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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF LOUGHBOROUGH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

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TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF LOUGHBOROUGH, ACTING AS THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual report
on the health of the Borough during the year 1897.

The facts and figures on which the report is based indicate, on the whole, a continuous and general improvement in the healthiness of the town. The general death rate is the lowest ever recorded for a whole year in this town; the total number of cases of infectious diseases notified is considerably below the average of the last seven years, and the infant mortality is also below the average. There is a slight increase in the zymotic mortality, which is mainly caused by an increase in the number of deaths from summer diarrhoea and from croup.

M O R T A L I T Y.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 334, but 19 of these occurred at the Workhouse or in the Hospital, and were persons not belonging to Loughborough. By deducting these we get the correct number, which is 315, being 14 less than the number which occurred in 1896, and 27 less than the average of the last seven years. This is an annual death rate of 15.5 per thousand of the estimated population, which, as I have said above, is the lowest ever recorded, being slightly lower than the death rate of 1894, which was then the lowest on record for Loughborough.

Z Y M O T I C M O R T A L I T Y.

The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases was 52. This gives an annual zymotic death rate of 2.5, which is .8 above last year, and .1 above the average of the last seven years. This increase does not in my opinion indicate a less sanitary condition of the town, but is to be attributed rather to climatic influences, namely, damp weather with cold winds in January and April, causing an increase in deaths from croup, and excessively hot weather in August, giving rise to infantile diarrhoea.

B I R T H S.

The total number of births registered was 592; 305 males and 287 females. This is 45 fewer births than last year, and nine below the average of the last seven years, and is equal to a birth rate of 29 per thousand of the estimated population.



THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1898

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON

1899

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases of infectious disease notified under the Act was 121, being 10 more than last year, and 53 less than the average of the last seven years. There were 134 Certificates received from Medical Practitioners, but 13 of these had reference to cases already notified. The number of cases of the several diseases were as follows:- Scarletina, 45; Diphtheria, 7; Membranous Croup, 12; Typhoid Fever, 17; Continued Fever, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; Erysipelas, 38.

SCARLET FEVER.

There was a very satisfactory diminution in the number of cases of this disease which occurred during the year, the number being 45, which is five lower than last year. It is, in fact, the lowest number of scarlet fever cases for any year since 1891. The cases were nearly all isolated ones, there being nothing of the nature of an epidemic at any time.

The greatest care has been exercised to prevent this infection gaining access to our Schools. The patients are at once isolated as much as possible in their homes and the other children of school age are excluded from school until all danger of infection has passed and until the house and clothing have been disinfected. Two deaths were caused by this disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

Seven cases of this disease were notified. Three were traceable to gross insanitary conditions, close to the cottages in which the cases arose; two were attributed to damp in the cellar of the house in which they occurred; one was imported, and in one case no sufficient cause was discoverable. One of these cases terminated fatally.

CROUP (MEMBRANOUS).

Twelve cases of this very fatal disease were notified, 10 of which proved fatal. In only one instance could any insanitary conditions, sufficient to account for the disease, be discovered. Five of these cases occurred in the cold damp weather of April and early May.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Seventeen cases of this disease were notified, four of which were fatal. Six of these cases were imported, five were attributable to local insanitary conditions, and in six cases no sufficient cause could be found. They were all single cases, arising independently, and only in one instance spread to a second member of the family.

CONTINUED FEVER.

One case of this disorder was notified.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One case of this disease occurred and terminated fatally.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified under the Act was 21, being 10 more than last year, and 33 less than the average of the last seven years. There were 134 deaths caused by these diseases, but 18 of these had previously been notified. The number of cases of the following diseases were as follows: - Scarletina, 46; Diphtheria, 7; Measles, 18; Typhoid Fever, 17; Continued Fever, 1; Rubella, 1; Typhus, 3.

SCARLET FEVER

There was a very satisfactory diminution in the number of cases of this disease which occurred during the year, the number being 46, which is less than last year, 112, in fact, the lowest number of cases for any year since 1891. The cases were nearly all isolated ones, there being nothing of the nature of an epidemic at any time.

The greatest care has been exercised to prevent the infection of children in the schools. The patients are at once isolated as much as possible to their homes and the other children of school age are excluded from school until all danger of infection has passed and until the houses and clothing have been disinfected. Two deaths were caused by this disease.

DIPHTHERIA

Seven cases of this disease were notified. Three were reported to the sanitary authorities, and the patients were at once isolated. Two were admitted to hospital in the early stage of the disease, and in both cases recovery was effected. One of the cases was fatal.

MEASLES

Twelve cases of this very fatal disease were notified, 10 of which proved fatal. In only one instance could any means be adopted to prevent the disease, and in this case the patient recovered. The disease is more common in the early months of the year, and in the early months of the year.

