Leominster

Herefd

THE CROASE HOUSE,

KINGSLAND,

Jan. 27th, 1912.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1911. The district consists of the town of Leominster and a small fringe of surrounding country, which is purely agricultural, and there are no trades except such as are incidental to such a district. The Poor Law Relief is—for the Outparish, one person in every 83, at a cost of 7d. per head of total population, and for the Borough proper, one in 39, at a cost of 1s. 8¾d per head. Free use of Hereford General Hospital and Leominster Cottage Hospital is made by the inhabitants of the district. The population at the last census was 5,737, and, estimated to the middle of the year, 5,752. There were 152 births, giving a birth-rate of 26.2 per thousand inhabitants. The average rate for the previous ten years was 22.2. There were 12 illegitimate births during the year, giving a rate of 12.6 of the total births. The number of deaths which actually occurred in the district was 91, but of these 9 did not belong to Leominster, while 4 residents died in other towns. This gives an average of 15.8 per thousand per annum of actual deaths registered, and 14.9 of residents proper. The average number for the previous 10 years was of actual deaths registered 105.8, and of residents proper 89.8, or an average of 16.8 of the former and 14.9 of the latter. There were 16 deaths in the Union and Cottage Hospital, 9 of which did not belong to the district. There were no uncertified deaths. The Coroner certified five.

Infant Mortality.—There were 11 deaths of children under one year, or an average of 72.3 per thousand births registered. Of these one was prematurely born, one died of enteritis, one of tubercle, 5 of marasmus, 2 of convulsions, one of other causes. Three deaths were of illegitimate children; two of them died of marasmus and one of convulsions.

Zymotic Diseases.—There was only one death from Whooping Cough during the year, and there were two deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis. This gives an average of 0.5 per thousand per annum. During the year there were 12 cases of Diphtheria and 16 of Scarlatina. All were of a mild type, and there were no deaths. It is almost impossible to trace the cause of infection, for it is certain that some cases are so mild that they never get reported at all, and so spread the disease. During the year a number of cases of Chicken-pox, Mumps, and Whooping Cough were reported from the various schools.

Phthisis.—There were 8 deaths from this cause, 3 males and 5 females, or 1.3 per thousand per annum.

Cancer.—There were 7 deaths from this cause, or 1.2 per thousand per annum.

There are not sufficient houses in the district, and more will be built in the near future. Some cases of overcrowding were noticed, but nothing can be done in this matter, nor in the case of houses condemned until new houses can be built. Plans of new buildings have to be approved by the Borough Surveyor before being allowed to be acted upon.

Work under the Housing and Town Planning Act.—

Premises inspected	370
Notices served to improve the same ...	302
,, outstanding	64
Houses condemned	6
,, improved under notice	306

Detailed Repairs.—

Repairs to defective roofs	52
,, ,, floors	96
New closets erected	26
Closets repaired	48
Windows made to open	109
,, additional, fixed	10
,, enlarged	22
D traps condemned	84
New gulley traps fixed	107
Drains relaid and repaired	45
Eaves guttering and down pipes repaired	54
,, ,, ,, ,, new	29
Rooms repaired, cleaned, & whitewashed	618
Yard paving repaired or renewed ...	48
New closet pans fixed	32
Flushing cisterns ,, ...	25
Exterior walls repaired & protected from damp	62
Miscellaneous defects, such as repairs to windows, doors, &c.	83

This work entailed serving 370 notices to occupiers before entry,
making 370 inspections before reporting to Committee,
serving 370 notices after inspections, with detailed specifications to improve the same,
making 760 re-inspections during progress of repairs.

The Borough is drained by the town sewers, and is in a good state. The few houses unconnected having earth closets or cesspools. In the poorer districts, one closet to two houses is the rule, and where less have been found, in every instance this standard has been insisted upon. In the Out-parish earth closets and cesspools are in use. The sewage of the Borough is discharged into the river Arrow just before it joins the Lugg. House refuse is removed in the Borough by the town carts, daily collections being made.

The water supply to the Borough, by means of the town Waterworks, is ample in quantity and good in quality. The water is pumped from a large and deep well in a meadow between the rivers Lugg and Pinsley, and about 100 yards distant from each of them, and stored in reservoirs on higher ground, from whence it reaches the town by gravitation. No contamination of this supply should be possible. The Out-parish is supplied by wells and springs, mostly of good quality and quantity, but in the past year, owing to the exceptionally dry season, there has been some little trouble, and in several cases samples were sent for analysis and condemned.

