsequently the schools were closed, with marked benefit. The number of cases amounted to 101, with a mortality of 4.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.—The following list shows the number of cases of this fever, and the localities where they occurred, viz. : In January, one at Dipton and one at Annfield Plain ; in February, one at Dipton and two at Catchgate ; in March, one at Lintz ; one at Dipton, in both April and July ; in August, five at Dipton and one at Annfield Place ; in September, two at Dipton and one each at Woodhouses, Annfield Place, and Raisenside ; in October, nine at Dipton and one each at South Medomsley and Kyo ; in November, one at Dipton. Total 31 cases, with 7 deaths. As regard their origin.—The Annfield Plain case was an importation, and the two at Catchgate originated from it. The first case in Annfield Place was a visitor who arrived with the disease developed, the second followed in the same premises. Those at Kyo and Lintz could not be accounted for. All the remainder were undoubtedly the offspring of an outbreak that began in the village of Dipton in the summer of 1893, and continued more or less up to the date of the last mentioned case.

Continued Fever.—The five cases reported resided within the area of infection of Typhoid Fever, and they may probably have been a mild form of that malady.

Membranous Croup and Diphtheria, although notified separately, were in reality identically the same disease. The first case—one of Croup—directly infected another of Croup and 6 of Diphtheria. One case of Croup succumbed quickly, four cases of Diphtheria were sent to the Fever Hospital, and the others were effectually isolated.

Puerperal Fever.—Four cases occurred during the year, but not one of them appeared to be due to one particular specific cause. No death resulted.

Erysipelas.—The number (22) was a large one and the causes various; there was, however, a minimum of infection (if any) about the whole. One death resulted.

Measles invaded the district once, commencing in June and ending in July. The number reported was 55, and the area it covered was confined to Annfield Plain and its vicinity. Previously the disease had been prevalent on the borders of the adjoining district some time, hence the invasion was not unexpected. Two cases ended fatally.

Diarrhœa was less prevalent than usual. The few cases were unimportant from an infective point of view and none were fatal.

The district was visited with **Influenza**, but probably not of the true type, although the returns give two deaths directly and one indirectly from it.

All the cases that could be induced to enter the Fever Hospital were four of Diphtheria, one of Enteric Fever, and one of Scarlatina.

With reference to the continuance of Typhoid Fever in Dipton, as neither the milk nor water supply—the usual channels for conveying infection—were at fault, and in many instances there had not been any communication between infected households, the cause, in my opinion, may be looked for in the present arrangements of the out-offices. Many of them consist of an ashpit with one or more privies attached, and the former, being uncovered and not cemented, material with infective germs percolate into soil close to the dwellings. To cement the ashpits without covering them would only convert them into uncleanable cesspools.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered, during that portion of the year ending June 15th, was 279, and the deaths 118. The birth rate being equal to an annual ratio of 40, and the death rate to 16·6 per thousand, estimating the population at 15·500.

The numbers registered, after the division of the district, to the end of the year were 182 births and 96 deaths, giving a birth and death-rate of 38 and 20 respectively per 1000, estimating the population at 8600. The whole birth-rate for the year was 39,

and the death-rate 18·3 per 1000. The mortality from infectious diseases was 15, being equal to 32 per cent. of the whole deaths. Infantile mortality still shews a bad record, although there was an improvement over many previous years. Nearly a third of the deaths were under the age of one year, but none were due to infectious diseases.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The following improvements were carried out in the township of Tanfield, prior to its conversion into an Urban District Council on June 15th :

Eight houses situated in Tanfield, three at Tantobie, and twenty-one at White-le-Head, were overhauled and thoroughly repaired. Three houses at Clough Dene and one at Burnopfield were closed as unfit for habitation, one at the former place has since been made habitable. A supply of water has been laid to Liddle's Terrace, Burnopfield. Upper Lintz Cottages were put into sanitary condition. Several out-offices have been improved. A number of Statutory notices were served, but were unexpired at the time of separation of the district. The removal of refuse has been well attended to. In that portion of the district remaining under your Authority's control, a great amount of sanitary work has been carried out.

The whole of South Medomsley Cottages and Annfield Cottages have been spouted and other defects remedied, and an easier obtainable water supply laid down.

Starford's Buildings, which were damp and generally in an insanitary state, have been thoroughly repaired.

Dowlais Cottages have been considerably improved, and six new privies and ashpits have been erected in substitution of defective ones, the remainder were repaired, but are still unsatisfactory.

The following houses have been spouted, viz. :—Delight Rows, Lillie Row, Curry's Houses, and Easten's Houses, and, in addition to spouting, thirty more, situated in the same neighbourhood, have been pointed and otherwise repaired to free them from damp. Fourteen new out-offices were built where needed.

The whole of the above premises are situated in the township of Collierley, but chiefly in Dipton. In the Annfield Plain district a great number of houses have been spouted and generally repaired, notably at Pontop Rows, Annfield Place, Annfield Plain, and East Pontop. New out-offices have been erected at Rodney's Yard, Thompson's Yard, Allen's Yard, Aynsley's Yard, and Harelaw. Practically the whole of Kyo Village has been overhauled, and all important defects remedied, and new out-offices supplied to Dickinson's Rows. New out-offices and self-contained yards have

been added to Cement Houses. A considerable number of new houses, provided with modern sanitary requisites, have been built during the year at Catchgate and Annfield Plain, while many others are in course of erection.

Fumigation and disinfection have been applied after outbreaks of Fever.

The dairies have been periodically inspected.

Slaughter-houses are satisfactory.

The only licensed lodging-house is well kept, and it would be beneficial to have one or two more in the district, to prevent temporary overcrowding.

No prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act has been found necessary.

Water supply to the whole district is good.

Tables, giving particulars of sickness and deaths, are attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer.

THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,
LANCHESTER.

(A.) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1895, in the Lanchester Rural District (Annfield Plain District); classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages.							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguished Deaths of Children under five Years of Age.															Total							
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 & upwards	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
								Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Cont'd Fevers.	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Krysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever		Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All other Diseases	
In the Townships of Collierley, Kyo, & Tanfield	118	35	12	8	13	37	18	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	18	7	1	2	6	89	47
After separation of Tanfield..	96	32	18	4	5	23	14	..	2	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	6	3	6	..	..	8	41	50
TOTALS ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	24	1	10	7	9	80	97	
																													53	117

(B.) TABLE OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1895, IN THE LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT (ANNFIELD PLAIN DISTRICT)

(B.) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Lanchester Rural District (Annfield Plain District); classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.														
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1895			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid												
					Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Contind Fevers.	Relapsing	Puerpera	Cholera	Erysipelas																	
In the Townships of Collierley, Kyo & Tanfield, to June 15th.	14766	15500	279	Under 5 6 upwards.	14	20	1	6	3	4	1	1	1			
From June 15th, after the separation of Tanfield	8250	8600	182	Under 5 6 upwards.	31	36	1	1	..	1	23	2	7	2	2	
Totals	461	Under 5 6 upwards	45	56	2	2	1	2	24	5	4	1	1	1	21	7	21	1	2	2	1	1