Seventeen cases of this disease were notified, four of which were fatal. Six of these cases were reported, five were attributable to local infectious conditions, and in six cases no sufficient cause could be found. They were all slight cases, and in only one instance did the patient recover.

CONTINUOUS FEVER

One case of this disease was notified.

MEASLES

One case of this disease occurred and recovered fully.

ERYSIPELAS.

Thirty-eight cases of this disease were notified There was no mortality from this cause.

MEASLES.

The Borough was quite free from this disease during the year.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Cases of this disease occurred throughout the whole year, and it caused the death of nine infants.

DIARRHOEA.

This disorder was very prevalent, especially amongst infants, during the hot months: namely, July and August, and continued into September. There were 25 deaths due to this cause, four occurring in July, sixteen in August, and five in September, and all were children, except one. As I have pointed out in previous reports, hot weather is, in itself a productive cause of this complaint, but ground air or gases, emanating from the filth saturated surface soils of towns, and retained in badly ventilated houses, serves to intensify this cause. It is noticeable that most of this infantile diarrhoea occurs in children of the working classes, but chiefly among those who live in Courts, and in houses of the back to back class, which do not admit of through ventilation or rapid changing of the air contained in them.

Improper feeding and neglect may possibly tend to increase the mortality from diarrhoea, but the fact that most of these deaths occurred in August, when the weather was very hot, rather points to local atmospheric contamination, as the most probable cause, for it is instructive to notice that there is no corresponding increase in the deaths from diarrhoea during the same period in the Rural Districts surrounding the town. The obvious remedy for this local atmospheric contamination lies in the direction of purification of the soil, by preventing filth finding its way into it from defective or broken drains or sewers, from liquid or solid filth thrown on the surface, or from filtration through the porous sides and bottoms of middens. These matters are constantly receiving attention from the Highways and Sanitary Committees and a most important step has been taken this year by the Corporation in their decision to have all connections to the sewers made by their own workmen, under the direction of their own Officials.

WATER SUPPLY.

Even towards the termination of the Autumn, after the long period of drought which we have experienced this year, the supply of water from the Corporation mains was abundant in quantity and, even when the Reservoir was lowest, of fairly good quality. I have had analyses of the water made at frequent intervals, and the Water Committee deemed it advisable towards the end of the summer to submit a sample for analysis by an expert, and his report on the quality of the water, considering the lowness of the Reservoir at the time, was very satisfactory, but, notwithstanding this, the Water Committee, on my recommendation, made a minute survey of

the whole watershed for the purpose of detecting possible sources of contamination of the brooks from which our water supply is derived. The many valuable suggestions and recommendations made by this Committee of Inspection conclusively demonstrates that careful supervision of possible sources of contamination of the brooks and streams supplying our reservoirs is much more valuable as a safeguard against pollution than relying on an occasional chemical analysis.

SCAVENGING.

There has been a very decided improvement in the manner in which this work has been done during the past year. The carts are now all watertight, and the work of emptying and transport through the town has been done in a much tidier and neater manner than formerly, indeed during the past six months I have received no complaints, nor have I observed anything to find fault with in the manner in which this work has been done.

Mr Claridge has this matter entirely under his control, as well as other duties. A new Inspector of Nuisances, in the person of Mr Lord, has been appointed, and, judging from what I have seen of his work, he promises to be a very capable Officer. An additional man has also been employed to cleanse and disinfect the pail closets after emptying.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Corporation are now using the whole of their land at the Sewage Farm for the purpose of sewage disposal. Considerable expenditure has been incurred in breaking up and rendering more permeable and porous the surface and subsoils, with the result that the sewage is now much better filtered, indeed I believe that the effluent is now very satisfactory.

CONCLUSION.

The general sanitary condition of the Borough at the end of the year cannot be described as otherwise than excellent. A low death rate, and a complete absence of infectious disease, are matters for congratulation. Still it cannot be denied that there are one or two directions in which there is still room for improvement. We have Courts, with houses of the back to back class, which do not admit of through ventilation, many of them damp from the foundation, as well as from the roof, generally dilapidated, and almost unfit for human habitation. There are also still in the Borough many large middens of the old fashioned class, from which percolation of filth into the sub-soil is constantly taking place. The attention of the Officials of the Sanitary Committee will probably be directed to these two subjects during the present year.

From the report of the Inspectors' will be seen details of the sanitary work accomplished during the year.

Appended is a tabulated statement of deaths which occurred during the year, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities; together with a tabulated statement of population,

the whole watershed for the purpose of detecting possible sources of contamination of the brook from which our water supply is derived. The many valuable suggestions and recommendations made by this Committee of inspection conclusively demonstrated that care-ful supervision of possible sources of contamination of the brook and streams supplying our reservoir is much more valuable as a safeguard against pollution than relying on an occasional chemical analysis.