There are 20 dairies and cowsheds in the district, which have been found mainly in good condition. There was some trouble with a few of them in the excessively hot weather, but all were remedied on service of a notice except one, and in this case a summons was issued and a conviction obtained, the offence being the keeping of pigs so as to cause contamination of the cowshed. Handbills are delivered to all persons registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, and are also published in the district calling attention to the provisions of these Orders.

There is only one common lodging-house in the district. This has got into a bad state, and I was called upon to make a special report upon it. This resulted in the place being condemned in its present condition, but the owner at once agreed to carry out any improvements or reconstruction required, and to the satisfaction of the Borough Authorities. There are no cellar dwellings, and no offensive trades. The bakehouses are regularly inspected

and found to be kept in good condition. There are none underground. The schools in the Borough are in good condition and well kept. They are supplied with water from the town mains. The school at Ivington, in the Out-parish, was closed on account of scarlatina in the Master's house. The water supply is good. The only isolation hospital is one for small-pox only, and is situated at Ebnal, in the Out-parish.

There are eight slaughter-houses, one being in the Out-parish. Those in the Borough are supplied with water from the town mains, and the other has a plentiful supply from a pump close at hand.

Hop-Pickers.—So few hop-yards exist in the district, and those mostly employing home pickers that no bye-laws are considered necessary.

The taking of samples and other action under the Food and Drugs Act is left to the police, the Superintendent being the Inspector.

In the very hot weather much trouble was caused by the keeping of pigs, and a number of notices were served. All were obeyed but two, and in these cases summonses were issued and convictions obtained. A seizure was made of a considerable quantity of meat, which was condemned and destroyed. The cause of this was delay in transit during the railway strike, and no blame attached to the tradesman to whom it was consigned.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspector :—

1. Notices served	180
2. Notices complied with	120
3. Notices outstanding	60
4. Letters written	42
5. Complaints investigated	25
6. Nuisances abated	210
7. Legal proceedings taken	3
8. Infectious Diseases :—	
Enquiries	3
Removals to Hospital	0
Premises disinfected	26
Bedding, Clothing, &c., disinfected ...	1 outside all cases of infectious diseases notified.
Schools disinfected	1
9. Houses :—	
Inspected	520
Condemned as unfit for habitation ...	6
Houses erected	10
Houses cleansed and repaired	40
Overcrowding abated	2
10. Water Supply :—	
Wells sunk	5
Wells deepened, repaired, or cleansed	10
Wells closed	2
Samples analysed	4
Water certificates granted	5
11. House Drains :—	
Laid, relaid, cleansed, trapped ...	62
Spouting, waste pipes, sinks, &c., rectified	86
12. Water Closets, Urinals, &c. :—	
Provided	26
Improved and repaired	48
13. Privies, Ashpits :—	
Provided	0
Repaired	0
Converted to Pail Closets	4

14. SCAVENGING :—	
Privies, Receptacles, &c., cleansed ...	84
Ashpits, Cesspits, &c., emptied ...	0
15. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES INSPECTED, &C. ...	8
16. DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS INSPECTED, &C.	20
17. LODGING-HOUSES INSPECTED, CLEANSED, &C.	1
18. WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES INSPECTED, CLEANSED, &C.	42
19. UNSOUND FOOD SEIZED	10 carcases, 4 lots of fish.
20 NUISANCES FROM ANIMALS IMPROPERLY KEPT AND ACCUMULATIONS OF MANURE REMOVED	20
21. MISCELLANEOUS NUISANCES ABATED ...	26

JAMES BUDD,

Sanitary Inspector.

Leominster Urban Sanitary District.

All factories and workshops have been duly visited and only three slight defects found which were promptly rectified at the request of the Surveyor.

In conclusion, I wish to thank your Inspector, Mr. James Budd, for the efficient and conscientious way in which he has carried out his duties during a very busy year, and for the courteous and ready help he always gives me on every possible occasion.

Yours obedient Servant,

ROBERT WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Chairman of the Urban Sanitary Authority, Leominster.

The Orphans' Printing Press, Leominster.