CONCLUSION

There has been a very decided improvement in the manner in which this work has been done during the past year. The cars are now all water-tight, and the way of emptying and transporting through the town has been done in a much tidier and neater manner than formerly. Indeed during the past six months I have received no complaints, nor have I observed anything to find fault with in the manner in which this work has been done.

Mr. Clavette has this matter entirely under his control, as well as other duties. A new Inspector of Nuisances, in the person of Mr. Ford, has been appointed, and, judging from what I have seen of his work, he promises to be a very capable Officer. An additional man has also been employed to clean and disinfect the public streets after emptying.

REMARKS DISPOSED

The Corporation are now using the whole of their land at the Bridge Farm for the purpose of sewage disposal. Considerable expenditure has been incurred in erecting up and rendering good permanent and porous the surface and drainage, with the result that the sewage is now much better filtered. Indeed I believe that the effluent is now very satisfactory.

CONCLUSION

The general sanitary condition of the Borough at the end of the year cannot be described as otherwise than excellent. A low death rate, and a complete absence of infectious diseases, are facts for congratulation. Still it cannot be denied that there are one or two directions in which there is still room for improvement. To have houses with basins of the back to back class, which do not admit of through ventilation, away of them from the town, is a well as from the town, generally disapproved, and almost still for human habitation. There are also still in the Borough many large houses of the old fashioned class, from which percolation of dirt into the sub-soil is constantly taking place. The attention of the Officers of the Sanitary Committee will probably be directed to these two subjects during the present year.

From the report of the Inspector, will be seen details of the sanitary work accomplished during the year.

Appended is a tabulated statement of deaths which occurred during the year, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities, together with a tabulated statement of population.

births, new cases of infectious diseases, also classified according to diseases and ages.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS CORCORAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

St. Victoria Street,
St. John's, 1895.

TABULAR STATEMENT APPENDED TO THE REPORT.

POPULATION (CENSUS 1891) 10,100
ESTIMATED TO MIDDLE OF 1897, 20,175.

Mortality from all causes at registered ages - Under five years, 100; One and under five, 34; Five and under fifteen, 15; Fifteen and under twenty-five, 15; Twenty-five and under sixty, 25; Sixty and upwards, 25; Total, 224.

Number of persons who died at Workhouse or Hospital, not belonging to the above, was included in the above figures, 15.

Mortality from registered causes, under five years:-
Scarlatina, 1; Diphtheria, 1; Whooping Cough, 2; Measles and Erysipelas, 24; Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other causes, 73; Total, 101.
Five years and upwards:- Scarlatina, 1; Whooping Cough, 4; Measles and Erysipelas, 4; Diphtheria, 1; Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other causes, 25; Total, 35.
Total, 136.

1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904

B O R O U G H O F L O U G H B O R O U G H .

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS, FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE
31st DECEMBER, 1897.

Offensive deposits removed	5
Overcrowding abated	3
New middensteads provided	1
Houses, premises, &c., cleansed and repaired	229
Waterclosets substituted in lieu of privies	3
Waterclosets repaired	9
Closet accommodation increased (Factories)	9
Closet accommodation increased (Dwelling-houses)	2
Slaughterhouses (New receptacles provided)	11
Midden privies repaired	9
House drains repaired	14
Pail closets (new pails provided)	15
Houses provided with Town's water (in lieu of well water)	1
New sink waste pipes provided	26
Pail closets substituted in lieu of privies	1
Animals (kept in filthy state) removed	1
Wells cleansed	1
Number of privies and ashpits emptied during) the year)	2304

Pails and dust bins emptied weekly.

Bakehouses, Cowsheds and Slaughterhouses regularly inspected.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS, FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE

31st DECEMBER, 1897.

2	Offensive deposits removed
3	Overcrowding abated
1	New middens provided
229	Houses, premises, &c., cleaned and repaired
2	Waterclosets substituted in lieu of privies
9	Waterclosets repaired
9	Greatest accommodation increased (Peculiar)
3	Greatest accommodation increased (Dwellings-houses)
11	Shed-houses (New receptacles provided)
2	Midden privies repaired
14	Houses drains repaired
18	Full closets (new pairs provided)
1	Houses provided with Town's water (in lieu of well water)
28	New sink waste pipes provided
1	Full closets substituted in lieu of privies
1	Animals (kept in filthy state) removed
1	Wells cleaned
2304	Number of privies and cesspits emptied during the year

Full and that bins emptied weekly.

Bakers, Cowmen and Shed-houses regularly inspected.